

**NEWBERG HABITAT  
 WELCOMES  
 ARMANDO JUAREZ -  
 BILINGUAL FAMILY  
 SERVICES COORDINATOR**

Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity (NAHFH) welcomes Armando Juarez, the new Bilingual Family Services Coordinator. This new position was made available because of a grant awarded NAHFH. Armando was looking for a position that would use his skills of fostering relationships, building community and connecting the Hispanic population with their neighbors. He knew of Habitat through his donations to the ReStore, but it was not until he applied for this position that he realized Habitat's mission and vision closely aligned with his personal beliefs.

Armando has a passion for serving the community. "You can say hi or hello to people that you see but that is not a conversation that will build a relationship. It is important that we learn how to have a conversation with each other and with other races." Armando believes building relationships means learning to converse on a deeper level.



"Communities might be connected by the internet, but to build community, we need to bring together people communicating face to face."

He has used his vision of building community throughout his years as a lead pastor and associate pastor. "I have experience talking with all walks of life. It is love and respect that opens doors." For the last 14 years, Armando has been working for a church in Tualatin. Initially, the church had very

few Hispanic families but under Armando's outreach, the number of families attending grew to such a number that a worship service was added just for Spanish-speaking parishioners.

The Backpack and Shoe project he organized, first in a parish in California and then introduced to his church in Tualatin, showcases his heart for others. He has brought church members and community sponsors together for the last 18 years to outfit students every fall. Through

this project, thousands of backpacks have been filled with school supplies and then delivered to students ranging from kindergarten to high school age. Some students are given both backpacks and new shoes. In fact, shoes have been gifted to some parents in need as well.

"I know that I am a dreamer. I work at putting a community's gifts into action. Within the next year, I am hoping I can share ideas to get more people involved in Newberg." Armando was also instrumental in connecting the police and fire departments with the Hispanic community in Tualatin through neighborhood clean-up events to strengthen their working partnerships.

A key role of this new job will be to initiate regular communication with all families now living in a Habitat home built by NAHFH. Armando will be the liaison for all Spanish-speaking families wanting to interact with the NAHFH office. He will become a permanent member on the Family Selection Committee and will support families through all steps of the homeownership application process. He will



**Habitat Office**  
 620 N Morton Street  
 Newberg, Oregon  
 Monday - Friday  
 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
 503-537-9938

**Habitat Staff**

Shannon Selah - Executive Director  
 Libbie Bailey - Administrative Assistant  
 Miche McCausey - Construction Supervisor  
 David Reeder - Healthy Homes Repair Manager

**ReStore + Support Staff**

Jerome Spencer - ReStore Manager  
 Armando Juarez - Bilingual Family Coordinator  
 William Troyer - Community Outreach Coordinator

**Officers of the Board of Directors**

Norm Daviess - President  
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 Rus St. Cyr - Secretary  
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support families as they complete their applications and work closely with selected families to understand their mortgage paperwork.

“Habitat has clear processes in place. I want families to know that I care about them and that will help them open their hearts. I look forward to being a member of a Habitat team who helps one family at a time.” Stop by the Habitat office and interact with Armando. Through a short introduction, it will become evident that Armando’s roots of service run deep.

**Volunteer on the Build Crew or Repair Work For Healthy Homes**



**Mondays and/or Wednesdays  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**For more information, contact us:**

**Email: [info@newberghabitat.org](mailto:info@newberghabitat.org)**  
**Phone: (503) - 537-9938**

**OWNING A HABITAT HOME BRINGS JOYFUL TIMES**

Agustin and Maria Salas Espinoza remember the Family Selection interview for their Habitat home even though it was eleven years ago. There were four interviewers that came to their apartment. “I had prepared food for all of them and I was nervous. And I remember one of the interviewers said that just because I was cooking didn’t mean I would get the house,” Maria said. “We were nervous, but it was also a joyful time because that cemented that we were in the running for getting a home,” Agustin recalls.



Weeks later they were informed that they were going to become a Habitat for Humanity homeowner. “It was my dream to have a home for my family,” Agustin said. “We were living in a two-bedroom apartment and we were a family of five,” added Maria. “This was even more bittersweet because of the money we lost on our first attempt of buying and owning a home. We thought it would be impossible but Habitat did not require a large down payment. Habitat made our dream come true.”

They remember working to fulfill their 500 sweat equity hours every weekend. There was a rundown little house on the build site. It was knocked down and their first task was helping to clean up. They moved dirt, gathered and stacked bricks from the chimney that was demolished, cut wood for the building, helped with drywall, and laid pavers for the driveway. When another house was moved from George Fox to become a Habitat dwelling at the back of the lot, Agustin and Maria spent hours scraping off the old chipped outside paint. “We worked on

every one of these three houses on this lot and many other Habitat projects on this side of town,” Agustin said.

The family had lived in apartments for more than a decade before moving to their Habitat home. As a renter they knew their home was not theirs so even though this house might need repairs sometime, Agustin does not mind. “It is mine and my family’s.” Both Diego and Valeria, the Espinoza’s children, know the benefits of living in a house. “I have friends that live in apartments and they are small. I can

understand because that was once me. I know that living in a house is a privilege,” commented Diego. Valeria agreed and added, “I can go outside and my dad has the freedom of barbecuing in our yard. We all have more freedom.”

Since owning their home, all the family echoed that Agustin has mastered outdoor cooking and barbecuing. In fact, when their oldest son got married, they cooked everything outside for the occasion. They also celebrated their two sons’ graduations from Newberg High School in this home. Currently, Diego is attending college.

The Espinoza family has sound advice to those that are worried about the application process for a Habitat home. “Don’t give up, keep working - it’s a home! We thought - we needed to try. We completed the whole application and I remember soon after I put it in, we were called,” Maria voiced and then added, “Owning this house also allowed me to be a stay at home mom for my kids.”

By the time all construction had been completed on this plot of land, three different Habitat homes were built or remodeled and one of the Habitat community neighborhoods of Newberg was formed. The Espinoza family has lived in Newberg since 2001 and speak positively of the difference Habitat has made in their lives. They are thankful to their community and, therefore, continue to volunteer to further the mission and vision of Habitat for Humanity.

**Habitat ReStore**  
801 N. Meridian Street  
Newberg, Oregon  
(971)-832-8153  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

