## our phase III families

**Meet Scott and Michelle** 



I have spent a great deal of my life in the city of Ottawa. My childhood home was the first built on Burgundy Lane in Orleans. I used to play in the empty house lots with my marbles, and for the most part I was content. My wife Michelle had a harder experience growing up in the Philippines. Her childhood home had unfinished windows that were blocked with plywood and rooms with no ceilings. With five children, trying to make ends meet financially was a struggle. Her family was unable to finish their house. Since then, the cost of raising a family and having multiple children has only gone up. We have found it difficult to raise children in this economy.

I work at the Ottawa Hospital as a transportation worker. Before my wife moved to Canada in 2015, she was living in Saudi Arabia. She took a job as a nurse so she could

get ahead financially and send some money to her family in the Philippines. Now she is a stay-at-home mom to our two young children. In 2017, our first daughter Phebe was born and earlier this year my wife gave birth to our second baby girl Lois. Our hearts are full with the growth of our beautiful family.

A home should be a safe haven for a family. The neighborhood we currently live in is not safe for our kids. There is a lot of poverty, drug use and break-ins. Our house is in rough shape. There have been water leaks in our ceiling and many of our window screens are ripped and broken. Parents should not have to worry about their children's safety while they are at home.

Thanks to Habitat, we have the chance to own a home and give our family some stability. We are so grateful to build our own house and to be a part of a special organization that offers opportunities to people who need a helping hand. I am looking forward to our first morning in our new home that we will have worked so hard for. To wake up and have breakfast with my loved ones in a home of our own will truly be the best gift I could receive.