

Joshua, Julie & Garrett Hartman



In the spring of 2004, Joshua who is deaf met Julie and started dating. During their courtship Julie had to learn sign language to communicate to Joshua. After ten months of dating they got married.

Just being newlyweds all they could afford to move into was a 1960's mobile home. After two years of living in this dilapidated mobile home they moved into a two story farmhouse.

To their surprise shortly after they moved in they found they were going to have a baby. During Julie's pregnancy they were told that the baby had some kidney problems that had to be corrected by surgery. After their son, Garrett turned four months old they found that he too had severe hearing loss.

The family is still living in the two story farmhouse. Julie can't put Garrett on the floor to play without being right there to constantly supervise for fear of the unsafe unhealthy conditions. The house has mold, caving floors, peeling paint, electrical problems and even vermin. Their only source of heat is a wood stove which makes it impossible to heat more than the room where the stove is located. They knew that they had to do something and soon. They applied with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity for a Habitat house, not knowing if they would qualify or be approved.

Right away they started doing what ever they could to earn Sweat Equity. They were determined to do whatever was necessary to provide a safer environment for Garrett.

When Joshua and Julie found out they had been approved to partner with Habitat they were extremely excited.

Julie said *"We are so thankful to be given this chance to give Garrett a safe home to grow up in. We are very blessed."*

Garrett will be able to celebrate Christmas in the safe surroundings of his new home as his parents rejoice in their dream becoming reality.

Joshua, Julie, and Garrett moved into their home on Lot #2 in the Buffalo Hills Development in November 2009.