

Building a Habitat Home of Their Own



Alicia Tirado and her daughter, Dalilah, will become Habitat homeowners in the spring of 2022. They will join 135 families who already own a Habitat for Humanity home in New Haven County. Alicia is a life long New Haven resident and she is very excited that she will soon be a homeowner in her city. We talked to her recently about her journey to homeownership and what it means to her and her nine year old daughter, Dalilah. Here's her story in her words:

Dalilah and I have lived in the same apartment for over 11 years in Fair Haven. We've made the most of our tiny one-bedroom apartment. We don't have much privacy or space, but we've made it a home the best we can. It's cold in the winter (there isn't much insulation) and the furnace can't keep up. I'm always debating about turning the heat up and the space heaters on versus the high bills. I had been thinking of becoming a homeowner but didn't know where to start. It would be hard to qualify for a mortgage as a single parent with one income. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, I have the opportunity to do what I've always wanted to, own a home of my own. Everything I do, I do for my daughter. She is the center of my world and I want her to have what I didn't. She's always wanted to have a backyard and a room of her own. She will now, and that house will be mine and hers forever. If something happens to me, Dalilah will have that house. She thinks about having a yard and growing flowers and decorating, and I love her joy, but what's most important to me is that she have something that she can always own and live in and no one can take it away from her.

I want to tell everyone in our area reading this letter a few things about me so they know who is going to be living in the home that they help build. I'm the oldest of six kids. We were put in the New Haven foster care system as kids. I graduated from Wilbur Cross and my siblings and I are a very close family. They will volunteer to help build my house, too. I work 40 hours a week at a pharmacy in New Haven and I'm doing an online undergraduate degree in social work. Being accepted into the Habitat program, which wasn't an easy process, is a sign that this is my time. I'm already volunteering two days a week to help build other Habitat homes. Building my home begins in November. That house will have my blood, tears and sweat put into it. I'm proud at how far I've come in my life. I've overcome a lot of things. I've dreamed of having a home to raise Dalilah in and to leave to her, and I'll work for it, like I do for everything in my life. I'll be a social worker one day and I'd like to work with kids in the foster care system and share my experiences with them and what I've learned. I work hard, I'm grateful for what I have, I have the most beautiful daughter in the world, and now I'll be a homeowner. Dalilah understands that I work hard so that she doesn't have to go through the struggles that I've had to face growing up.

I want to thank Habitat, the donors, the sponsors, and all the volunteers that help families make dreams of becoming a homeowner come true. Dalilah and I appreciate you all for the opportunity."

Dalilah is a 5th grader at a New Haven Public School.

I can't wait until our house is done. I'd like to plant rose bushes at our new house. Our two cats, Buddy (my kitten) and Lielo (my mom's cat), will love the house, too. I'm most excited to have a yard, and I want to have a sprinkler in the backyard in the summer and have my cousins over and have cookouts. The house will have a bigger kitchen than what we have now, which is good since I really like to bake. Cakes are my favorite. I want to decorate the house for every season and holiday and I want the big blow up things for the front yard, especially for Halloween.

Alicia will purchase her home from our organization with a 25-year, zero percent interest mortgage once the home is completed next spring. A typical Habitat home sells for \$96,000 with a monthly mortgage payment of about \$300, excluding insurance and taxes. Owning a well-built, Energy Star certified home provides stability and allows families to launch themselves into a cycle of progress, possibility, and a better quality of life. Homeownership rekindles hope and allows families and our community to thrive.

There are many hard-working families that qualify for Habitat's program in our community. We need your help to serve them. Please help us by donating today.

Photos, top to bottom: Alicia and Dalilah at the groundbreaking ceremony for their future home. Breaking ground with staff members and home sponsors, Raise the Roof and Avangrid. Dalilah and Buddy. The next birthday will be celebrated in their Habitat home!



Help Us Build Community
...one house, one family at a time

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, Inc. visit www.habitatgnh.org, call 203-785-0794, or email jrook@habitatgnh.org

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$35 ☐ Other \$ _____

You can make your tax-deductible gift to:
Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, Inc.
37 Union Street, New Haven Connecticut 06511

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx Amount \$ _____

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Card Number

Exp. Date

Phone

Signature

Email:

If you wish to be removed from the HfHGNH appeal list, please return this form with your request or email jrook@habitatgnh.org

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven does not sell, rent or give away names of donors.

