



*Autumn Hale and four of her five children in September 2017*

## The Hale Family

Meet Lawrence Habitat's 100th homeowners, the Hale Family. Autumn Hale, a single mother of five children, works professionally at Sunset Hill Elementary School, and has lived in Lawrence for 30 years.

Autumn has experienced a number of family difficulties in the past few years, going through a divorce, losing their family business and home as a result, and raising her five children all on her own. "I knew that I needed to provide for my kids and was finding out how hard it was to do so without any help, financial or otherwise, from their father," she says, "and I struggled to be a mother, 'father,' friend, and counselor to them."

With the assistance of the Lawrence Housing Authority, Autumn learned about Lawrence Habitat for Humanity, and after much thought decided to apply. "I decided I would apply for a Habitat home and get familiar with the process and people, thinking I probably would not get accepted now, but would keep trying in the future," she says.

To Autumn's surprise she was accepted as a Lawrence Habitat homeowner. "When I found out that my family was chosen for a Habitat house I was absolutely in shock, and extremely emotional, I could not stop smiling that entire day!" Autumn says that her selection as a Habitat homeowner felt like a dream, and she knew this opportunity was going to change their lives. "It took a huge weight off my mind knowing that I will always have a place for my kids to call home," she says.

Autumn says that over the past few months she has worked at the Lawrence Habitat build sites, observing firsthand the amount of effort and work that goes into building a home. "The emotions that I have felt for the other Habitat families, to see their dreams coming true, has been powerful," she says, "and it is an opportunity that my children and I are so incredibly thankful to be a part of."

The Hale family home will be Lawrence Habitat's 100th home and is part of our Beyond 100 Homes campaign, with construction on the home beginning in fall 2018.