

## Meet Shari



### ***My Future Will Have a Strong Foundation***

Shari was born in Nashville, Tennessee. She is the youngest of three children; one older brother and one older sister. Shari's father was in the military so the family moved often. They lived in Germany, Texas, and finally landed in Tennessee. At the age of eleven, Shari's parents separated. From that point on, Shari and her siblings were raised by their mother. The family moved a trailer on a lot in Eagleville, TN and that is where her mom still resides today.

After graduating from High School, Shari attended the Job Corps in Bristol, TN. While there, she played basketball, was the head of security, and excelled in the program. She then went on to work security jobs in both Iowa and Nebraska.

In 2004 Shari decided to move back home to be close to family. When she first came back to Tennessee, Shari worked with corrections. However, upon her return, she also began a very tough journey. For a number of years, Shari dealt with medical issues, found herself in and out of hospitals, and moving from place to place. "At one time, I was truly homeless," Shari commented. "My heart and mind were unstable. I was living with friends, on the street, in various apartments, and women shelters."

Due to her physical limitations, Shari was put on disability in 2009. At that time she began focusing her energy on getting better in all areas of her life. She began working with the PATH Program along with the Guidance Center and doors began to open. They were able to place her in an apartment but Shari knew in her heart that for her to maintain the stability she had worked for, she truly needed a home.

Shari knew about the Habitat Program from family members and decided to apply. At that time, she did not make enough and was denied. Shortly after that, Shari decided to apply with Publix. She truly feels that they have played a role in helping her redefine her life. Shari applied to the program again but had not been at Publix long enough. She waited, came back, applied, and finally the door to the

Habitat program and future homeownership was opened. "I just kept trusting God that something bigger was coming," she said with a smile.

Shari has truly enjoyed the program and her journey thus far. "The group of future homeowners feels like a small family," she commented. "We each have a unique story, encourage one another, and help build not only our homes but also our lives."

This home represents the foundation of Shari's future. She believes it will give her more clarity, help her sleep better, and give her peace of mind in a noisy world. Shari gives the biggest thanks to those that are making this dream come true. "It means the world to me that we have God sent people that sponsor and volunteer so that we can have better lives."