

A Habitat Homeowner Profile: Shelly & Jeff

Winnipeg summers are always eagerly anticipated but for one local family this fall can't come soon enough. When the leaves begin to change, Shelly and Jeff along with their son Luke, and daughter Zoe will make the move from their current core area house to their new Habitat home on Minto Street.

The young family's Habitat home is one of six new units being built by volunteers on the former site of the Thistle Curling Club. Once completed, the 1200 square foot side-by-side will allow the family to enjoy the benefits of a well-built, energy efficient home.



Shelly and Jeff with their son, Luke, and daughter, Zoe.

Their current rental property is well over 80 years old and although Shelly and Jeff are keen to maintain it, the building's age causes significant hardships to the family. Poor insulation and wonky plumbing are becoming more of an issue every year the family stays, and a reoccurring mouse problem has kept all of the closets off limits for years.

Despite the poor condition of their rental home the major factor in the family's desire to move, is the declining safety of the neighbourhood. Shelly reports that there is increased gang activity, car thefts, and the family can frequently hear gunshots. Drug dealers can also be seen actively 'working' on their street. Not a great environment to send young Luke out to play in!

Shelly and Jeff are an enthusiastic Habitat partner family and through working at the ReStore and at various HFHW special events, they are nearly finished their required 500 hours of sweat equity. With their construction time this summer they will reach that goal prepare for their move this fall.