

## Meet Carlos & Rafaela



### Home Blessed Home

Carlos and Rafaela met while attending University in Ecuador. They have been married for 43 years, have four daughters, and five grandchildren. While living in Ecuador, Carlos worked as a Civil Engineer and Rafaela worked as a school psychologist.

In 1999, their oldest daughter Annely traveled to America for a fun trip. While she was here, she met the love of her life. After she got married and gained US Citizenship, she began petitioning for her parents to join her in America. Annely knew how dangerous Ecuador had become and she wanted all her family to be safe. Rafaela moved to America in 2010 and Carlos followed in 2012. Currently, Carlos is working at Sinomax and Rafaela is staying home to help with her grandchildren.

The couple often dreamt of being homeowners. They had a goal of creating a better living situation for their family and knew homeownership would help them achieve that goal. The couple first heard about the Habitat program three years ago from a friend. They applied, but at the time could not meet all the requirements. Rafaela commented that they began preparing themselves for the process with tenacity. After some hard work, they were able to fulfill the application requirements and were accepted in the Habitat program.

Carlos loved seeing the house plans for their future home while Rafaela has been blown away by the kind people they have met. They are both very enthusiastic about the future and making many cherished memories with each other and their loved ones. Carlos and Rafaela would like to thank God for listening to their prayers, their daughters for their daily help on this journey, and to all the individuals who have big hearts for helping others. They would especially like to thank St. Paul's Episcopal Church, MTSU, HFHT, and Community Development for sponsoring their home build.