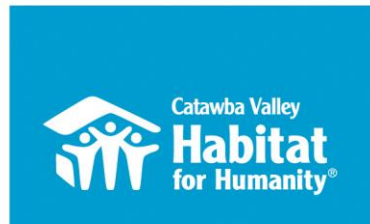


meet our partner families



strength
stability
shelter

Melissa Cruse and Family

As a mother of three, Melissa Cruse is building her home so that she can one day pass it down to her kids. A peer support specialist and program coordinator, Melissa works at ICGH Treatment Center. Her three children are Colby (12), Carter (6), and Elyza (4).

Like so many people, Melissa's first experience with Habitat came through someone she knew. The father of one of Melissa's childhood friends was a Habitat homeowner, and from then on she always loved the idea of getting to help build your own house.

That's why when Melissa's caseworker with Safe Harbor encouraged her to apply to Habitat, Melissa decided it was time. Her current apartment complex has become "rough", and her kids aren't able to play outside.

Together with her children, she describes her home life as chaotic, beautiful, loving, and silly all at once. Her oldest Colby is into guitar, martial arts, and school plays at Lincoln Charter Schools. The middle child Carter attends mountain view elementary, and has a love for cheese pizza and YouTube. Elyza, the youngest, attends Pre-K at Footsetps, is a dancer, and loves all things shiny and pink. Together they want a home where they can color, watch movies and snuggle together.

When asked about her proudest accomplishment, without hesitation Melissa replies that it's her sobriety. After a 22 year drug and alcohol addiction, she is proud to say that she has been clean for 3 years and 4 months!

Building upon the achievement of her sobriety, Melissa sees homeownership as the next step in her process of building stability, security, and solid foundations for her family.

