

# our Kemptville Korner families

## meet Marlon & Mariecel



Ever since I was a little kid, I had faith that life will work out and that you are exactly where you need to be. I had that faith when my wife and I moved from the Philippines to Canada 10 years ago, and when we were struggling to have children, my wife and I were blessed after nine years with two beautiful, healthy boys.

The same faith is what brought me to Habitat for Humanity. Previously I worked as a painter and was completing a job in what turned out to be a Habitat home. I was curious and asked for more information and decided to apply to the Affordable Homeownership Program. I

sometimes think, if I didn't ask more information about the home and who it was for, maybe I would not have found out about this program – but sometimes life has a way of working out.

Not to say that it has been easy, especially the last few years. The pandemic made our job situation unstable. My wife and I had to work part-time for awhile, but now we both work full-time jobs. Despite that, it has been difficult to save up for a traditional mortgage and most of our income goes towards renting a space that we are not happy with. There is unfortunately mold everywhere which affects the children's health. There are also different types of unpleasant smells around the building. Thanks to Habitat, our living situation will soon change for the better.

Ever since we were accepted into the homeownership program the excitement has been building slowly. Our two kids are excited to have the opportunity to join extra curriculums and they often talk about how they will decorate their rooms. We discuss with them what it will be like to move to a new place and community and that they will be the new kids at school. We are all nervous for the change but most of all excited for this opportunity! Owning a home will mean safety and protection. It means financial and emotional security. Our kids will know we will always be in our home and even when they grow up, they can always come back to the same place.