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New employee Rick Humphrey has finally found his work home

Thirty-five-year-old Rick Humphrey, a maintenance mechanic at Murfreesboro Housing Authority (MHA), believes he's finally found his work home. He joined MHA just five months ago, after working throughout middle Tennessee for a number of HVAC contractors and companies.

"I've finally landed in a place where I fit," he says. "Everybody here holds themselves to a high standard. They have values, and they want to help people."

Humphrey says he has installed heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems all over this area. "Schools, churches, companies, homes, just about every type of structure you can think of. I was a good installer, but it was in service that I found my niche," he said.

Humphrey is a problem-solver, and he likes the challenge of figuring out solutions. That comes with servicing HVAC systems, because it's "always something different," he says.

At MHA, Humphrey enjoys the people he meets. He listens to them explain the problem they're having with their heat or their air conditioning, and then he goes to work.

"I'm a critical thinker," he says. "I always tell people, if you can build a Lego set, you can build a HVAC."

Born in Florida, Humphrey moved to Tennessee when he was six years old and lived on Vine Street in Murfreesboro. In 2002, the family moved to Shelbyville, and today Humphrey lives there with his wife, Stephanie, and their 14-year-old daughter, Trinity.

Humphrey first connected with MHA when working on a contract job. "Adam Lawson, my supervisor now, asked me if I would consider coming to work for MHA. After thinking about it, I found out more, and took the jump over here in May of this year. It's the best job I've ever had."

Humphrey is the lead on any HVAC issues that come up in MHA's properties. He also works as a team member with the other six staff members that make up the MHA's Maintenance Department. "We do whatever needs to be done," he says.

Away from work, Humphrey enjoys working on computers. "I have a server that I built in my home," he said. "I like tinkering around with it all and figuring stuff out."

Humphrey says he likes coming to work every day. "This organization just fits who I am as a person," he says. "I plan to be here for a long time."

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