

# our Kemptville Korner's families

## meet Melissa



Some of my most cherished memories took place in my childhood home, living with my mom and feeling safe and happy with my siblings. We would make bread, cookies and jam with my grandmother and spend time in our garden. It was definitely more about the people we were with than the experience itself. But I want my kids to have those same type of memories of growing up in a safe and loving home.

After my separation, my grandmother took us into her home where we stayed for awhile. Right now, I rent an apartment and the most difficult thing about our living situation is that it could change at any moment. As a renter your place could be taken away from you like that. Even though much of my

paycheque goes towards rent and bills, the three of us live in a cramped one-bedroom apartment in desperate need of repairs. On top of that there is a ton of noise and pests that we deal with daily. I have a good job, but on a single-parent income owning a home was the impossible dream.

One day I was watching news about housing needs in Ottawa. While I was going through the City of Ottawa website, I saw Habitat for Humanity listed. After reviewing the homeownership program criteria, I was ecstatic to realize I qualified. It felt like I won the lottery when I was accepted into the Homeownership Program!

Having a home will change everything for my children. We'll have the stability, the security, and the time to do many things like focus on my children's education, their extracurriculars and being part of a community. We can grow a garden and have the space to get a pet. My kids will be able to say to their friends "we're going home" instead of "we're going to the apartment." Things like that seem small but will have a profound impact on our family. There are no other programs like Habitat out there, trust me I've checked. Being accepted turned that impossible dream into a reality and I look forward to partnering with Habitat and the community to build a home for myself and for my children.