

1. New Habitat home will be handicapped-accessible

Every new Habitat for Humanity home is special, even if the floor plan is similar to others. That is especially true for the 16th home to be built by Loaves & Fishes, the coalition of churches in which our congregation is active. This will be the first home built by our group that will be handicapped-accessible.

The new homeowners will be Ramiro Mendoza and Maribel Garcia Macias and their children, Luis, 11, and Bianca, 3. Bianca was born with spina bifida, a birth defect that affects the formation of the spine and often creates mobility problems. She uses a wheelchair, walker and crutches. Their new home will be designed to be handicapped-accessible, with wider-than-usual hallways and other changes to make it accessible to Bianca as she grows.

Both parents were born in Mexico. Ramiro has worked since 2005 at Pioneer Fence, where he is a finisher. For five years, they have lived in a one-bedroom apartment, although recent water leaks required them to move to a two-bedroom unit. Their new home at 63 S. Gray St. in Lakewood will have three bedrooms and two baths. Maribel says, "It will be a dream come true."

Habitat for Humanity does not give away houses. It sells them to low-income families with interest-free loans. Each Habitat partner family must complete 200 hours of "sweat equity" of work on their home and the homes of other Habitat families or in Habitat's ReStores, and attend Home Buyer Education classes.

Construction on this home will begin March 27. If you would like to help build a home for Bianca and her family, contact our church's representative, **ADD YOUR CONTACT INFO HERE.**

End of story