

Nguyen Family Story

Khanh, his wife Tammy, and his two daughters Giang and Jenny are from Vietnam.

Khanh's father was a high official for the anti-communist South Vietnamese forces in the Vietnam War and when the war ended, he was imprisoned by the Communist Vietnamese government for his anti-communist stance and his association with the United States. Khanh's father would spend 10 years as a political prisoner inside a Vietnamese jail until he was finally released and offered citizenship in the United States.

Khanh attended University in Vietnam, but due to his father's history; he and his family were targeted as anti-communist and restricted from ever working a government job. Khanh was able to make a successful living working as a Sales Manager for Proctor and Gamble, but though he and his family had a comfortable life and owned their own home, Khan worried about the future of his children.

Three years ago, the Nguyen family, sponsored by Khan's father, moved to the United States. Khanh reflected on his decision to uproot his family, saying, *"When we moved, we gave up everything and had to start from scratch. We had never had to think about renting or living in an apartment before, but it's something that became a reality when we moved here"*.

Khanh now currently works at McDonalds along with his oldest daughter Giang. His wife Tammy works at a nail salon. When asked why they would leave their comfortable life in Vietnam to start over here in the United States, Khanh said simply, *"My children are my future. In Vietnam, they wouldn't have had the opportunity they will have here. This country, this home, this is a foundation for growth"*.

The Nguyen family currently lives in a cramped 2 bedroom apartment. Khanh found out about Habitat while reading an article titled, "Volunteer Vacation" in his ESL class. At first, he didn't think that an organization like this could actually exist, but when he went to the world wide web google proved him differently. After initially being denied due to their income, their oldest daughter, Giang, decided to participate in helping her family with the mortgage once they move in. With Giang's income included, the Nguyen family was able to qualify for our program.

All four of the Nguyen family is participating in the 500 hours of sweat equity, including their youngest daughter Jenny who is still in high school. Since getting accepted into the program in March, the Nguyen family has already put in well over 300 hours of sweat equity. Jenny, their youngest daughter, remarked that though

putting in sweat equity is "hard work", she enjoys being able to contribute to making their "American dream come true".

The Nguyen family is a truly amazing example of the incredibly hard-working and dedicated families that our program is serving. Khanh said it best when he said, *"Habitat doesn't only bring homes for people, it gives people the opportunity to work for their dreams and to become responsible for them. It makes people understand humanity."*

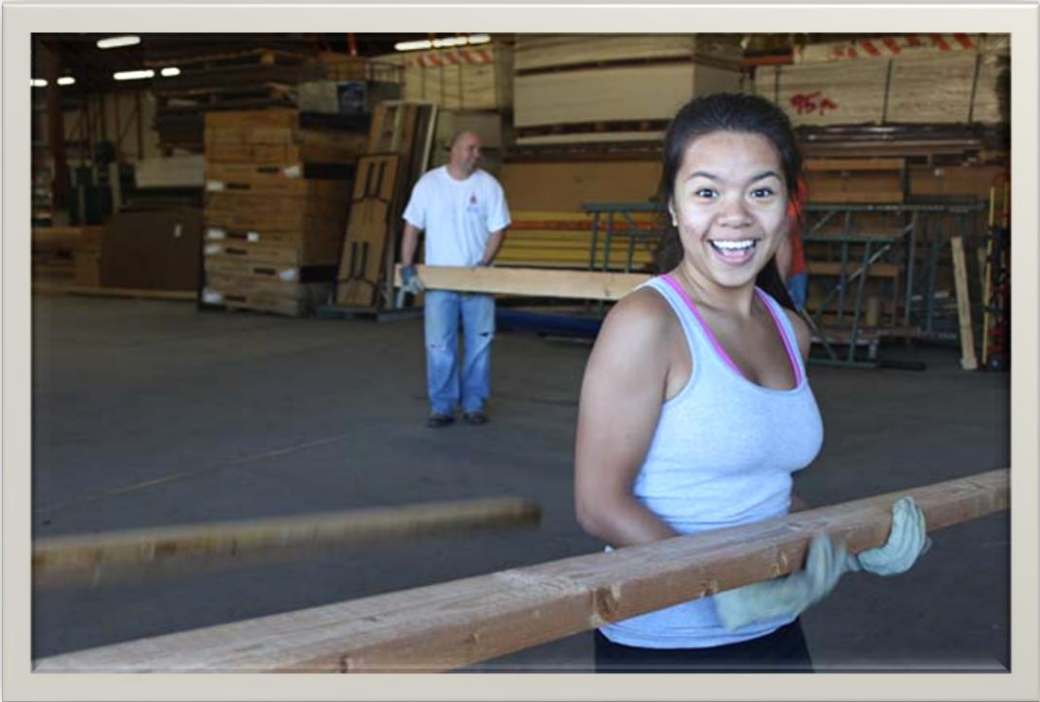
The Nguyen family moved into their brand new LEED Platinum-Certified 3-bedroom home on 32nd Street on June 23rd, 2012.

