



Families from Esteli wait eagerly for the **Seed Housing** Project's arrival 2023



**WE WILL BE BUILDING THE
HOUSES BETWEEN
FEBRUARY AND JUNE 2023**



Maritza's two daughters and her two grandchildren live in Maritza's house, Ashely, 10, and Dariel, 6. Since her husband passed away, she helps another pastor in God's work.

Maritza (55 years old) is a born leader. Originally from Pueblo Nuevo (rural community of Estelí), she studied until sixth grade because her father, a man from the countryside, said that investing in education for women was a waste. She quietly dreamed of being a doctor or at least a surgical assistant, but thanks to her leadership skills it didn't take long for her to become a renowned health brigade member.

The brigade members support people for the Ministry of Health in Nicaragua, their role in the communities is to educate, help prevent diseases and notify the authorities if someone needs emergency medical help.

Their houses become vaccination centers and people respect them very much. So Maritza is proud of it.

At the age of 18, she moved to the city, and shortly after she married the man who would become the father of her daughters, an accountant who dedicated the last years of his life to the work of God, became a pastor and she became his best assistant. "My husband passed away two years ago, he was diabetic and the disease was consuming him little by little, my daughters had to drop out of school and start working because the medicines were very expensive, in the end, he died of a heart attack", Maritza tells us, with watery eyes.

After the death of her husband, she and her daughters began to save money, and today they have enough money to do some mitigation works that in previous years prevented her from being part of the houses that Habitat Nicaragua builds in Estelí. "Before, I would sell to rural communities, but then it got dangerous and I was left alone making skirts and sewing repairs, and there I have been collecting little by little," explains Maritza.

"I would like to thank those people who donate to build our houses, may the Lord continue to bless them, because there are many of us who need a good home", she concludes.



Decent housing at age 74

When approaching to speak with Audilia, it is necessary to raise the tone of voice, because at 74 years of age, in addition to suffering from blood pressure, she has lost more than 70% of her hearing, with the left ear she does not hear anything and with the right more or less; Despite this, she remains a cheerful and talkative woman, between jokes she tells her life as it is a story.

She was a single mother of five children, whom she raised by selling tortillas, with that humble job she also managed to buy a piece of land in the Oscar Turcios neighborhood of Estelí and build a humble wooden house. As was to be expected with time, the house began to deteriorate, the roof is full of holes and in the rainy season the water seeps in, making the dirt floor become a mud.

At home, Doña Audilia lives with one of her daughters and three grandchildren, whom she helps take care of. "Almost all my children have already made their lives, they help me by paying for my medicines, buying food," she tells us while she takes us on a tour of her home.

In addition to her expressive way of telling her own life, another characteristic of Mrs. Audilia is the fact that she is a woman willing to help, for example, several years ago she gave space in her house for a friend to open a mechanical workshop for motorcycles, as a way of gratitude he pays for her electric power.

For her, it will be a dream come true to have a home in optimal conditions, "for poor people like us, that they give us the opportunity to have something as basic as a nice house, it fills us with joy", she concludes.





Elba and her grandchildren, Joao, Gabriel, Samantha, and Natasha in front of their current home.



Ramona's daughters work but do not have a fixed income, one of them is a cashier in one store and the other prepares boxes to store pure, she wins according to the amount she manages to produce every month.



Martha is happy because, after years of work and sacrifice, the dream of having a well-made house will come true.

They lived in helplessness, but today they will have a house

Not all marriages are like in fairy tales, in fact, there are very strong stories of abandonment where the wife and children are completely alone, while the Dad decides to start a new family elsewhere. That was just what Elba and Ramona, two women in Estelí who have never seen themselves had to live.

Elba (58 years old), lives in the 1 de Mayo neighborhood with his youngest son, his daughter-in-law and five grandchildren of 4, 6, 9, 12 and 16 years. "I had nine children, but they all live apart and work, I was left alone with the child who works as a mason's assistant. I had to raise them alone working on what I could and how I could because her dad deceived me, he made me pawn the house we had and left me on the street homeless, with my kids" says Elba, who with a lot of effort she managed to buy The place where today lives.

A very similar story occurred to Ramona (69 years), originally in Susucayán, a rural community located two hours and a half from the city of Estelí, her husband sold

the house they had and left her on the street homeless with five young children.

The older one was nine years old, then I came to the city without knowing anyone and thank God an old man gave me a little room where we live and we started working to survive, I in a bakery and my poor children washing clothes," she tells us.

Twenty-four years ago, Ramona got his own land and with effort and help from friends and acquaintances was building her home, with pieces of wood, zinc, and even plastic to close. It is there that she lives with two daughters today, who are single mothers, and four grandchildren of 14, 13, 10 and 6 years.

