



PHOTOGRAPH: MUFFY KIBBEY

The Hyltons eagerly await the completion of their Habitat for Humanity home.

# The Gift of Giving

A CALIFORNIA FAMILY PROVES GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO GIVE.

For most of us, imagining the holiday season conjures up visions of our family and pets warmly nestled inside the comforts of our home. For this family in Livermore, California, the dream of owning such a home is coming true.

Carey Hylton and her two children, Chelsea and Eli, recently were selected as a partner family to work in cooperation with East Bay Habitat for Humanity. Through this partnership, the Hyltons will build and purchase an affordable home of their own. Numerous individuals, organizations, and corporations such as Lowe's help make projects like this possible.

Since hearing the news, the family has been experiencing firsthand the joys of

both giving and receiving. Their home (to be completed in February), is part of a new 22-home Habitat for Humanity development, where the Hyltons have been putting in hundreds of hours of sweat equity in the construction of their home and others in the development.

"We already love them," says 16-year-old Chelsea of her soon-to-be neighbors in the community.

For their own new home, Chelsea is busy helping her mother choose paint colors and furnishings using examples from magazine clippings. She plans to use a red-and-black color scheme for her bedroom.

After renting houses and apartments, "we are so excited to be able to fix up our own home and to paint the walls,"

exclaims Chelsea. Eli, however, says that he is most excited about having a two-story home to explore.

While Chelsea may be eager to move in, she is also hopeful about her future. Thanks to an inspiring essay about her family, she received a \$500 college scholarship from Habitat, which she plans to use at a local university.

Finally, to complete their preparations, the family adopted a young Maltese poodle named Rufus. There is no doubt that he, too, will earn a place in the hearts and home of this Habitat partner family.

For information on Habitat for Humanity and to learn how you can get involved, visit [Lowe.com/Habitat/Mag](http://Lowe.com/Habitat/Mag).