

## Meet Amy



### My Perspective Has Been Changed

Amy was born in a small, Louisiana town. "Logging country is what we called it," she said. Her family lived in a shack with no plumbing and their only water supply was in the kitchen. They lived a hard life and moved around every five or six years. When Amy was a sophomore in high school they finally landed in Tennessee and have been here ever since. Amy's teenage and young adult years were filled with challenges and dark times. She often found herself meeting obstacles head on and running from demons.

In June of 2019, Amy found herself in jail due to charges from a DUI. She had hit rock bottom and knew she needed a plan to turn her life around. "I did not want to play the role of victim anymore," Amy admitted. "I was ready to take responsibility for my choices and do the work." Thankfully, she was referred to and accepted into the Doors of Hope program. For the past 18 months, Amy has had a safe place to work on improving herself.

During her recovery journey, Amy set a goal for herself. She hoped to one day own a home. "In my past, when things began to go south, I was always the one who had to leave," she said. "I felt like being a homeowner would give me both the freedom and stability I had always hoped for." Amy was referred to Ron H. at Operation HOPE to help her with her finances. She shared her dream with him and together they set began a journey to improve her credit score. After crunching numbers, he suggested that she consider the Rutherford County Area Habitat for Humanity Program. She began attending the RCHFH "Get Ready Class" offered to those who one day hope to become a future homeowner.

Over the past two years, Amy has been working daily to write a different story for her life. She has stayed sober, attended regular AA meetings, held down a full-time job, made amends with family members, helped others less fortunate, and followed the Doors of Hope steps. Although she was VERY nervous, she applied for the RCHFH Future Homeowner program in the Spring of 2022. After being notified that she had been accepted into the program, she was very excited and kept asking, "God, is this really happening?"

She is looking forward to the RCHFH homeowner education classes, getting to know her future neighbors, learning more about how to budget, and continuing to work towards true independence. She also thoroughly enjoyed doing her home selections. "I brought a friend with me from my AA family," she said with a smile. "It meant a lot to me to have a true friend as part of that process and to inspire hope in her also."

The road certainly has not been easy for Amy and there have been many times where she wanted to give up. She is still standing and is sincerely grateful to everyone who is helping her break a generational cycle of instability and improve her future perspective on life.