



Mendoza Family Story

Originally from San Rita, Honduras, the Mendoza family now resides in Del Valle, TX, where they've been living for the past 6 years. Marell and Elva decided to move to Texas after some friends who already live here encouraged them to relocate. The couple has one son, Eli (10), who attends Cedar Creek Intermediate School.

Marell works as a mechanic, while Elva works at UT Austin in Custodial Services. Their jobs are located in Austin, but the family lives on the outskirts of the city in Del Valle because it is more affordable and safe. They like that their neighborhood is quiet, but the threat of flooding makes them nervous and they have long commutes to their jobs.



In addition to improving their commute, the Mendoza family is looking forward to living in Austin because it means they will achieve their dream of homeownership through the Austin Habitat program. The family is looking forward to the stability that comes with affordable homeownership and not having to move often due to raising rent prices. Elva says being a homeowner is "a dream come true," and she's looking forward to providing a safe home for her family.



Now that the family will gain strength and self-reliance through an affordable homeownership, they can work on achieving other life goals. Elva's goal for the future is to be self-employed and export cheese and pineapples from Honduras. Marell and Elva both want to support Eli so he can go to college and become a doctor.

The Mendoza family can't wait to start working on their sweat equity hours so they can move into their home! Once they move in, they have big plans to make it their own. Marell wants to plant flowers around the fence, and Eli is looking forward to playing soccer in the backyard. Elva is excited about hosting a home blessing with friends and family.

When asked what they would like to say to the sponsors and volunteers who are helping build their home, the Mendoza family said, "Thank you. We want them to know they are angels."

Thank you for your support of Austin Habitat for Humanity and the Mendoza family!

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