

Ashley Malaczewski Bio



“Never give up.” Ashley Malaczewski has exemplified this throughout her whole life. She is a mother of two boys- Jalen (16,) who loves football, and Jahmier (14), who loves gaming. She has lived in Greenville for about 20 years and works as a Registered Medical Assistant at St. Frances. They currently rent a house that is too small for them and has plumbing issues including a leak in the kitchen. Ashley is constantly looking to make life better for her boys and heard about Habitat’s program through a couple different friends who are homeowners. She finally applied because she wants her boys to have more than she had growing up.

Ashley originally grew up in Philadelphia with her mom and stepdad and two siblings. When she was a teen, they moved to Greenville to be closer to her stepdad’s family. Her mother struggled with mental health, and when Ashley was 15, her mother committed suicide. This was made even harder by the fact that her aunt and her grandmother had also committed suicide. Shortly after her mother passed away her stepdad disowned Ashley and her brother. She dropped out of

school and started working to support herself and at different times would support her siblings as well. This started a time in her life when she moved around from place-to-place living with friends, at Shepherds Gate, or back in Philly for a bit with an aunt. After having her two boys, Ashley worked hard to give them the best she could. While living in income-based apartment, she worked at Zaxbys, got her GED with help from United Ministries, and earned her associates from Brown Mackie College. She then started working two jobs at a time to make ends meet and rent a house in Mauldin where they currently reside. This drive to better her life and the ones around her has brought her to this point where she is becoming a homeowner.

As Ashley and her sons imagine their new home, they cannot wait to have a place to eat dinner together in their dining room, and the boys look forward to having their own rooms that they plan to decorate with LED lights. This will be a home that they can call their own. As Ashley looks back on the process so far, she feels proud of herself. She has done this as a single mom with very little help. Even though the Habitat program was challenging, especially during the ups and downs of COVID-19, she once again never gave up. She enjoyed volunteering at the ReStore and on the build site - even though it was quite hot- and feels prepared for homeownership. Home for Ashley is “stability, love, and dedication.” It is a place she never thought she would get to. But she did. It is a place where she can dream about the future, even going back to further her medical degree. As she likes to say, “You have to keep pushing in life.” Through all the challenges they have faced, Ashley has kept pushing and very soon will see the dream of homeownership become a reality. In the words of her son, Jahmier, “I’m just ready. I’m proud of my mom.”