



Bryan/College Station

Habitat
for Humanity®

Meet the Lopez Family

When you talk with Mary Lopez, you quickly realize what's most important to her: her boys – four sons and five grandsons.

"We're really close, me and my sons. I'm very proud of who they've become," she said. "I tell my sons I wasn't mean enough because they keep coming back."

When asked why she is building with Habitat, Mary's response is immediate: "My children. I always wanted to leave something behind for them."

The two oldest sons have moved on (but still live in College Station), while the two younger ones live with Mary in a two bedroom apartment in College Station.

When Mary's youngest, Emilio, was four and a half years old, he was diagnosed with autism. Shortly after, Mary took a job with College Station ISD so she and Emilio would have the same schedule. She has now worked for CISD for 13 years and is currently a cashier at A&M Consolidated High School.

Emilio graduated from Consolidated last May, a tremendous accomplishment. As he walked across the stage to receive his diploma, the entire student body rose and gave him a standing ovation – the only student to receive one. "I saw tears in her eyes," Emilio said of his mother as he proudly described the moment.

As the crowd cheered, Emilio – imitating pro wrestler The Rock – raised his fist in honor of his mother. Emilio is a huge pro wrestling fan and likes to watch the matches on TV with his mother. Mary's favorite wrestler is The Rock.

Emilio still attends Consol for life skills and now works four days a week at H-E-B.

Mary has instilled a sense of service in her entire family. "We all have the same beliefs – to help others." Their little apartment's doors are "always open to anyone" and the rooms are often filled with family and friends. "Imagine what we can do with a home," she mused.

"We've always rented. On my own, I couldn't own a home. That's why I chose Habitat," Mary said. After nearly two years in the Habitat program, construction on the Lopez house is scheduled to begin March 22. Located in College Station, Mary's sister and her son Michael live in the same neighborhood. There is sure to be lots of grandkids and nieces and nephews over at Mary's future home on a regular basis. She's excited that the kids will get to climb on the tree in her yard.

Mary has a saying she often quoted to her boys: "It's good when it's good and it's even better when it's not." She explained that even in the hard times they have stayed positive and always come out ahead. Another saying she likes came from her oldest son, Jesus: "Nothing changes if nothing changes." In other words, Mary explained, we have to initiate the change if we want to make a difference and improve our lives.

Mary is the living proof behind those sayings and is ensuring that her family will be cared for. "It was a long journey to get where we're at," she said. "But we're very grateful that we're blessed with this opportunity." 



Mary Lopez has four sons and five grandsons.

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

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