

Meet Santiago, Marbella & Their Beautiful Children



Realizing Our Dream

Santiago and Marbella have always provided their family a warm and loving place to live, but it has never been a place the family could call their own. For years, the couple has dreamed of homeownership and all the opportunities owning a new, affordable home could provide their family.

The couple, who met in their hometown of Puebla, Mexico, moved to Nashville, Tennessee in 1999. After living in Nashville for three years, they decided to move to Smyrna. Family and friends suggested Smyrna because of the small community, good schools, increasing job opportunities, and affordable cost of living. They family found a duplex to rent and have called it home for twelve years. While they love living in the Town of Smyrna, the duplex is an ongoing issue for this family of five. It's old, too small, and progressively deteriorating each year. Santiago and Marbella decided it was time to look for a new home for their family.

After applying and being denied a conventional mortgage, Santiago then suggested they apply for the Habitat program. They were familiar with the program because another family member had become a Habitat homeowner in another county. The couple really believed in Habitat's mission and was hopeful that they too could become Habitat homeowners. Santiago and Marbella felt truly blessed by God when they were accepted.

Since being in the program, the entire family has enjoyed all aspects of the program. The couple's favorite part has been meeting the other families and working sweat equity together to make their dreams of homeownership come true. The children are counting the days until they can have their own rooms and Santiago & Marbella are looking forward to planting a beautiful garden and harvesting together. The family has already starting making big plans their futures. The children are talking about going to school to become a vet, a professional soccer player, and a teacher. Marbella wants to go to school to become a social worker.

Santiago, Marbella, and their children are extremely excited to be the "2017 Women Build" house. They are very grateful to Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Pinnacle Bank, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, and United Way for funding the construction of their new home as well as to the volunteers who will build it.