

MEET THE

De La Torre Family

**“Habitat is all about giving
back to the community.”**

-Blanca De La Torre



Since moving from Mexico to the United States in 1991, Juan and Blanca have been married, moved to Wentzville, became US Citizens and had their two children, Andrea and Alan, who has special needs. Soon they will become homeowners through Habitat for Humanity of St. Charles County.

Currently living in a rental home in substandard condition, Juan and Blanca are concerned for their family's safety. "We have been living in this house for sixteen years and it has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer safe", they explain, "The basement has many cracks and we are concerned about the walls imploding, our son Alan has respiratory issues and the mold is increasing his problems." Juan's modest income does not provide much opportunity to buy or rent a more suitable home. With 2 small children, it is not affordable for Blanca to work and she needs to be available to take Alan to his many doctor and therapy appointments.

They were so happy when they found out they were accepted into the Habitat program. Blanca still tears up when telling others that they will have a new home. "Now we will feel safe. This will be our home for now and the future." The De La Torre's are looking forward to having close neighbors and to making new friends; to having playmates for their children.

Juan and Blanca will complete 350 sweat equity hours toward the purchase of their home, as well as pay an affordable monthly mortgage. To those who are thinking about applying for homeownership through HFH, Juan and Blanca say, "Be brave. Habitat St. Charles is a wonderful organization that helps families like ours have a decent home. They have a great team to help you through the whole process. When working at the job site and ReStore, everyone is so willing to teach you, even with the language difference we have found that people are willing to take the time to help us understand and to be understood."