Please return this form in the enclosed envelope, or contribute online at www.habitatgnh.org. Thank you!



HabitatNews

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven | WINTER 2021

Welcome Home!

With the help of our fantastic individual and group volunteers we were able to complete two Habitat homes this summer and will finish the construction of two more homes before the end of this year.

With safety protocols in place we were able to celebrate with the Briones Family on Woolsey Street in August and the Assiobo-Hudu Family on Rosette Street in September at their dedication ceremonies. Both families worked more than 400 hours on the construction of their homes and this fall was the perfect time for them to enjoy their backyards and porches as a family, and for their children to have more room in their bedrooms and dining rooms for schoolwork and projects. Both families have already celebrated important milestones like birthdays and the first day at new schools while in their new home, and are looking forward to their first holidays in houses of their own.

We will welcome the Bailey Family and the Baylor-Loue Family to Middletown Avenue in the next few weeks. Both families are completing their required sweat equity hours and working on the final construction tasks in the interior of the home. We look forward to celebrating their closings and home dedications this month.

2021: Construction Expenses Skyrocket

While we are thankful to have worked with four families to purchase their homes this year, challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic have emerged in the form of increased material costs and supply chain delays. At mid-year we evaluated our costs and compared them to what we usually pay for construction materials. For example, we found that:

| | Previous Cost | Current Cost | Increase |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------|
| One piece of sheathing | \$9.65 | \$46.00 | 377% |
| A single 2 x 6 | \$4.40 | \$13.52 | 207% |
| A single 2 x 4 | \$2.96 | \$7.46 | 152% |
| One piece of drywall panel | \$15.17 | \$18.88 | 24% |

While private builders may have the option to pass these cost increases onto their clients, the families participating in our homebuying program do not have the income or savings to do that. We also know that the need for affordable housing is more pressing now than ever. Increased costs cannot stop us on our mission of building safe, decent, affordable housing but it has made it more difficult for us to do so.

We have just started two new homes, one for the Tirado Family we introduced you to earlier and one for the Alrashid Family. We know that these homes will continue to cost more than usual and we hope we can count on your support to offset some of these expenses.

New Haven County ReStore: An Important Part of Our Mission

We are thankful to all of the shoppers and donors who continue to support the ReStore, and in turn support the construction of more Habitat homes in our community. We always have unique items available and encourage you to shop, donate, and volunteer with us.

The Restore provides financial support for Habitat home building in New Haven County, provides a lower cost alternative to a traditional store, and encourages reuse and recycling by diverting items from landfills. Our ReStore sells new and gently used appliances, furniture, household and decorative items, kitchen cabinets, and more!

Shop the ReStore located at 286 South Colony Road in Wallingford. We receive new items every day so stop in often for the best selection. Current store hours are available at [habitatgnh.org/restore](https://www.habitatgnh.org/restore).

Do you have items to donate to the ReStore? We offer a pickup service in New Haven County and in the towns of Clinton and Killingworth. Email restore@habitatgnh.org or text (203) 800-5517 with pictures of the items, your name, and location, and we will respond to you. We appreciate your donation offers!

Volunteer at the Habitat Build Site and the ReStore!

We are always building Habitat homes and looking for volunteers. Anyone who is 16 years of age and older is welcome to join us on our build sites alongside other volunteers and future homeowners. No prior construction experience is needed and we will supply all necessary tools, equipment, and instruction.

ReStore volunteers help to sort, clean, and organize donations, create displays, greet customers, and help with the day-to-day operations of the store.

Visit [habitatgnh.org](https://www.habitatgnh.org) to sign up and review our health and safety protocols, or contact amangles@habitatgnh.org or (203) 785-0794 for more information.

Cars for Homes Donations

Our organization continues to see success in the Cars for Homes program, and we were recently named one of the top ten large affiliates in the country for Cars for Homes revenue. We share this honor with, and thank everyone who chooses to donate their vehicle to Habitat! All vehicles donations generate funds that are used right here in the New Haven community.

Donating your car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle or other vehicle is easy. Call (877) 277-4344 or visit [habitat.org/support/donate-your-car](https://www.habitat.org/support/donate-your-car) to enter your vehicle's information and schedule a pickup. Following the donation, you will be provided with a tax receipt. Vehicles DO NOT need to be in running condition to be donated.

