

Meet Amanda



Hope for Good Things to Come

Amanda lived with both her mom and dad until she was fourteen. Even though she had a difficult childhood, Amanda found happiness where she could. As a young girl, she enjoyed going to the library, exploring the woods, and spending time baking with her grandmother. Her dream was to become a chef, and she even made plans to attend culinary school after graduating high school.

For most of her early years, Amanda's family lived in a row house. But after her parents divorced, she remembers a season of living with family until her mother could find an affordable apartment. When Amanda's mom remarried, they moved into more stable housing. Things seemed to be falling into place, and Amanda was looking forward to the future. She had applied and was accepted to attend culinary school. After graduation, all of that changed when she moved out of her mother's house. She began "couch surfing" at friends' homes and spent the next few years staying here and there and working full-time. Her plan for culinary school had to be put on the back burner.

In 2015, Amanda decided to find an apartment of her own. To make ends meet, she had to work multiple jobs for a couple of years. One of those jobs was in the bakery department at Publix. Remembering special times with her grandmother, Amanda quickly fell in love with her job. She has been working at Publix for almost eight years and is currently the Assistant Bakery Manager.

Over time, Amanda grew weary of living in an apartment. She longed for a place of her own where she could build a future. However, she was not sure how to become a homeowner and was unfamiliar with the Rutherford County Area Habitat for Humanity Homeownership program. All of that changed when Amanda volunteered with Publix on a RCHFH build day. After learning how the program worked, she finished the day feeling hopeful. She took a leap of faith, stopped by the RCHFH office, and decided to apply for the homeownership program.

Amanda was truly shocked and surprised when she got the call that the RCHFH program had accepted her. "Often times things don't go my way, and I get let down," Amanda admitted. "Being a part of this program has given me hope that good things can happen."

She has enjoyed the financial literacy/ home ownership classes and meeting her future neighbors. "Everyone has been so nice and helpful," she said with a smile. More than anything, Amanda is looking forward to getting her hands dirty, working hard to build her house in Legacy Pointe, and learning as much as she can about construction.

Amanda wants to thank the RCHFH sponsors, volunteers, and staff that contribute so much to make this program available in Rutherford County, TN. And she is especially grateful to Publix for the chance to volunteer and learn about this life changing opportunity.