



Mesilla Valley
**Habitat
for Humanity®**

celebrating our 20th anniversary

under construction

John Arguello, Executive Director

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Family thankful for handicap-accessible home

Michael Mancha, 19-year-old son of family partner Angel Najera, is looking forward to moving into the Habitat home he and his family will receive. This home will have features that make it fully accessible to his brother Jonathan, who is wheelchair bound due to cerebral palsy, severe developmental delay and a seizure disorder.

Michael and his three other brothers, Sebastian, 15, Jacob, 13, and Andrew, 10, along with their eight-year-old sister Reubyn help their single mother care for Jonathan, and a handicap-accessible home will make caring for him much easier.

All homes built by Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity are designed so handicapped persons can visit them. Angel's home, however, will have a custom-built shower to accommodate Jonathan's needs. She is thankful for this detail because her present house does not offer handicap-friendly features.

Angel is also thankful to all the Habitat volunteers who have made her dream of having a home of her own a reality. She also appreciates all that she has learned from the volunteers about home construction.

Angel is currently working part time and going back to school, majoring in elementary education. Her oldest son, Michael, is studying auto mechanics. In their leisure time, Angel and her children enjoy watching movies together and going to the park.

While Angel is most looking forward to the stability and happiness that a home of her own will bring her and her children, she is also looking forward to being a part of the Habitat family for many years to come.

The Najera's new address will be 1456 N. Second St. The house is currently in the drywall stage, as insulation was recently installed.

"Brady Bunch" family with six daughters to receive Habitat house

The Pitts and Hernandez families have come together to form Mesilla Valley Habitat's own "Brady Bunch."

When David Pitts met Betty Hernandez, he already had two daughters—Carmen and Brittnie, now 12 and 8—while Betty had three daughters—Micahya and Maya, now 7, and Chloe, 3. Shortly before joining the Habitat program, the two welcomed a sixth daughter, Kehaulani, now 13 months.

When the Pitts move into their house, their six daughters won't be the only thing special about it. Located at 1466 N. Second St., the Pitts home will be the only one of the four built this year on Second Street with a flat roof. *continued on p. 2*



Meet Our 20th Anniversary Families!

Six daughters

(continued from p. 1)

The Pitts are excited that their children will have a yard to play in and a home to call their own. The girls especially enjoyed picking out colors for their bedrooms.

The Pitts like to go to basketball games and the park with their daughters. Because of their participation in the Habitat program, this new family has learned to be thankful for everything they receive as well as to appreciate the things they have.

David, 33, currently works for Horizon Mechanical Inc., but he has hopes of owning his own business someday. He has worked on Horizon Mechanical's plumbing installations in several of our houses, including his own. Betty currently cares for their six daughters.

The interior of the Pitts home has just been tiled, the interior finish work is ongoing, and it is ready for kitchen cabinet installation.



Language difference poses no barrier for Herrera family

Despite speaking only Spanish, family partners Manuel, 55, and Alma Herrera, 50, easily contribute to Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity's program.

The Herreras and their son, Marcos, 17, came to the U.S. two and a half years ago from Ciudad Chihuahua, Mexico, where Manuel worked in construction. Alma currently works in child care and Marcos attends Mayfield High School. Manuel still works in construction and has found it easy to help with building this year's houses.

For example, while setting trusses one day, Manuel didn't hesitate to lend a hand with the process even though he couldn't understand what the construction supervisor was saying. It didn't matter, though, because Manuel knew the process well enough to continue without verbal instructions.

In addition, Manuel exercised his attention to detail when he added a little flair to the carport on his future home. The Herrera home is located at 1446 N. Second St., and if you drive by, you can identify it by the arches Manuel built into the porch and carport openings.

The Herreras are pleased with the construction of their home because it is progressing quickly. When the house is complete, Manuel and Alma look forward to planting trees in their yard.

The Herreras are thankful to the Habitat volunteers who are making what seemed like an impossible dream—owning their own home—come true. Alma is especially thankful that Marcos will soon have his

own room and the privacy that goes with it.

Marcos plays soccer and Manuel and Alma often attend his games in support. They also enjoy watching TV together and visiting with their family in Mexico.



The interior of the Herrera home is currently being painted. Once this is complete, the floors will be carpeted and tiled.

TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME with Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity, please call the office (526-0475), email us at mvhfh@zianet.com, or visit our web page. You can volunteer to help with construction or with one of the many other tasks behind the scenes that make our houses a reality. WE CAN ALWAYS USE DONATIONS of many kinds: financial, memorial gifts, building trade skills and time, building materials or gift certificates from local building supply stores, snacks and lunches for construction crews, real estate, home sponsorships (full or partial), to name a few.

Big Thank You!

to all of you who support us so faithfully with your donations, time, encouragement, and prayers.

COST OF A 3-BEDROOM HABITAT HOUSE			
Concrete Slab	\$5,500	Paint	\$1,000
Heating/AC	4,000	Stucco	4,000
Plumbing	9,000	Trim	1,000
Insulation	1,500	Windows	900
Framing	11,000	Light Fixtures	300
Floor covering	2,000	Electrical	2,400
Trusses	2,000	Doors	2,000
Cabinets	2,500	Utilities	4,500
Roofing	3,000	Landscaping	700
TOTAL COST: \$63,000			
Value of a Habitat House: Priceless!			

