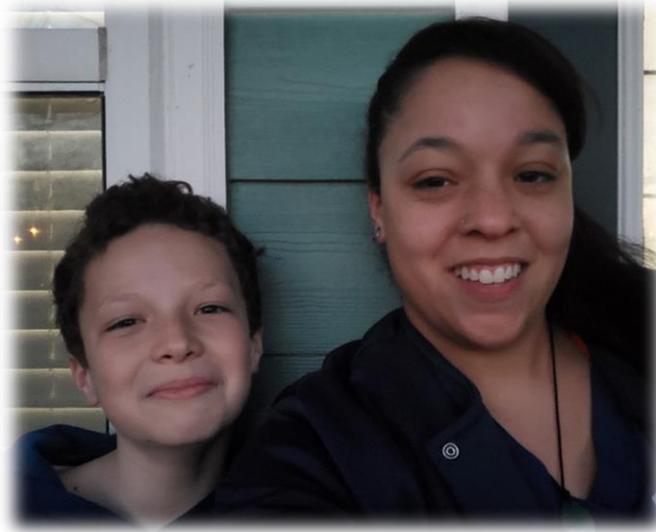


## Meet Samantha & Her Son



### Blossoming Into Ourselves

Samantha was born in the Tacoma Park area of Washington D.C. Her father works in the medical field and was relocated when Sam was just four years old. They have been here in Murfreesboro ever since.

As a child, Sam spent her youth playing sports and music. In high school she was a part of the band and rugby team. She also found that she had a deep love for animals. A shy person by nature, Sam gravitated towards animals and naturally related to them. At a very young age she decided she wanted to work with animals for the rest of her life. Sam graduated from MTSU with a degree in Zoology, is currently working towards her Vet-Tech license, and is employed by a local Veterinarian who specializes in exotic animals.

Even though Sam and her son have tried multiple times to make it on their own, they have had several hurdles and roadblocks. Sky high rent, dangerous living conditions, and not being able to qualify for a conventional mortgage...just to name a few. After living off and on with her parents, Sam was longing for stability and independence.

Sam remembered that someone had mentioned the Habitat Program. After doing some extensive research, she took a leap of faith and decided to apply. "I was very nervous when I turned in my application," Sam admitted. "I was worried about not getting accepted, but also nervous about getting accepted." When she received the call that she was going to be a Habitat Future Homeowner, Sam was a ball of emotions.

Sam has thoroughly enjoyed the future homeowner classes and meeting people who are on the same journey as her. "It is nice to know that you are not in this alone," she said with a smile. "There is comfort in having neighbors that can relate to you." Being in the program and having a home of their own is giving them the opportunity to start a new chapter in their lives. "It will be so refreshing just to be us," Sam said. "We will be able to blossom into who we have always hoped to be, enjoy creating art, plant a garden, and have freedom to grow."

Sam would like to thank those who are making their home build possible. They would like to thank you for your generosity, compassion, and selflessness. This opportunity is giving them a new lease on life, and they are beyond grateful!