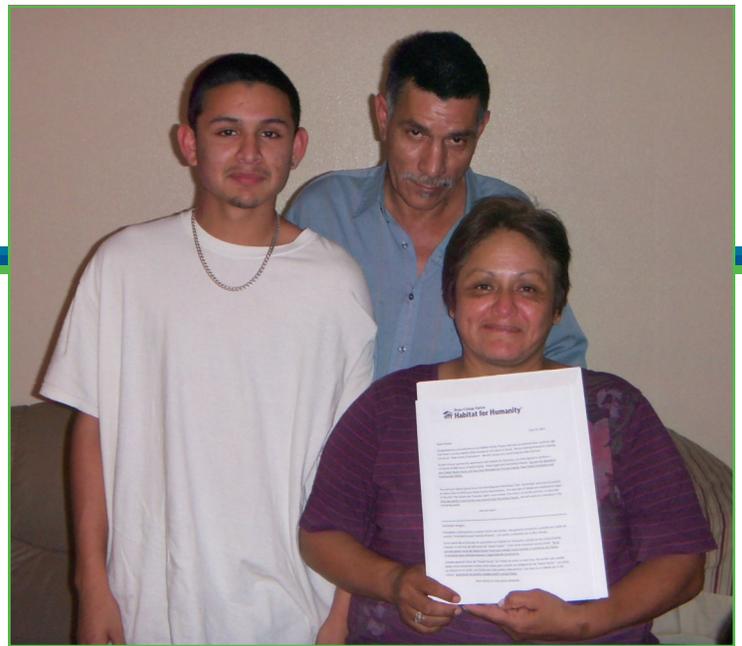




Bryan/College Station  
**Habitat  
for Humanity®**



*Family: Leticia and Jesse with son Christopher (17).*

## Meet the Garcia Family

"I'm going to wake up in the morning and it's not going to be cold," said Leticia Garcia, imagining what life will be like when she and her family move into their Habitat for Humanity home.

"We had rough times, lots of hard times," Leticia said, describing the houses she, her husband and four sons have lived in. They've rented a number of places, many of them in complete disrepair. At one house in Caldwell the septic tank and drains were really bad and the family didn't have the money to fix the problems. So they used the bathroom and took showers outside to avoid causing problems inside. Leticia's husband, Jesse, rigged a makeshift shower with a hose attached to the roof.

At the one-bedroom apartment they lived in when they applied for Habitat, the walls were crumbling, a tree was growing inside and there were cracks in the walls. You could literally see outside through the cracks, Leticia said. At one point the sheetrock from the kitchen ceiling came crashing down. The landlord never fixed any of it. With her son Christopher getting sick from mildew, Leticia thought, "I've got to do something. I've got to get us out of here."

Leticia, originally from Seguin, first came to Bryan in 1991. Her husband, Jesse, is disabled, injured in a work accident when he was just 18. Though it's hard for him to get a job that pays much, he does a lot for the family. He completed most of the family's sweat equity hours (required to build with Habitat). Leticia also remembers how he would go to hotel dumpsters to find mattresses for the family since they couldn't afford new ones. Old and used was better than sleeping on the floor. And Jesse would bleach them to make sure they were clean.

Three of their four sons are grown and have moved on. But the youngest, 17 year old Christopher, still lives with his parents. An 11th grader at Bryan High School, Christopher loves basketball and is getting very good grades in school. He is focused on building a strong future and plans to join the military.

Devoted to her family, Leticia has worked very hard to provide for them, often working multiple jobs. At times she had no car and had to walk to work from quite far away. A long-time employee at La Familia in Bryan, Leticia credits the owners with being very supportive. One time when her boss Melissa gave her a ride home, she recalls Melissa saying, "You deserve better than this."

That statement helped motivate Leticia. She had seen Habitat on the TV news and decided to apply. She also moved her family into a two-bedroom house without mildew and cracks in the walls. But still that house is inadequate and the rent is really too high for them. It also doesn't have insulation and the heat doesn't work well. It can get very cold inside. They use the stove to help provide extra heat, but now the utility bills are too high.

They won't live there much longer though.

On January, 25, 2014, construction began on the Garcia Family's new Habitat home. Asked about what she looks forward to the most about a new home, Leticia first focused on thanksgiving.

"I thank Jesus for giving us this. Without him we wouldn't have anything. He knows that we've been through lots of hard times. I guess he feels like it's time for us to have a better home. Only he knows when it's the right time. And it's time." 

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### B/CS Habitat for Humanity Mission

*Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.*

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