

partner HOMEOWNER

LOCATION

Lynwood, CA

HOMEOWNER

Guadalupe & Lorena Martinez

Cesar, Son, 16

Richard, Son, 11

Nathan, Son, 5

Allen, Son, 2



The Martinez Family

Guadalupe works as a Carpenter at the Arcadia Chair Company and his wife Lorena is a stay at home mom. Due to financial circumstances the couple could only afford to rent a small 10x12 bedroom from a family in Lynwood for their entire family to occupy. Even though the house itself was decent with a lovely spacious backyard, they unfortunately did not have the luxury of enjoying it. Besides living in severely cramped conditions, in the one room, the family of five, at the time, did not have use of the entire house. They were only allowed to occupy their room, use two of the four burners on the stove and were allowed use of the bathroom only during specified hours. Sometimes, they would be forced to use an unpermitted outside bathroom that they had to access via the kitchen back door. It was a small, unfinished room with a shower head and a toilet inside.

This situation would be difficult for any family, however the hardship was compounded by the fact that their eldest son Cesar suffers from cerebral palsy and is mentally challenged. They were not even allowed to bring Cesar's wheelchair into the house. Instead, they had to carry him upstairs daily. The family's situation seemed harsh and hopeless but because of the family's deep faith, they knew God had a brighter plan for them. Their Reverend once said of them, "Guadalupe and Lorena have demonstrated a high degree of integrity, responsibility and are thought of as wholesome individuals. They are patient and I know that they will respond in good faith to any contract they commit themselves to." Soon there after their faith and patience paid off.

The Martinez family moved into their three bedroom, two bath Habitat for Humanity home in Lynwood in 2009. Not only is it beautiful and sustainable but it is also ADA approved to help aid in Cesar's quality of life. With this new home, their family has grown and they welcomed their son, Allen in 2010. Lorena says, "We love everything about owning a home. Wheelchair accessibility throughout the house and Cesar having his own bedroom and bathroom is such a blessing. I love having the freedom to cook meals for my family at any time—day or night."

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17700 S. Figueroa St. • Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 323-4663 Office • (310) 323-0789 Fax
www.habitatla.org