



## Single mother of four chosen for Habitat for Humanity home in Vandercook Lake area



**Lisa Satayut** on October 18, 2013

SUMMIT TWP., MI – For Jessica Bramlett, a single mother of four, moving into a new house means safety and security for her four children. “There are shootings right in front of our house,” said Bramlett, who currently rents a house on Adrian Street on the south side of Jackson. After going through a rigorous application process, Bramlett was overjoyed to learn she was selected to purchase a **Habitat for Humanity home located in the Vandercook Lake area on Golf Avenue.**

While not free, it does come with a zero percent mortgage. Bramlett is also required to work 300 hours on the home. By springtime, she is hoping to move into the four-bedroom two-story house being built by Habitat volunteers, including the Spring Arbor Women’s Basketball team. A groundbreaking ceremony took place in front of the home Friday, Oct. 18.

While most Habitat homes have been constructed in the city, **Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity** officials saw a need for a change this time around. This is the first time “in a long time” the organization has stepped outside the city of Jackson, said Leanne Prout, Habitat spokeswoman.

After the ceremony, Bramlett’s 10-year-old daughter, Katerra, said she wanted to decorate her room in a Hello Kitty theme. Katerra will be sharing the room with her 6-year-old sister Denea. While Denea might not want to share a room, she agrees it should be decorated with Hello Kitty items. Their brother, Dezelle Jr., 4, quietly told his mom he wanted a superhero theme. The family is hoping to be in their new home by March

or April. Construction manager David Behnke said he hopes to have the roof on by Dec. 1, weather permitting. "Dave is awesome at explaining stuff," Spring Arbor University senior Jessica Garrison, 21, said.

This is the second Habitat home she has worked on. "I've learned so much about building a house, I know what 'factory-left' means now," Garrison said. The group was laying floor trusses so crews can erect walls before winter hits. "We are so excited to be moving to a better area," Bramlett said.

To date, there are 53 Habitat homes that have been built in Jackson County and three that should be completed in January, according to Shelly Hendrick, the executive director of Greater Jackson Habitat for Humanity. For information on becoming a Habitat homeowner or for volunteer information call 517-784-6620.

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