

# Noella

519 Willy Street

This family is sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Disciples for Habitat

Noella has had a difficult journey to stability. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she had to flee her home as a refugee. “When I left Congo to go to the refugee camp, I was alone.” Noella says. Her husband had passed away shortly before. “As a single woman, I wasn’t sure I was going to make it in the camps. I begged God for help.”

Noella is no stranger to struggle or loss. In addition to her husband’s passing, Noella also lost a child and her sister before making it to a more stable life in the U.S. When she found out she was able to relocate to the U.S. for a better life, she was overwhelmed with relief and joy. “Coming to Kentucky felt like God answering my prayers.”

Noella arrived in the U.S. in 2014 with her son, Keve (17) and her two daughters, Kevine (17) and Jackline (14). Noella’s sister had planned to join her in the U.S., but passed away right before she was scheduled to come. Noella says it was a heart attack, brought on by PTSD. After their mother passed away, Noella’s two nieces, Valance (16) and Fortunata (13), came to live with her. She is now raising them as her own and the six of them will share the home.

Being part of the Lexington Habitat Homebuyer Program is something Noella is very proud of. She knows that it will empower her to change her family’s lives forever. “I’m proud of providing for my children. My goal is to attend all of my classes and buy the home my family deserves. Because of this program, I can move on from the pain and suffering that I’ve been through in the camps.”

Noella feels very fortunate to now have a good job working in Environmental Services at UK with a schedule that allows her to spend the weekends with her children. In addition to hard work, she also values her children being involved in extracurricular activities. Her son plays football and her daughters enjoy learning life skills such as how to repair things and take care of the home. When Noella isn’t working or supporting her children’s hobbies, her favorite thing to do is read her Bible. The family says they are blessed to have a great church family at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. The support from them means so much to her. “I am excited to have my church community come and sprinkle holy water on the property.” Noella says, “Without God none of this would be possible.”

The family would also like to thank the sponsors, volunteers and Lexington Habitat for this opportunity. “This is a great blessing. I will be able to give my kids a better life. May God bless all of you. I honestly don’t know how to thank you enough.”



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