



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Coastal Fairfield County

future homeowners

Janella, Jose, & Children

Even before the lock-down, Janella and Jose's kids couldn't play outside. The family of four shares a cramped two-bedroom apartment with no yard in a dangerous neighborhood where they don't feel safe. It's not the kind of place they want for their children.

"It's heartbreaking for the kids. **We want to give our kids something better than we ever had... a space to grow up.** Habitat gives us something to hope for the future."

Since last fall, Janella and Jose have been building their dream – spending every Saturday on the construction site and putting in hours at the ReStore in the afternoon after their shift at a local auto parts manufacturing plant.

The family moved to Bridgeport after living through the devastation of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. For almost 5 months, they had no power, no running water, and even cell phone reception was down. Janella says that her faith in God kept her calm despite all of the challenges.

"I can't wait until we can buy our home! I drive by it every day and daydream about moving in. It's not a mansion, but it has everything we need - a room for each of the kids and space for us to be comfortable and spend time together. It makes me so happy."

That same unshakeable faith is what is getting the family through these difficult times.

"Nothing is impossible when it is in God's hands. Instead of getting frustrated or anxious, we are staying faithful and lifting each other up. We have been through difficult times before and have faith that we will get through this."

The family is happy that Habitat sites are open again and they can get back to work helping to build their future homes and their neighbors' homes. They love the sense of community with the volunteers and the other homeowners and future homeowners.

"When I finish my sweat equity, I'm going to pay it forward and help the next family. Not everyone has family or friends in the area, but we can be that community for each other."

"I believe that when you want something, you have to work for it. Habitat showed me that we're stronger together; that we can lift each other up."