

## New Partner Family is Dedicated to Improving Lives of Her Children in USA

By: Michelle Gaines

Nine years ago, Joyce Misiani's family won the US's green card lottery and was awarded green cards permitting her family to become permanent residents in the U.S. Born and raised in Kenya; Joyce excelled in school and at the time was attending law school. She was doing well in Kenya but "who would say no to the opportunity to come to the U.S."

At the age of 33, Joyce, her ex-husband and their family started their lives over and moved to an apartment in Newark, NJ. She earned an LPN diploma from the New Community School of Nursing. Since earning her diploma, Joyce has been working as an LPN at the New Community Extended Care Center.

Life in Newark has not been easy for Joyce and her four girls; 16 year old Colleatte, 6 year old twins Brigette and Brittney, and 3 year old Adriel. The area of Newark where they have been living is a hostile environment. Gun shots are not uncommon to hear and stray bullets actually destroyed her brother's car during one of his visits to their apartment. Her girls are isolated in their apartment as it is too dangerous for them to play outside. They don't know their neighbors and their only friends are from church and school. Joyce has done everything she can to get her daughters out of this environment. Colleatte is a senior at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, NJ, and plans a medical career, Brigette and Brittney attend Milton Hershey Boarding School in Hershey, PA, and, until her Habitat home is completed, her daughter Adriel is living in Kenya with her sister.

"There are so many opportunities only if you open your eyes. From nothing, you can become something." It is Joyce's drive to see her and her children excel, as well as her optimism and hard work, that brought her to Habitat for Humanity. While grocery shopping one day, Joyce ran into a woman she went to school with who was also a Habitat Newark Partner Family. Her friend told her about Habitat for Humanity Newark and Joyce saw this as her family's way out from their hostile living environment.

Joyce has been a dedicated Habitat Newark Partner Family. Every week since ground breaking on her home, she has spent her day off from work building her new home. Friends and her daughter Colleatte have joined her as volunteers. This home is a labor of love. Joyce looks forward to the day she can bring Adriel back from Kenya, her daughters can play outside, and she can get to know her neighbors.

