



**Habitat  
for Humanity®**  
of Hood County

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habitatofhoodcounty.org



# Hammer & Nails

*Building a world where everyone has a decent place to live*

## Habitat Success Story

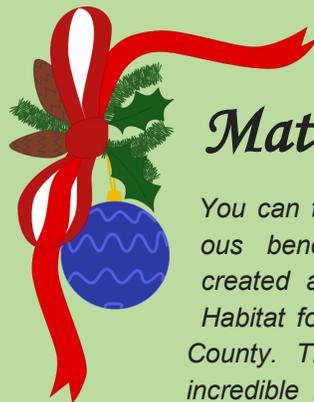


**Jairo Martinez**

It all started 16 years ago, when my dad decided to bring us (legally) to the US in search of the American Dream. He wanted to be part of our family, wanted to see his children grow (we would only see him for 2 months per year), and become successful in life.

Having parents who barely finished elementary school in Mexico was always a challenge for us, but especially for them. As you can imagine, learning a new language was a huge struggle and obstacle to achieving my dream of becoming a teacher. My parents have always supported me throughout my education, and they've always wanted the best for me and my siblings (6). My dad has worked at the same place (Leonard Bend Farm, in Pecan Plantation) for over 48 years, so his only desired has been for his children to have a better job than him.

My 3 oldest brothers dropped out of college within their first year, so it was up to me to prove to them that graduating from college was achievable, but most importantly I wanted to make my parents proud.



## Matching Gift

*You can team up with generous benefactors who have created a matching fund for Habitat for Humanity of Hood County. The match gives an incredible boost to build more homes for families in need of simple decent shelter in 2019.*

**Donations received November 15, 2018 - January 31, 2019 will be matched up to the amount of the fund.**

Please mail your donation to:  
Habitat for Humanity of Hood County  
PO Box 1866 Granbury, TX 76048

Or give at [habitatofhoodcounty.org](http://habitatofhoodcounty.org)



## Our Habitat Quilting Bee

These volunteers make sure each family member receives a hand-made quilt at dedication.

*"When you are wrapped in a quilt, you are wrapped in love."*

## Volunteer Spotlight



**Pat Loomis**

Pat began volunteering with Habitat in 2014. She currently works in the office and serves as the Board Secretary and Family Support Chairman.

As the secretary, she is a member of the Executive Committee, notifies the Board of monthly meetings, and takes Board meeting minutes.

In the Family Support function, Pat conducts a Habitat orientation class explaining the Habitat partnership to the newly selected prospective Habitat homeowners. She attends the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace course with the prospective homeowners and serves as a point of contact between the Habitat volunteers and the prospective homeowners.

When their new homes are complete, Pat plans their home dedication inviting representatives from the community to participate in this "dream come true" for these new Habitat homeowners.

## Habitat Helps Families Succeed

(Continued from page one.)

Graduating from college has not only served me, but it has helped my younger siblings to strive for their own success.

You might be thinking, how does this involve Habitat? How does this involve you? Well let me tell you a little bit about it. I have been part of Habitat for over 14 years now. My parents have the privilege of owning a Habitat home. This home has served as the place of comfort where my siblings, parents, and I finally got to be together as a real family.

After the Tornado hit Rancho Brazos in 2013, this Habitat affiliate asked me to help them. Being bilingual and knowing the community helped tremendously. As the other volunteers got to know me, they asked me to be part of their Family Selection Committee and later, recruited me to sit on the Board of Directors. After all they had done for my family and others, I proudly accepted to be part of it.

Your support and contributions have allowed many of us to strive for our dreams, to have a better life, and most importantly to make our community better.

This is my 5th year of being a Granbury ISD school teacher and each and every one of you contributed to my success. Thank you! You will always be part of our lives, as we will never forget what you have done for us.



**Brian Torres**

My name is Bryan Torres and Habitat helped my family and me out when I was little. I say little because I honestly don't remember how old I was, but I do remember how happy I was the first time I got to see our new home.

I am now a Communications Major at Stephen F. Austin State University. I was a Forestry major until I failed my first class. It turns out that just because I can name over 151 Pokémon does not mean I can name more than ten trees. That failure really gave me some perspective, and it helped me realize that if I'm going to be spending this much time on something, I should do something that I like.

I switched to Communications the following semester and it has been great for me. I'm actually a part of a club where we produce content for the campus TV Station. I'm always excited to be able to film, and it's super rewarding to see my work on television.

I'm trying hard to make myself more marketable. I've had an internship with a radio station and now I'm working for the city government media program. Things are going well and I'm excited for my future!

## Our Tithe Partner



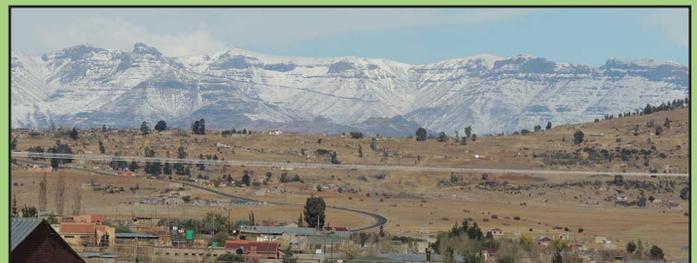
Habitat for Humanity's tithe program supports carefully chosen building and shelter projects that provide housing in the world's poorest places. Tithe funds allow families to stand on their own and build stronger, more stable communities.

Habitat of Hood County partners with **Lesotho, Africa**. This country is a high-altitude, landlocked kingdom encircled by South Africa, and is crisscrossed by a network of rivers and mountain ranges including a 11,423 ft-high peak.

**Habitat for Humanity Lesotho** has worked in 8 out of the 10 districts of Lesotho serving more than 800 families to date with shelter, sanitation and water solutions while empowering them with knowledge on Inheritance Rights and Security of Tenure. More than two thirds of this work has specifically focused on families with Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC). Typically, these are children below 18 years of age who have lost either or both parents or whose caregiver is unable to provide adequate care. Vulnerable children live in households affected by abuse, poverty, HIV/AIDS or other illnesses, which ultimately put the children at risk.

Habitat helps provide safe and decent shelter through construction of a two - roomed house for an OVC family with an average size of 5 people; or increase access to proper sanitation by constructing a sanitary ventilated pit latrine; or increase access to safe drinking water by providing water tanks where needed.

Please take a look at their newsletter, which is available on our website by clicking on "About". Our tithe money accomplishes much when it is applied in an area such as this, and we receive grateful thank you notes throughout the year.



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Visit [www.habitatofhoodcounty.org](http://www.habitatofhoodcounty.org) to learn about  
volunteer opportunities.