

Meet Vanessa & Sam



This Is Our Pre-Destination

Vanessa grew up in an apartment complex, and enjoyed playing back-alley games with friends, babysitting her cousins and spending most of her time with family at church. “We attended church, sang in the choir, volunteered, and did anything else that was needed,” Vanessa said with a smile. At a very young age, Vanessa knew she loved helping others. After graduating from high school, Vanessa began working at an EMS call station. She has also been a foster parent for most of her life.

Sam has five siblings and as a child he spent a lot of time playing sports. He also loved to sing and was heavily involved in church. Sam learned at an early age that he enjoyed working with his hands and doing carpentry projects. He would have loved to learn more about woodworking but instead decided to enter the workforce after graduation. Due to medical issues, Sam retired after 40+ years in the workforce.

Sam and Vanessa have known each other most of their lives. They were heavily involved in the same church, where they both enjoyed singing. The two friends even sang together at Vanessa’s mom’s wedding in the 1980s. Vanessa admits that all the girls’ thought Sam was handsome, but she was far too shy to talk to him. After high school, they each began their adult lives and started raising families of their own. Fast forward many years later, they both found themselves single and reconnected through social media. They have been together ever since.

Vanessa was very familiar with the Rutherford County Area Habitat for Humanity Homeownership program but had never really considered pursuing it as an option for her and Sam. They were blessed to have a home, but living in a one-bedroom apartment made it very challenging for Sam to use his wheelchair. After some praying, Vanessa decided to visit the RCHFH office and learn more about the RCHFH program. They immediately signed up for the Get Ready Class and began working towards getting their affairs in order. When the time came, Sam and Vanessa were more than ready to apply.

Vanessa received the call that they had been accepted into the RCHFH Homeownership program as she was driving back from visiting her brother in the hospital. Her first response was, “We Did It!” She was so excited to get home and tell Sam the great news. A little shocked, Sam was beside himself with gratitude. “Nothing is by accident,” he said smiling.

Vanessa and Sam would like to thank everyone who is working together to make their dream possible. They are looking forward to having a nice garden, doing some backyard BBQing on the patio, and hosting their family for special events.

The couple truly feels that the RCHFH program, staff, and volunteers are a blessing to them as they start this new chapter together. They want everyone to know that “God knew this day would come for us and we are grateful for His timing.”