



Meet Our 2017 CCOF Habitat Family Dil and Bhima: 1343 McCormick St.



(Dil; Ayaan, 1; Bhima; Aiti)

Dil and Bhima were married in 2009, on their 17th year in Nepal as refugees. As a result of civil unrest in the 1990's, many people from Bhutan fled to refugee camps in Nepal, where Dil and Bhima would spend their childhood. Life in the camp was challenging at times, "the UNHCR would provide a little bit of rice and sometimes clothes" Dil said. When he was old enough, Dil began working a construction job outside of the camp in order to access to better clothes and more food.

In 2011 Dil and Bhima were resettled in the US. Since Dil's parents were already in Des Moines, the family settled here as well, "It's a nice place, and we have family here," Dil said. Working with a local refugee support agency, Dil applied and was hired at Loffredo Produce, where he is currently employed. Bhima spends her time at home with their son Ayaan.

After hearing about the homeownership program from friends and family, Dil and Bhima applied and were accepted in July of 2015. Since then they've completed their required 24 hours of pre-purchase education and over 400 hours of sweat equity, but may still be assisting with the build of this home.

The family enjoys spending time at home in each other's company and in the company of family and friends. Perhaps what Dil and Bhima are looking forward to most about being homeowners, in addition to the freedoms, space, and privacy, is the feeling that they're moving forward. They'll be paying for a house of their own. Homeownership is a responsibility they will bear proudly.