

We couldn't do it without you

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Danielle, Amelia and Devin.



Phoenix, Kat and Mihailo

Meet our two newest families

We could tell you about our newest families, about how they came to be involved with Habitat For Humanity Sunshine Coast and what home ownership means to them and their future. But we thought you would like to hear their stories in their own words. Here's what they told us after first getting word that they would be moving into their own homes this summer.

Danielle, Devin and Amelia

After hearing about the program, it almost sounded too good to be true, I was really nervous about submitting our paperwork and getting the process started. I think it took me about two weeks to really understand this was something that we qualified for and that we could possibly receive.

We handed in our information and waited. Devin got a call saying that we were scheduled to talk to some of the board members the following week.

When we got there I was a little intimidated, as up to this point it was only Devin who had been speaking to the board. He had met with the executive director, Cori-Lynn, about four times, trying to gather and comprehend the information and what it would take to qualify. She suggested that he apply and she would add ours to the list of applicants they already had.

So here we were, in front of board members. Honestly I couldn't tell you who was there or even how many ladies we met with; I was so overwhelmed and excited at the same time. Could this be possible? What I can tell you about the meeting is that I was surrounded with some of the nicest people I've ever met. They asked us about our situation and we talked about our lives up to this point. When we left the meeting, we really had no idea which way they were leaning.

A few weeks later, Devin was traveling between jobs when his phone rang. He pulled over and got the news, then called me right away. I don't think the shock of it all settled down for a few hours. I can remember him just pacing back and forth in our kitchen as I just sat there. The best news! We are getting a home!

Kat, Mihailo and Phoenix

Hello Coast readers, nice to greet you. Our little family has happily become a part of a bigger collective family: Habitat for Humanity

My children are my life. They have

come to be everything I define myself through. As a young expectant mother, I had not yet defined my sense of identity; becoming a parent was a great gift. I became the parent to two majestic spirits.

Phoenix is the firebird, ancient and powerful. He brought our family the gift of harmony. Mihailo, my angel, carries forth a deep compassion and knowing.

Together we have traversed many a terrain. Together we have uplifted from our native Prairies and are now firmly planting our roots on the Sunshine Coast, becoming homeowners. Being a Habitat partner

family is providing the strong foundation our family was meant to thrive within. We have our own vision statement as a family that we've co-created. Central within it are our own core values: connection, love, and presence

As imagined, we are overflowing with excitement as we are steadily approaching our 500 sweat equity hours. If only the days were longer. We can't wait! Eeeeeee!

I am humbled, with deep gratitude, dreaming of all the wonderful years and memories awaiting us in our new home.

**Safe
at home**
Habitat for Humanity
gives struggling
families a chance
to break out
of the poverty
cycle

Grand slam

Our volunteers,
sponsors and donors
help bring everyone
home

Growing beautiful futures

Growing up as a member of the Sechelt Indian Band, Aaron Joe always longed for a nice yard. "I never had a nice yard," he says, "but I spent a lot of time at a doctor's house. His son was my best friend. They had a beautiful yard. It gave me a feeling of comfort." This might go a long way toward explaining why Joe grew up to be founder and CEO of Salish Soils. "I wanted to give others the same comfort," he says.

Last year, Salish Soils donated \$6,000 worth of topsoil to the Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast (HFHSC) Village in Wilson Creek — something he plans to continue as Habitat continues to build more affordable homes on the Sunshine Coast.

After the soil was delivered late last summer, Aaron would drive past the village and check out the progress of the grass.

"It looks great, doesn't it?" he says proudly.

Joe has built Salish Soils from the ground up. It started as a pilot composting project in 2009. In the eight years since

then, it has grown into a business that delivers 7,000 yards of soil per year and employs 11. Joe is clearly responsible for a lot of nice yards on the Sunshine Coast.

In 2014, recycling was added to the Salish Soils site at 5800 Black Bear Rd. in Sechelt. And that's when Joe gave HFHSC another big boost. For a nominal fee, he gave Habitat space for a recycling booth where volunteers collect and sort refundable beverage containers. As well, Joe donates yards of soil for the silent auction at HFHSC's annual gala.

Giving a hand up to others seems to come naturally to Joe, and it may be because he was given a hand up himself.

"I struggled with addictions for years. There is no way I would be where I am today if I hadn't been able to overcome that." He says he had many sponsors and coaches help him along the way. Now, he helps others who are in the same struggle, and is happy he can give jobs to some of them.

"I like people in our business who... well, one of my coaches used to say 'I won't deal with anybody who hasn't been broke twice.' There's a level of humility that comes with that. Spiritually, emotionally mentally. I like to help people who are truly looking for change in their lives."

Joe and his wife, Lori, have been married 16 years. She works at his side at Salish Soils in charge of customer service



Aaron and Lori Joe at Salish Soils.

— which is another way of saying she does whatever is needed, including maintaining beautiful flower gardens at the site which showcase what Salish Soils can do for you. They've got two kids still at home. And one thing Joe is rightfully proud of is this: They got to grow up playing in a nice yard.

Salish Soils is one of numerous businesses who support HFHSC. This summer, Paul's Paintin Place is donating paint to brighten the exterior of the ReStore. If your business also wants to help, please call Cori Lynn Germiquet at 604-885-6737.