



Bryan/College Station
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

Meet the Johnson Family

Riketra Johnson had to grow up fast. She had her first child at 15 years old and was living on her own by 17. She later married and had three more children. Now a single mother, she does all she can to make sure her family is well cared for.

“I’m a single parent that tries so hard to let my kids be happy and have a wonderful, comfortable life,” she said.

A Bryan native, Riketra has been a CNA (Certified Nurse Aid) and CMA (Certified Medication Aid) at Magnified Health and Rehab for nine years. As soon as she gets moved into her new Habitat home, she plans to go back to school at Blinn to become an LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse). “I’m still trying to accomplish more and bigger things.”

Riketra had really hoped to have already gone back to school by now for her LVN, but it just hasn’t worked out. At first she was frustrated and asked God, “Why?” But then she got approved for Habitat and realized the bigger picture. First she will build a home for her family; then she’ll go back to school. “He [God] just has it all planned out the way He wanted it...I’ll be patient and do it the way He wants me to do it.”

Riketra has definitely been patient – but determined. She first applied for a Habitat home in 2000. She didn’t have enough income and was denied. In 2002 she applied and was denied again. Riketra applied at least three more times. Finally, on her sixth try, she was approved. “I wasn’t giving up,” she said. “It just took me a little time. I knew I wanted a home. I always wanted a home. So I just kept on.”

Extremely excited when she was approved, Riketra immediately started doing her sweat equity hours – hours each future Habitat homeowner must do working on other families’ homes and then their own home. Aided by her mother and daughter, Riketra completed 300 hours in just a few weeks.

Currently Riketra lives with her four kids and granddaughter – Lataysia (19), Tony (13), Ladarreon (10), Ladarrius (8) and Armani (1) – in a crowded apartment. She shares her bed with her 8 year old.

The five-bedroom Habitat home the family is about to build in Bryan will give them the space and stability they’ve never had. “I have taught them the lesson of being blessed,” Riketra said of her kids, “so they’re thankful for the house. But they’re so excited about their own rooms.”

They may get their own rooms, Riketra explained, but they’re also going to get “some fun chores.” She already has plans for how she’s going to teach chores and responsibility in their new home.

Asked what she’s most looking forward to in the new home, Riketra said, “I’m mostly excited that we won’t have to move anymore. I’m just blessed to have my own home.”

“I’m excited about them [her kids] being excited. I pretty much live to make them happy.” 



Riketra (middle) with her mother (left) and daughter (right) working on a Habitat home in Faith Subdivision.

Bryan/CollegeStation
 **Habitat for Humanity®**

*Seeking to put God’s love into action,
Habitat for Humanity brings people together
to build homes, communities and hope.*

development@habitatbcs.org
www.habitatbcs.org

P: 979.823.7200
F: 979.775.7412

119 Lake Street
Bryan, TX 77801