

Ms. Megan Wilde Family Biography



Megan Wilde feels fortunate to have grown up in a house in Wheatland, Wyo. She said her parents bought it when the cost of housing was more affordable to young families. That isn't the case anymore.

Megan thought she'd never have a home of her own. That isn't the case anymore either.

Megan was 19 when she became a mom and that's when her dream of homeownership seemed unattainable. "I wanted [my daughter] to have more than I had," she said.

Currently living in a crowded apartment building with mold issues, Megan applied twice to be a Habitat for Humanity homeowner. When she was not selected after her first application, she attended Financial Foundations, a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Wyoming Housing Network. She listened, she learned and she acted.

Her second application reflected the tremendous

amount of work and discipline Megan had invested into her household finances.

"If someone is giving me advice, and I choose not to take it, it's all on me," she said.

Megan's said her daughter's reaction to the news of being accepted into the Habitat program was relief. "I think she was worried I would always live in an apartment," Megan said. "She's going to be part of the journey with me."

Megan's daughter, Kristen, will be helping to make her mother's dream of homeownership come true. Kristen, 19, attends Casper College, with the goal of working in animal-assisted therapy and currently works at the Casper Humane Society.

Megan admits to having no construction experience, but so wants to learn all she can about her house, she asked if she could help with excavation. Habitat staff assured Megan she would never need to excavate her own home in the future.

Since last July, Megan said she feels lighter. She's been working as a receptionist at AUSTIN Engineering, formerly known as Westech, and loves it. She said she's also finally got her finances in order.

"As a single mom, I couldn't afford to pay bills," she said, "I was so stressed; I'm a different person now that I'm debt-free. It's easy money to spend, but it's hard to pay back."

But now Megan will start by paying things forward, in helping her neighbors build their homes and working alongside others as they help to build hers.

For more information on the Homeownership Program, contact Program Manager Kelly Cooper at kelly@heartofwyoming.org.