

# The Merino Flores Family



*Dora stands in front of her new Habitat home.*



*The new living space provides more room for the growing family.*



*The family's former home was made of sheet metal and wooden poles.*

The Merino Flores family is from the Barrio Concepción Community in the department of San Vicente. Ever since they got married 12 years ago, Dora and Angel have lived next door to his parents and sister in a single-room home made of sheet metal. The conditions were inadequate for raising their sons Edwin (now 12) and son Angel Jr. (5).

Angel's job as an office assistant provided enough income to cover the family's basic needs, but not enough to improve their living situation. "We looked for different opportunities that might allow us to build our own home," says Dora. "Every option we explored was simply too expensive."

Angel's sister built a home with Habitat for Humanity and suggested that they look into building one of their own. Dora and Angel applied for a Habitat house in March 2013, and they were approved! With the help of volunteers from Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, the family was living in their brand new home by May.

Dora says the new home is a dream come true for their family. Their former home was in a state of disrepair. Water leaked in through the rusty metal roof each rainy season, turning their dirt floor to mud and soaking their furniture. In their Habitat home, Dora says they feel protected from the elements and much safer.

Just two months after their home was completed, Dora and Angel found out they would be welcoming their third child. "I am so happy to have a better home to raise my children in," she says. "The kids love the home, especially their new room. We all feel truly blessed."

On behalf of the Merino Flores family, Dora would like to thank the volunteers and donors for helping them build an adequate home of their own. "We will always remember what you have done for us. Our lives have changed for the better with your help. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."