



Vanessa Williams Home Again Spotlight

When Hurricane Matthew hit Columbus county, it caused severe damage to Vanessa Williams' home of nearly 30 years.

"It was, it was intense. The water is coming out the ditch and running down the driveway and it's going toward 701. You couldn't even see the end of my driveway. It was just covered in water. With the wind rushing and the rain hitting the windows and such, it was sort of kind of scary. It blew something from that direction and put a hole in my roof. On the right side of my older home."

Vanessa applied to the Homeowner Recovery Program, after her neighbor told her about ReBuild NC.

"At first, I got a letter stating that they were going to give me, I think it was somewhere in the neighborhood of 45 or 47 thousand dollars to do repairs and stuff on my home. And I was very excited about that, I was like, 'Oooh.'"

"And then I was driving home one day. And I got a call and the woman said, 'Ms. Williams?' I said, 'Yes Mam.' They decided I was entitled to a new home, as opposed to making repairs on my existing home. So I had to pull over and shed some tears and thank my God in heaven. Because, it was like, it was like a dream or something."

In November 2019, construction started on Vanessa's new home.

"I can't believe he's using that little scoopy scoopy to tear it down. I couldn't believe how that little thing tore the whole house down. I would come out I would come here at least five times a week. Sometimes I would get too close and they'd say, 'Back up, back up, you've got to back up. Danger.' But even the work crew, they were nice people."

In March 2020, Vanessa saw her finished home for the first time.

"I was shocked. I was like, 'Wow!' Everything they put in, and even on the outside, it was the colors I had chosen. I love all the closets. (Laughter) My closets have closets. I just love my new home. I do. I really, really do."