

Meet Rose McFarlane



“No words can express the gratitude I feel,” says Rose McFarlane. “For the first time in my adult life, I am going to have a place I can call home.”

Like many teens, Rose left home after high school with a back pack and dreams of a bright future. Three decades later, she found herself still traveling, living from a suitcase, and seeking a safe sanctuary. Rose moved an average of once or twice a year; living in RVs, garages, overcrowded houses, anywhere she could find a place stay.

At one point when things were finally looking up, Rose suffered an on-the-job injury while working for an attorney with no workmen’s compensation. With no job, no insurance, and no money, Rose was forced into years of self-imposed rehabilitation. Although virtually homeless, she worked diligently to slowly regain limited use of her arms and hands.

A friend of hers came to Pendleton County in 2007 to help work on an Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity Thrivent Build house. He returned home and encouraged Rose to come to Pendleton County mainly because the cost of living was less and it might be easier for Rose to make ends meet. Rose took his advice, visited Franklin a few times and fell in love with the area and its charm. She felt this was the right place for her so she found an affordable, though dilapidated, place to rent and was soon a resident of the county.

Once getting settled in, Rose visited the Habitat office to find out if she, like her friend, could volunteer to help a family build their house. After volunteering with Habitat and learning more about the program, Rose was surprised to find out that a single person could also be eligible for a house. She was encouraged by a Habitat staff member to fill out an application to see if she could qualify and be approved.

Still Rose was afraid to hope that her years of struggling and moving could soon be over. When she was told that she was approved for a Habitat for Humanity house and now a member of the Habitat family, Rose was overcome with emotion.

“I am overwhelmed at the prospect that I am finally going to be able to permanently unpack my “backpack”. What I had come to believe was only a dream is now a reality! Thanks to the staff of Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity and all the volunteers that will be helping! My dream is finally coming true!”

With the help of Habitat for Humanity Rose was able to purchase a newly rehabilitated house on Painter’s Point and moved in 2008. Habitat for Humanity had purchased this vacant blighted house at an estate sale.