The story in pictures.

First steps. The construction begins in Oct.-Nov. 2011.



The whole family gives a hand of help. All four of the Nguyen's participated in the 500 hours of sweat equity and...



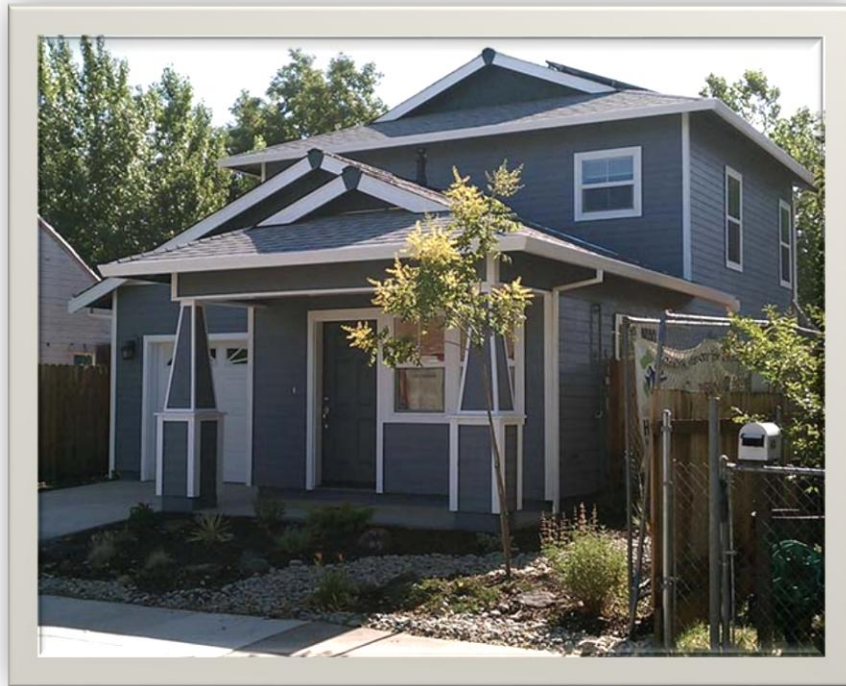
...the results are visible!!!



Ecological equipment - Solar PV Cool Roof was used in order to reduce the costs.



This is the final result...A great house and...



...a happy family!

From Left to Right: Daughter Giang Nguyen (21), Mother Tammy Nguyen, Father Khan Nguyen, and Daughter Jenny Nguyen (16).



This is the invitation for the Home Dedication of the Nguyen Family's Home which John O'Brien (and others) helped sponsor.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A HOME DEDICATION
FOR THE NGUYEN FAMILY**



Home Dedication & Tour

**Saturday, June 23rd
10:00am**

**4025 32nd Street
Sacramento, CA**

**Join Us for Lunch
The Nguyen Family will be
hosting a luncheon
immediately following the
dedication.**

**Introducing our first
"NET-ZERO ENERGY" home**

By the purest definition, a net-zero building produces all the renewable energy it needs on site, drawing no more power from the grid than it gives back. We hope you can join us for a tour after the ceremony!

Meet The Nguyen's

Three short years ago Khanh, Tammy, Giang, and Jenny Nguyen moved from Vietnam to the United States. While living in Vietnam, Khanh, a University graduate, was able to provide his family with a comfortable lifestyle and their own home. But, after living a lifetime of prejudice marked as anti-communist due to his father's position as a high official for the South Vietnamese forces during the Vietnam War and the 10 years spent after as a political prisoner, Khanh feared for the prosperity and future of his children.

The entire Nguyen family has been working hard to build their new home and future, putting in 500 hours of sweat equity in less than 4 months time. Their youngest daughter Jenny admits that though sweat equity is "hard work" she enjoys helping make her family's "American dream come true". Her older sister Giang will be contributing to the family's mortgage. As for Khanh, he couldn't be more excited, "When we moved, we gave up everything and had to start from scratch, but my children are my future. This country, this home, this is a foundation for growth and the opportunity to work for our dreams."

