

# “One day...we’ll have a house with a backyard to play in.”



Housing Alliance  
of Pennsylvania

Story provided by: Habitat for Humanity Bucks County

A **HOME**-supported project brought that promise to life through the transformation of the former St. Thomas Aquinas School in Croydon. Once a vacant property, it is now home to three newly built single-family houses, filled by three beautiful families—including 10 children. Homeownership has given these families safety, stability, and renewed hope for their futures, while also breathing new life into the surrounding neighborhood.

One of those homes belong to Maria, a mother of three, who works full-time at a local manufacturing company. They once paid \$1,465 a month for a cramped two-bedroom apartment. To make it work, she hung a curtain to section off part of the living room as a “bedroom” for her oldest son- Jacob. She shared her own bedroom with her younger son- Gavin, while her daughter- Kendra- used the second bedroom. They made the best of it, but their living situation was overcrowded and unsustainable.

With support from **HOME** and 130 volunteers—including Maria, who together contributed a total of 1,141 hours—their dream became reality. Today, they pay just \$1,200 a month for a spacious three-bedroom home. More than a house, it’s the start of a new chapter for the Whitaker—one filled with health, hope, and community.

*\*Names changed for privacy reasons*

## What is the Program that Helped?

The **HOME Investment Partnerships Program** is a federal program that helps low-income families afford safe, stable housing.

It provides funding for building, buying, or rehabilitating homes, and can help with down payments, closing costs, or rental assistance.

Local governments and nonprofits, like Habitat for Humanity, use HOME funds to make homeownership and affordable housing possible for families who otherwise couldn’t afford it.

## What are we Asking Congress?

We call on Congress to fully fund all HUD housing, community development, and homeless assistance programs to prevent currently served families from losing their homes.

