



CORNER STONE

Two Homes in Two Weeks — A MIRACLE IN SANTA ANA

Families offer thanks, love, and gratitude.
by Joan Dolan Ziegler

In November, the Escobedo and Gomez families were living in cramped, overpriced rental housing. The five members of the Escobedo family shared one rented room in a home filled with several families. The Gomez family – eleven people — squeezed into a poorly maintained one-bedroom apartment. Both families were surviving in noisy, overcrowded, unsanitary, unhealthy conditions. It was all they could afford.

On December 1, a miracle began to happen in their lives. Working alongside volunteers from Lennar Charitable Housing and Habitat for Humanity, and athletes from the Special Olympics of Southern California, they began to build homes for their families. Smiles and laughter ruled the construction

site as strong steel frames were raised, sturdy drywall hung, walls painted a creamy white, landscaping installed complete with grass, flowers and white picket fences, and lasting friendships were formed between the families and the volunteers.

In just two short weeks, their “Project Opportunity Blitz Build” homes were finished and ready for the families to move in.

On a beautiful, sunny, warm December day – two weeks after the beginning of construction – more than 150 people witnessed the dedication of

these two homes, and watched with joy as the families were handed the keys to their new homes.

Today the Escobedo and Gomez families live in brand new Habitat homes in Santa Ana. Clean, quiet, safe homes. Homes they can afford. Homes with room for the parents to breathe. Space for the children to do their homework. And spread their wings. And grow. Homes that promise a new life for everyone in both families.

A miracle has happened... and continues to happen in two simple, decent homes in the Delhi neighborhood in Santa Ana.



The Gomez family offered their thanks, love and gratitude at the dedication of their new home in Santa Ana. “My dreams are turning true!” said Rigoberto Gomez.



Maria Guadalupe Escobedo leads her family into their new home in Santa Ana. The family offered thanks to all those who had donated their time, talents and gifts to help them make their dreams come true.



Padre Alonso Caceres blessed the Escobedo home during the dedication ceremony for two Santa Ana Blitz Build homes.

BY THE NUMBER

\$437,000

Median
Orange County
home price

18%

Number of
Orange County
households who
can afford a median
priced home

\$1,400+

Average
Orange County
apartment rent

\$37,800

Maximum annual
income earned by
a Habitat family
of four in
Orange County

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"We got the chance to paint and hammer and do things that we normally don't get to do. We had a great time," said Janie Skinner, Board member and athlete, Special Olympics of Southern California. (left to right) Janie Skinner, Special Olympics, and Pete Major, HfHOC.



Jeff Roos (right), Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation, congratulates an athlete from Special Olympics. "We wanted to create a win-win situation. But I think we won the most because we got to do something for the families and work with the athletes. This has been a great opportunity for all of us," said Roos.



Athletes from Special Olympics present a key to their new home in Santa Ana to the Gomez family.



"Our objective is that everyone has a simple decent home," said Joe Perring, Chairman of the Board, HfHOC, at the dedication of two homes in Santa Ana.

Thank You for Building Two Homes in Two Weeks! Together We Nailed It!

Santa Ana Blitz Build – A Miracle for Two Families

322 and 641 East Adams Street, Santa Ana

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR "PROJECT OPPORTUNITY" BLITZ BUILD PARTNERS

The Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation Special Olympics of Southern California

Accurate Sheet Metal
Alliance Hardware
Berner Electric
BG Engineering
Bob McGrann
Campbell Concrete
Capital Drywall
Change a Life Foundation
Custom Comfort Mattresses
Dale Christian Engineering
DL Long Landscape
Coca Cola
CPS Security Solutions
Custom Quality
Dietrich Industries
DL Long Landscape
Elite Bobcat Service

First Choice
GE Appliances
Golden State Fence
Good Time Promotions
Heritage Energy Group
William Hezmalhalch Architects
IKEA, Costa Mesa
Jackson, DeMarco &
Peckenpaugh
Jay's Catering
Just Like The Model
K-Mart
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Starbucks
STI
Tailored Masonry
Three's Company
Trader Joe's
Trenchers West
Vintage Design
Wal-Mart
Walters Management Company
West Coast Countertops
Whirlpool Corporation



The Escobedo family, their family partners and Padre Caceres gathered on the porch of the Escobedo family's new home in Santa Ana to wave to the crowd celebrating the dedication of their new home.

Special thanks to the Santa Ana City Council and Redevelopment Agency
Thanks also to the Delhi Community Center and the Delhi Neighborhood Association