

THE SPIERS FAMILY

Regina Spiers is a single mother of two beautiful children, a son 15 years of age and a daughter 12 years of age. Regina's daughter Macayla was born with complications, which resulted in Cerebral Palsy along with developmental and behavioral challenges. Macayla is facing hip and leg surgery in the next couple of months. The team of doctors working with Macayla strongly recommends that she recover in a house as opposed to a cramped FEMA trailer, as she will be in a cast and undergoing physical therapy. Regina's son, Doug, is a very good student in high school and is active in the school's marching band. As you can imagine, it is a challenge for any family of three to function in a FEMA travel trailer. Doug and Macayla do not have room for normal sibling privacy, homework or quiet time to reflect upon the journey in which they have been traveling since hurricane Katrina. Regina struggles to keep her sanity with very little personal space with which to ponder and pray.



Regina was raised by her mother in the mobile home that was on this property prior to hurricane Katrina. She is accustomed to surviving under difficult circumstances. Very early in Regina's life her father abandoned the family leaving them with very little money and resources with which to live. However, this turn of events seemed to bring out strength and resilience in the family. Regina devoted the past three years to caring for her mother in her darkest days of illness along with raising her two children. Unfortunately, her mother passed away one month after hurricane Katrina. Regina is now facing the painful loss of her mother as well as her home.

On Sunday, August 28, 2005, Regina and her two children evacuated to a shelter in North Gulfport praying that all would be well far inland from the water. As fate would have it, the winds roared through the shelter ripping shingles from the rooftops all around. Regina's car was flooded and would no longer run. At this point, all Regina wanted to do was get back to Bay St. Louis to see how her home fared. There was no transportation and folks were greatly discouraged from going any further south toward the Gulf. Regina started walking the 20-mile trek along interstate 10 when a kind, trustworthy truck driver stopped to offer her a ride. Regina gladly accepted and the driver took her as far as officials would allow. Regina offered the man a couple of dollars for gas, but instead he gently slipped a \$5 bill in her hand and said, "You might need this." The rest of the story is history. Her home along with the entire Gulf Coast was gone, destroyed, wiped off the map, land resembling a parking lot where "homes" once stood with pride and dignity.

Regina's family home was not insured. Insurance was an added expense considered a luxury that was not affordable. She has very limited income to support her family. She is also limited to the amount of hours she is able to work because Macayla requires a significant amount of extra time and attention. She has not received child support from the children's father for several months. A few weeks after the hurricane, Regina did receive some monies from FEMA along with the travel trailer. However, the funds received were not nearly enough to recover from such utter devastation. Regina started working at McDonalds in Waveland four weeks ago. It is a struggle for her to even come up with \$42 to fill the propane tanks on the FEMA trailer for heating water and cooking dinner for the children .

Regina is a single mother beating the odds, proving that families can be happy with limited financial resources while placing tremendous emphasis on family and values. Since the hurricane, the building codes have changed and residents can no longer live in mobile homes in this area, hence the need for a "house." Regina is an extremely hard working girl who wants opportunities, peace and happiness for her family. Regina's courage and tenacity to thrive in the most difficult of situations is quite admirable! **Will you help us make Regina's dream of providing a safe warm home for her children a reality? You may give on line by going to www.MissionarySupply.org.**

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