



women build
strength | stability | independence

Meet the Koopmans!

Joe and Chelsey Koopman were approved into the Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County's homeownership program in November 2018. They have three daughters, Abigail (12), Mya (3) and Mataya (1 ½).

While there were many factors, the primary motivation for seeking an improved housing situation is Mataya. Born with hydrocephalus, Mataya spent the first 8 weeks of her life in the NICU. In addition, she was born with spine issues, a dislocated hip, a club foot, and a non-working kidney. Already in her short eighteen months of life she has endured 12 surgeries, and it is uncertain if she will ever be able to walk. Having a home that will accommodate Mataya's needs as she grows up simply means the world to the family. They family can't wait for more space and a yard for the kids to learn and grow, a place to bring friends to, hold birthday parties, holidays, and most importantly, a healthy home for everyone.

Chelsey is currently on medical leave from her employment in order to take care of Mataya, as most child cares are not equipped to accommodate her unique needs. Joe was a member of the National Guard, and was deployed to Iraq twice – first from 2004-2005 and then from 2011-2012. Joe and Chelsey have served on the Jingle Bells Foundation, a local telethon that raises money for roughly 900 families in need over the holidays. They caringly shared, "It's a great thing to be a part of. Lots of well-deserving families get good items, and it's a great way to start our kids young in giving back." The Koopmans have also been actively involved in their church, sharing that their pastor and his wife are "like second parents to us". Chelsey spends time during the summer teaching Vacation Bible School, and you can bet that during football season every Sunday their family is rooting on their favorite team – the MN Vikings!

When explaining their initial life dream, Chelsey has commented, "God has a plan, it's not always what you think, but, you go with it." In May 2019, Joe, tragically passed away as a result of a car accident. Once again, Chelsey is adjusting her plan.



*Pictured: Chelsey, Mya,
Joe and Mataya
(Not pictured: Abigail)*



*Pictured: Abby, Mya,
Chelsey and Mataya*

Happily and gratefully, Chelsey is moving forward as the homebuyer for the Women Build home. She has shared, **"I am so grateful for each and every person who is involved in any way in making our home become a reality. Truly, thank you!"**