"It was here that I knew the houses project because they were visiting a neighbor and asked if I could apply and by the grace of God, my family will have decent housing; So first thanks to God, then the engineers and you (habitat), because when you are poor what you get is to eat and make a house is difficult," she tells us.

Washing and ironing...

Martha (55 years old), is a conversational and smiling woman. Her house, located in the Michiguiste of Estelí neighborhood, is made of wood and land floor, but stands out from the rest because she has a beautiful arc of plants by the door. She enjoys gardening.

Mother of three children and grandmother of four, Martha tells us that she was a single mother. The dad of her children abandoned her when everyone was very young, and she who at that time was a teenager. She started to work "washing and ironing clothes for other people" "Thus I raised my children, I spent all my youth in a laundry room and at a table, ironing," she tells us while her eyes are thrown out.

When Martha was pregnant, she was just finishing the third year of high school, since then she has not stopped working a single day and since her mother inherited the land where she is today, her biggest dream has been to have a well-made house. "I knew about these housing projects, but I did not expect me to be blessed too and I thank everyone who contributes because this is a great work of my lord," she says.



All of Martha's children finished school, one of them studied to be a cashier, the other is a mechanic assistant and her daughter works doing domestic work in a house in Estelí. Among them are going to give the necessary money to their mother for the contribution of the house, "Thank God I continue working, I feel healthy and strong, sometimes my pressure is lowered, but after that, I feel that I have The world at my feet"- she tells us smiling.

First, the toilet, and now the house



Matilde and the little Abigail, the girl who takes care of her money.

A little over a year ago Matilde, 71, was part of a sanitation project. Her house would stop having a traditional latrine and replace it with a toilet with a bathroom, connected to the sewerage system of the city of Estelí. She and the family were super happy with the project executed by Habitat Nicaragua.



And they were even happier when they received a second visit, this time to tell them they could apply to the housing project and replace their house made of wood, with one made of concrete and zinc. "I am happy, happy, what was I going to imagine that I could have a good house," Matilde tells us who despite her age is still working to have her own income.

"I take care of this eight-month-old baby because her parents work in a tobacco factory, so I take care of her and she loves me, she calls me mom" she continues to tell. Matilde, is originally from Estelí but for many years she lived in Jinotega, there was a midwife in the community, and she even told us that of his 11 children, 10 of them she gave birth to them on her own, without medical assistance.

"God already gave me the courage, I locked myself in my room and there I gave birth to my children," she tells us. Today, Matilde, one of her children, two granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren live in the Oscar Gamez neighborhood, where the family will soon change their quality of life.



Through shelter, we empower

Betty and her migrant daughter



“Support me mom, I'm going to support you to have your house”

With those words, 23-year-old Dayana convinced her mother to pawn the deed to her land for six thousand dollars, so that she would venture out in search of the American dream. The young woman left with a few things in a backpack and the promise to recover her papers and make her house. "I told her: yes daughter, I'm going to support you, even if you don't give me a house, that doesn't matter," says Betty, the mother.

With the blessing of God and her mother, Dayana arrived to the United States, but she spent the first month without clothes, without food, and without a job. Upon learning of

her story, some friends of her family told her that she would move to New Jersey that they would support her so that she could recover the deed of the house, and in five months she was able to pay off the debt with the lender.

"God is wonderful, my daughter worked alone to pay that debt and as soon as she canceled they came to tell me about the project, and I already had my papers in hand. She supported me by building the wall and now she is happy, very happy, so much so that she tells me that seeing the house so beautiful even makes her want to come back ", Betty tells us.



Betty's house has a progressive design and is adapted to the conditions of climate change, as it includes a solar panel and a rainwater collection system, which helps families reduce expenses in basic service payments, at the same time that they contribute to reducing the carbon footprint. Betty assures that the electricity bill decreased by almost 50%.

New goals

Betty has had a difficult life, full of deprivations, she practically grew up among the tobacco fields and since she was a mother when she was barely 17 years old, most of her children also worked in these crops to survive. The family managed to build a house out of pieces of wood, zinc and a dirt floor, it was there where Dayana and her four older brothers grew up.

"My girl (Dayana) has been sick, it makes her depressed to be there alone and locked up, from work to home and from home to work, but I tell her to build her house and then she comes; That is her goal now, because after so much sacrifice, at least it's worth it," Betty continues to tell us.

In addition to supporting the construction of the house, Betty's youngest daughter has bought some household appliances for the family, so that conditions improve. "I am happy, I first thank God and those he has sent, and my girl because she left with that dream and the dream has already been fulfilled," she tells us.



The 21 homes will be built with a rainwater harvesting system and a solar panel to make them more sustainable so that families can reduce their utility bills and save money to continue improving their homes.



Each house cost U\$6,700.00, you can help these families to have a decent home, email narostegui@habitatnicaragua.org and we will tell you how to do it.

