



Habitat
for Humanity®
Grey Bruce

HELP LOCAL FAMILIES THRIVE

Brooke is grateful she can host events in her new Habitat home. "There's more room here for my whole family to come visit me here."

BROOKE'S JOURNEY to becoming a Habitat homeowner was a difficult and challenging road for both her and her family.

Three years ago, Brooke was homeless when her mom, Darlene forced her to treatment and brought her back home to live with her.



Brooke with her two children, Gerald & Isabella at their Habitat home dedication ceremony in December 2023.

Darlene was already living in an extremely over crowded living situation providing housing for herself, her son, two daughters, her sister, her nephew, and her niece when Brooke came to live with her pregnant with twins.

Brooke slept in one little room at her mom's house with her two babies.

"We slept on one bed and had all of our stuff in there. It's a real change to go from one little room to this whole house! It's so crazy, I can't believe it, I'm so grateful."

MODEL OF HOPE

Brooke was nervous when applying to become a Habitat homeowner under the Model of Hope partnership between Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce and Saugeen First Nation. She was concerned as she didn't have a good credit rating.

"I filled in the forms as much as I could and I put in everything I could think of. When I found out I was selected, it was a surprise, I was shocked! My first reaction was that other people living with us needed it more but I was really grateful and really, really happy."

"There's a relief on my home now that Brooke has her own new home." Darlene Carter, Brooke's mom

Brooke speaks fondly of the time she spent at the Build site volunteering as part of her partnership agreement.

"Habitat made it possible to accomplish getting hours there were so many options to get your hours completed."



Brooke's family: Darlene, Hayley, Isabella, Brooke, Gerald, Jocelyn, & Bloom



Brooke with her two children, Saugeen Chief, Conrad Ritchie & Greg Fryer, Executive Director, Habitat Grey Bruce

Brooke volunteered at least 150 hours of her own time and 200 hours from friends and family for a total of 350 hours during the course of the Build. There were 5 single-dwelling houses, including Brooke's being constructed simultaneously from May - mid December 2023 by Habitat Grey Bruce.

"Coming to volunteer gave me confidence to do things on my own, in my own home. I like the unfinished basement and now I feel more capable to develop it myself later on."



Brooke's Habitat home being constructed on French Bay Road in Saugeen First Nation 2023 Build season



It takes a village of community and support

Darlene was an enormous support to Brooke obtaining her partnership volunteer hours. Being a single mom, finding childcare and getting other people to volunteer was a challenge that Darlene supported Brooke through despite her own time constraints, still working herself.



Brooke's mom, Darlene with Brooke's son, Gerald

"I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without my mom. It was a lot of work to get your volunteer hours but I'm happy I came and now I wish I was there even more. Everyone was really nice and made it comfortable. It was a really good work environment. It was a lot of work but it was so worth it in the end and a lot of fun."



Ground-breaking ceremony
Spring 2023 Saugeen First Nation

Brooke had this to share about her new Habitat home:

"I love having my family around and having our own space is wonderful and my mom now can come here to visit and take a break from her own house. Me and my babies have our own place in the world so that we can grow and be our own people. My family lives just up and down this road, I'm happy my children will grow up around their family just like I did. We come from a long line of sugar makers and my family owns a sugar bush right across the road from here. We've already been out walking in the bush and the babies have had sap for the first time.

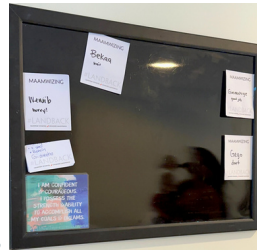
We were away a few weeks ago to Hamilton and we slept over for one night. When we got home, it was so cool to see how happy they (her children) were to come home. I love having the freedom to set up anything I like in my home."



Anishinaabe words displayed throughout Brooke's new Habitat home.

Darlene proudly states, *"Brooke loves the Anishinaabe language she's always been really quick at picking things up."*

Now that the babies are starting to talk, Brooke has labelled everything in her home with cards that show the Anishinaabe language so her children learn to speak it from an early age. She also enjoys sharing her home with her friends and cousins who also have little children because *"everything is baby proofed and safe."*



Brooke is encouraging her children to learn through the Montessori model. She now has the freedom to foster a creative learning space for her children to grow and develop in their new home. Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce along with the Saugeen First Nation Band and Council congratulate Brooke and her family for successfully participating in the Model of Hope partnership and wish them a beautiful new beginning in their new Habitat home.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity Grey Bruce or how you can participate in making a difference for a family like Brooke's, visit our website.

habitatgreybruce.ca

