

Meet Arionna, Eddie, and Miguel



A Dream Home for Us

Eduardo was born and raised in Oakland, California. The oldest of three, Eddie and his siblings lived in a studio apartment with his mom. Their grandmother lived nearby and helped with the children. When he was fifteen years old, they moved to Sacramento. While Eddie was in high school, he had two jobs and played several sports. Upon graduation, he moved to Los Angeles where he attended a Community College and helped coach at an after-school program.

In 2019, Eddie decided to move across the country to be close to his son, Miguel. He put everything he owned in a duffle bag and headed south to Tennessee. Upon arrival he found a job with Nissan and lived in a hotel, and it just so happened that Arionna was working at that same hotel. The two formed a friendship, then began dating, and were married in April of 2020.

Arionna was born and raised in Murfreesboro, TN. She, along with her four siblings, lived in a home that her parents still reside in today. Ari loves people and was involved in several activities during her school aged years. She was fascinated with different cultures, has traveled to other countries, and even lived in Tanzania for six months. Ari graduated from MTSU with a degree in African Studies and Political Government and recently earned a master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Trevecca.

Shortly after the couple were married, they moved into a one-bedroom apartment. It did not take them long to realize that they needed more space and something more affordable. There was so little room that Miguel had to sleep on a loft bed in the living room. Ari's mom suggested they consider the Rutherford County Area Habitat for Humanity.

Ari was very familiar with RCHFH and knew several people that had been in the program, but never thought about it being an option for her family. When her mom continued to bring up the idea, Ari & Eddie began doing a deeper dive into RCHFH. They were excited to learn about size and designs of the homes in Legacy Pointe. With much encouragement and enthusiasm, they decided to apply for the program in 2022. After receiving the call that they had been approved for the RCHFH Homeownership program, Ari was so excited that she began running around their apartment.

The family is enjoying each new phase of the program and looking forward to what is yet to come. Eddie is excited to build their home and learn about construction. "I have never owned a home before," he said. "I may not fully understand the impact of this experience for several years." Ari is thankful for the financial freedom this will provide them as well as the opportunity to bring their family together. Miguel will finally have his own space to just be a kid and have friends over.

Eddie, Ari, and Miguel are very grateful to all those who are giving their time and talent to help their family build stability and be successful. "Each of you are helping us build a dream home where we can continue to dream about more possibilities," Ari said with a smile. "Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"