



Profile of a Habitat Family

“I prayed and prayed that something would happen to point me in the right direction to find help for our family”,

Virginia Cooper said through her tears. Virginia was describing her feelings prior to becoming a recipient of Habitat for Humanity Australia’s housing program.

Virginia, Jamie, and their four children lived in Lalor Park in Western Sydney, in rented public housing.

Four young children are a strain on any parent. However Virginia and Jamie were stretched to their limit financially, physically and emotionally. Their youngest, Michael, has been severely disabled from an early age, requiring round the clock care. He suffers from multiple health problems including Cerebral Palsy, and serious eye problems, sufficient that he has been declared legally blind.

Their modest three bedroom house was inadequate for their needs. Virginia and Jamie feared for some time now that they would not be able to care for Michael in the years ahead. They knew that as he grows, without a home with special modifications and equipment, they would not be able to care for him without detrimental effects on their own health.

They heard about the Habitat program through a chance meeting with another Habitat recipient. Their new Habitat home will provide a future full of promise for all members of the family. The house



The Cooper Family

is essentially an open plan design which will allow Michael to use a walker and move around the living room and share in the day to day family life. Special equipment will be installed in the bathroom to enable easier access for bathing Michael. Ramps will be fitted to the front and back of the house for wheel chair use. Afram is thrilled to be getting his own room as I’m sure are Virginia and Jamie.

“There is light at the end of the tunnel,” say Virginia and Jamie, “and the perspective of the whole family has changed. We are all more positive about everything”.

Story and Photo by Diana Logan