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Emily Wilson and her children, from left, Avea, Reise and Noriah stand in front of their home purchased in June.

Wilson accepted help, now gives back

When Emily Wilson joined the Family Self-Sufficiency program a few years ago, her goal was to better herself so she could help others.

Wilson enrolled in the FSS program when she returned to school while working to support her three children. While she faced obstacles in both her professional and personal life, she kept going.

“I wasn’t completing things in the time I wanted to,” she said. “But I reminded myself I was doing this alone. Then I did it, and I am where I am now.”

Wilson demonstrated her resilience by receiving her degree in human services from Southeast Community College in June 2019, and she purchased her own home a year later. Along with helping others as a mental health and substance abuse counselor at the People’s City Mission, Wilson is on

her way to becoming a foster parent.

“I’m accomplishing even more goals,” she said. “I’ve been wanting to foster children for a while. Now I have the availability and space, and I’m in a place to do it. It’s a way for me to be involved with children and families, and help other people thrive.”

She appreciated how the FSS program provided extra support and encouragement.

“Having someone encourage you and acknowledge your strides is huge,” she said. “It helped me hold myself more accountable.”