



HABITAT STORIES

Story 2 | Chapter 1

AMANDA MARTINEZ SINGLE MOM'S GIFT, STABILITY

Single working mothers, like Amanda Martinez, need the strength, stability, and self-reliance that homeownership provides. Unfortunately, she could not afford to buy a home leaving her vulnerable to housing instability. Amanda struggled for years shuffling from a homeless shelter to low-income rental homes and finally a Section 8 rental house today. Still Amanda could not afford to buy a home and reached out to Habitat Collin County for help.



Future Habitat homeowner, Amanda Martinez was born and raised in McKinney, Texas. She is determined to provide a stable environment for her two girls due to her life challenges. *"I had a not so good childhood. So I wanted so much better for my girls. I have to provide a safe and better environment for my children."*

Amanda attended McKinney High School. She went on to work in early childhood education taking care of newborns. Amanda also assisted new parents as they transitioned back to work. This was both a fulfilling and stressful career.

Early on Amanda endured very difficult times. *"I lost a job and had no income to pay bills and rent so that led me to be in a homeless shelter. I was determined to keep my children safe and have a warm place to rest their heads."*

Amanda worked hard over several years to move her family from the shelter into low-income rental houses and eventually secured a Section 8 rental house that she and her two daughters live in today. Amanda also moved to a new field of work in manufacturing which is a better environment for her health.

Although the rental house provides a roof over her head, Amanda still wants a home of her own and the stability it will give her daughters. So she applied to Habitat Collin County. Once accepted, she



selected a new home in Princeton planned for construction. It was only a few miles from her hometown.

Amanda's home will be the first of five homes built in this Princeton community. She now balances work, family, and Habitat responsibilities. Amanda is finishing her sweat equity hours, a requirement for Habitat applicants to receive their new home.

Since applying with Habitat, Amanda's older daughter Jessica

graduated from high school. She now aspires to be an entrepreneur, and wants to be a cosmetologist, but *"she is still trying to figure things out."* Amanda's younger daughter Zamora just received her GED. *"She wants to attend Collin College and do nursing classes. Jessica and Zamora both live with me, and we look forward to moving into our new home together."*

Amanda, Jessica, and Zamora are looking forward to having a home they all can call their own. Amanda will finally be able to provide the stability she always wanted for her girls. *"We are very excited to have my extended family join our home in 2023 for the holidays."*



Please consider making a gift to help single working mothers like Amanda Martinez go from homeless to Habitat homeowner



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If you itemize tax deductions on your federal return, donations may be claimed as a deduction.

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