

Meet the Kingombe Family

Hardis Kingombe and his wife Kisenda Miezi fled their home in Kinshasa, a city of 12 million people in the Congo, and arrived in Charlotte on May 9, 2011 with their two young children, Gabriella and Gloria. In Kinshasa, Hardis was a lawyer and his wife, a cashier in a shop. They left because their quality of life had been severely compromised by a corrupt dictator, political strife, gang violence, and a lack of freedom. They felt their children had no future there.

In this country, Hardis supports his family as an Uber driver and says he meets a lot of very interesting people from whom he has heard some pretty amazing stories. While they are happy and grateful to be in the U.S., the area of Charlotte they have lived in since their arrival has become increasingly poverty-stricken and is experiencing more incidents of crime.

Hardis and Kisenda wanted a home where their children (now including Jeff, who was born in the U.S.) could play outside in a yard without an ongoing threat of crime in their neighborhood, so they applied to Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity and were accepted after a rigorous application process.

When asked what he and Kisenda look forward to most about owning their own home in a Habitat neighborhood, Hardis replied, "Our kids will get a great education – the best! That's what we want most, and what they will have here."

He went on to say that the people who sponsor and work on the house alongside them this summer are their heroes. "Their sacrifice will make such a difference in our lives, and I hope they know how much that means to us."

