



women build
strength | stability | independence

Meet the Koopmans!

Joe and Chelsey Koopman have been members of the Alexandria community for over 10 years. They have three daughters, Abigail (12), Mya (3) and Mataya (1 ½). Joe has spent the past three years working at FAST Global Solutions in the shipping and receiving department and Chelsey has been employed through school District 206 as a preschool teacher. Their family of five is currently living in a two bedroom apartment, where health and safety factors are a concern. After hearing Habitat present to the school district, Chelsey felt it might be a fit for their family, and with encouragement from several friends to apply, they submitted their application and were approved for homeownership!



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

While there were many factors, their primary motivation for seeking an improved housing situation is their daughter 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 fourteen months of life she has endured 9 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 Koopmans. Their new home will be within walking distance to Latoka Beach, something Joe and Chelsey immediately noted as they set foot on their lot for the first time. The Koopmans and their kids can't wait for more space and a yard for their kids to learn and grow, a place they can 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 is a retired member of the National Guard, and was deployed to Iraq twice – first from 2004-2005 and then from 2011-2012. In their “free time”, the couple serves on the Jingle Bells Foundation, a local telethon that raises money for roughly 900 families in need over the holidays. Joe and Chelsey 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 are also 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!



Joe and Chelsey on their lot - December 2018

In regards to being the 2019 Women Build family, the couple shared, “We can’t wait to get started, and we are so grateful for each and every person who is involved in any way in making our home become a reality. Truly, we thank you!”