

## Meet Jonathan



### ***My Children are My Legacy***

Raised by his grandparents, Jonathan has lived his whole life in Murfreesboro. His grandparents taught him the importance of working hard and the value of owning a home. He's worked since he was 15 and, after graduating from Riverdale High School, he became a caregiver at Stones River Center in 2004. After 13 years, he's still working there.

Jonathan shares custody of his twins, a boy and a girl, with their mom. But he lives in a small apartment and they've been very cramped during their weekly stays. Now that the twins are 8 and growing fast, Jonathan would love to give them the kind of nice home that he grew up in with his grandparents – a home where his kids can each have their own room and the family can enjoy a yard. He heard about the Habitat Future Homeowner program and was ready to get to work

Jonathan applied to the program a year ago and has been amazed at all that he's learned, from financial responsibility to life choices such as food and nutrition. Since learning about credit scores he's been working overtime to get his debts down and manage his money.

"I'm loving everything. It's a new experience, meeting great people, I'm in a great program and I'm learning things I never knew," he declares. He's even learned how to maintain his home and make repairs. Since working on other Habitat homes for his sweat equity he's also learned about house construction. "Seeing the houses being built from the ground up makes you appreciate it even more"

Jonathan is motivated by his grandmother, whom he sees often, and thanks the "good Lord above" for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. He would also like to thank MTSU and the many student volunteers who will help build his house, as well as other donors, sponsors and volunteers.

It's a life step for Jonathan and he's ready to do everything he can to make it happen.

"I'm doing this for my family, and I want to make them proud."