Levario-Felix family to receive 2007 Thrivent home

Brenda Levario and Salvador Felix are anticipating their new house, which will be built in partnership with Thrivent Builds, a financial, volunteer and advocacy alliance formed between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International.

Brenda, 20, attends the Doña Ana Branch Community College where she studies nursing. Salvador, 21, works part time and is studying Automotive Technology at DABC. Salvador Jr. is one year old.

Brenda's younger sister, Perla, and Salvador's brother, Alec, will also live in the house. Perla, 15, currently attends Las Cruces High School. Alec, 18, who is enrolled at the Branch as well, is studying architecture.



Brenda has hopes of being a good homeowner, and sees Habitat playing a large role in helping her realize that hope. She also looks forward to continuing to be a part of the Habitat program and helping others.

Because this is the sixth home MVVHFH is building this year, only the first walls of Brenda and Salvador's home are being constructed. If you drive by the location at 1436 N. Second St., their house will not be hard to spot because of all the people helping to frame and raise the walls.



New neighbors have similar families, will have similar houses

The two homes we are building on Piñon St. this season are nearly identical. The homes each have three bedrooms and two bathrooms, but are mirror images and thus not identical.

In addition, the family partners who will live in these two homes are similar but not quite identical. Both Maggie Borunda and Martha Rodriguez came to the US from Ciudad Chihuahua, Mexico, over 25 years ago.

Martha Rodriguez (top), 51, is a single mother with two children, Jose and Denise and a grandbaby, Damien. Martha works in caring for the elderly. In her spare time, she likes to clean her home and play with her grandbaby.

Denise, 19, is currently enrolled in classes at the Doña Ana Branch Community College. In her spare time, she likes to paint. Jose, 21, likes to listen to music or watch soccer on TV

Denise is happy that her family will have a home of their own because they have been renting her whole life and none of those houses ever felt like home. Denise is also proud of her mother, who has always worked hard to find a home for her and her brother. She is also very grateful to all the



volunteers who have helped her family with their home.

The floor tile in the family's home at 809 Piñon St has recently been installed, and the base trim and cabinets are now being installed.

Maggie Borunda (bottom), 54, is also a single mother with two children, Celina and Steven. Maggie cares for children in her home. Her daughter, Celina, 18, attends Oñate High School and her son, Steven, 17, is enrolled in Reyes Academy. Maggie and her children like to eat dinner together.

Celina appreciates the volunteers who donate their time to the construction of her family's home. She looks forward to making memories in their new home. Maggie will always be thankful for the opportunity that Habitat has given her to buy her own home—a dream that is finally coming true. Maggie also looks forward to being a part of the Habitat program and has learned from it to be a sister to others in need.

The interior of Maggie's home at 813 Piñon St. was recently painted and the floor is ready to be tiled.



MESILLA VALLEY HABITAT

FOR HUMANITY

P.O. Box 3484

720 N. Santa Fe St.

Las Cruces, NM 88003

(505) 525-0475

(505) 523-7349

mvhfh@zianet.com

www.lascruceshabitat.org

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Habitat builds with help from subcontractors and suppliers

While many volunteers contribute to the completion of Habitat homes, some parts of the building process are best left to the experts. The following suppliers and subcontractors have worked with us in the construction of our homes in the past in addition to those currently under construction:

Appraisals: *Trego Appraisals*

Cabinets & Countertops: *Antix Inc.*

Closet Shelving: *Coyote Closets*

Concrete: *Kiser Construction, R&R Concrete Inc.*

Dirt Work/Site Prep: *Crossstown Hauling*

Doorknobs: *Subcon, Inc.*

Doors, Windows, Roofing, Lumber:

McCoy's Building Supply

Drywall (Mud, Tape, Texture): *Villa Dry-wall*

Flooring: *Hacienda Carpet & Tile; Malooly's Carpet City*

Hardware: *Johnson's Hardware*

Heating, Ventilation & Cooling: *Horizon Mechanical Inc.; Salas Heating & Cooling*

Insulation: *Gale Insulation*

Paint: *KWAL*

Plumbing: *Chavez Enterprises, Horizon Mechanical Inc.*

Stucco: *Larry Sanchez*

Surveying: *Moy Surveying Inc.*

Title Service: *Doña Ana Title Company*

Trusses: *Lumber, Inc., Foxworth-Galbraith*



<http://www.lascruceshabitat.org>

... is our web address. Here you can learn more about our program, get more information about volunteering and download a volunteer information sheet—in short, you can find anything you would like to know about Mesilla Valley Habitat for Humanity on our website. See you there!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S MISSION PRINCIPLES

In all that we do in pursuing the mission of Habitat for Humanity, we pledge to:

- *Demonstrate the love and teachings of Jesus.*
- *Advocate on behalf of those in need of decent shelter.*
- *Focus on shelter by building and renovating simple decent, affordable houses.*
- *Engage broader community through inclusive leadership and diverse partnerships.*
- *Promote dignity through full partnership with Habitat homeowners and future home partners.*
- *Promote transformational and sustainable community development*