

**Interview with future Habitat homeowner, Maria  
January 2023**



Meet Maria, Port Townsend native, mother, and health and exercise coach. While Maria helps her clients daily with their health and well-being, she needed help to stabilize her own living situation for her son, Jack.

**Q.** What led you to Habitat?

**A.** About two weeks before my due date, my doctor said I needed an emergency birth. Jack was too small and my amniotic fluid was too low for a safe birth, so they needed to intervene. The doctors induced labor and Jack was born. He had a number of health challenges, including diabetes, that required immediate medical attention and ongoing,

daily—often hourly—medical supervision.

Over the next two years, I dedicated every moment to keeping Jack healthy. As he grew, we learned how to monitor his health and provide treatment that worked for him. This required a part-time nurse for daily care. It financially drained me.

When Jack's situation was finally stable enough that I could work again, we needed a decent place to live, one where he could receive in-home care. But there were no options for us in Port Townsend. It's nearly impossible here to find an affordable rental. I had heard of Habitat, so I applied for the program and was extremely fortunate to be one of the people accepted.

**Q.** What has the Habitat program been like for you?

**A.** This program changed my life. You can't imagine the anxiety when you know you could lose your home at any moment. Since getting into the Habitat program, I actually feel safe. I can plan for the future. I'll be raising my son where I grew up, living close to his school and near our extended family.

Completing the sweat equity requirement for Habitat is a juggle because I already work full time and am a full-time mother to Jack. It's been hard, but I've made it work. I'm also learning valuable skills about home maintenance that will be useful to me for my entire life. And Jack will have a safe, secure home to grow up in. That keeps me going.