

The Malcolm Family

Charity Malcolm and her two children C.J. age 17 and Rebecca age 12 live in a FEMA trailer that was left after the 1985 flood. The trailer is nearly impossible to heat in the as the cold air leaks in around the windows and doors and sometimes when the wind blows the back door flies open even if it is locked.



This past winter they ran out of propane for the furnace and could not afford to buy any more. It was so cold that their portable electric heaters could not heat the whole trailer so they closed off all of the bedrooms and all slept on the hide-away sofa in the living room.

To make matters worse the Malcolm's spend more than 60% of their monthly income on housing expenses leaving them little for other necessities.

"I grew up living in a trailer with similar problems and I just wanted something better for my children, so last June, I came to Habitat for Humanity and applied for a house." said Charity.

"At first it didn't seem very real, but over the last few months we have helped to build our new house and since we live so close, we literally get to watch the progress each day, the reality that this is going to be our house has really set in. I am happy to say that this was the last winter that my children and I will have to live in a trailer!"

The trailer has the same wood paneling on all of the interior walls, and because the Malcolm's are renting, they are not allowed to paint them. But if you ask 12 year old Rebecca she will be more than happy to show you what she calls her "Dream Colors". These are the colors that Rebecca and the other members of her family plan to paint the walls of their new home.

"On days when we get discouraged, we simply look up and see our 'Dream Colors' and are reminded that very soon we will have a place of our own – one that we can paint the walls any color we want!" adds Charity.

The Malcolm Family will move into their new three-bedroom townhouse at River Bend Gardens in June of this year.