

THE GATEWAY

Job Loss Spells Disaster for Young Family

Allen and Katrina and their three children were a typical hardworking American family. "Allen was working in construction and I was caring for the children. We managed our money and were doing well."

"We were at the top of our game, and then before we knew it everything was taken from us," explains Katrina.

The economy slowed, construction jobs dried up, and along with it Allen and Katrina's lifeline. "We lived with family off and on and then had to resort to shelters while doing everything we could to get back on our feet. One of us would find work while the other cared for the kids."

While living at an emergency shelter, Katrina was surprised by the way families with children were treated. "Every morning all the residents were told to leave and not come back until 3 p.m. I had to leave and walk the streets with the children because we had nowhere else to go. I took them to

playgrounds, and thankfully found a church that let us come inside. **Sometimes it seemed so hopeless,"** recounts Katrina.

Allen and Katrina were both willing to work hard to



Above: Little AJ, Bryce, Nevaeh, Allen and Katrina smile for a family photo after moving to the Gateway Apartments.

improve their situation, but couldn't find the help they needed. Shelters and family gave them a place to sleep, but did not provide tools for them to significantly improve their future.

Thanks to your support, Allen, Katrina, Bryce, Nevaeh and little AJ found just the help they needed at Family Gateway. At Family Gateway, families are able to stay together and benefit from food and clothing, childcare, counseling, classes and resources specifically designed to strengthen families. Programs for parents and children help families recover from crisis and rebuild their lives.

Katrina and Allen have used their time at Family Gateway wisely, investing in themselves and

their family's future. "Family Gateway made the difference for us. I'm in school working towards my Medical Assistant's degree, Allen has found construction work and we're saving money again. The childcare and support at Family Gateway allowed us *both* to take positive steps forward."

"Providing for the children is our #1 priority. We are willing to sacrifice to make sure they have everything they need – everything is for the kids," explains Katrina.

Thank you for your continuing support of Family Gateway. Your gifts provide a vital lifeline for families experiencing homelessness and a pathway back to stability and lasting self-sufficiency.



Nevaeh at the recent Gateway Getaway event.