



## **PROFILES OF HOPE: Meet The Foster Family, IOH residents:**

We moved to Georgia from Alabama. We have a 16 year old daughter who lives with us, and an 18 year old son who is in his first year at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College where he received a basketball scholarship.

Due to layoffs and then difficulty finding full-time work, we took a big hit financially and just couldn't recover. The rent was so expensive in Dunwoody, but our daughter was doing very well at Dunwoody High School so we kept trying to make it work. Eventually, we were borrowing money for rent and it was a downward spiral. We knew we had to make a change as we were just getting further and further behind.

We came to IOH in November 2016, and it has given us a chance to catch our breath and make a plan. We have our own private, affordable apartment where we are safe. I have recently been promoted at my job with the State of Georgia, and my husband is working two jobs. Our daughter is still able to attend Dunwoody High School and works part-time at The Farmers Market. She is excited about getting a paycheck, and we are working hard to teach her about saving and budgeting and working for what you want.

Because of the savings program at IOH, we put money in the bank every month. We'd like to save more, but are also very focused on paying off debt. Our goal is to leave IOH debt-free and in a much more stable financial situation than when we arrived. We are proud of the progress we have made so far and excited about the future.

Improving our financial situation is important, of course, and we are grateful for the chance to do that at IOH. But there is more to this place than recovering financially. This is an amazing program and an amazing community. The connection among the families is something we have never seen before. We feel incredibly blessed and grateful to be here and share in it.