



## The Nadira Merino Story

In November 2000, Victor and Nadira Merino applied to Habitat for Humanity of Palm Beach County for a house. They filled out an application, interviewed and were approved in April 2001. They began their 500 hours of "sweat equity". In March 2002, Victor was diagnosed with acute leukemia. At that time, he had completed almost 300 hours. Nadira continued to volunteer, adding to their required 500 hours. A Habitat for Humanity home usually takes three to five months to complete. That year, WPBF Channel 25 came up with the idea of building a house in 25 days and documenting the progress regularly. So in November 2002, work began on the Merino house. The primary sponsors were Centex Homes, Hedrick Brothers and Kimley Horn and Associates.



**Merino Family Home, December 2006**

This was among the first Habitat house built in Greenacres. At the time, city officials were deeply moved and promised to help by doing immediate inspections. The Merino house is a three bedroom, two bath, and 1235 square foot home. At the time, Victor told reporters, "This is just a present from God to see all these volunteers working to get us in by Christmas." The Merino's did celebrate Christmas that year in their new home. That was the only Christmas Victor, Nadira and their two children had together in that house. Victor passed away less than a year later. Nadira said, "He died at peace knowing the children and I have a home. My only regret is Victor is not here. It's bittersweet for me but Victor knew we would be OK." Christopher, the eldest son, is in all AP classes. He even takes extra AP classes online. He wants to be a lawyer. Daniel, the younger of the two, is an autistic child with special

By **LISA ARCHER**

needs. Nadira said, "My favorite room is my bedroom. It's where I find peace and where Daniel and I snuggle sometimes."

This year Nadira and the boys will spend their fourth Christmas in their home. We wish her and our other partner families a very Happy Holiday season.

All of our partner families do 500 hours of "sweat equity". They participate in classes that cover topics such as: budgeting; credit counseling; parenting; home safety; community involvement; child support; last wills and testaments; and homeowner's insurance. The only out of pocket cash is their closing costs. These families are provided a 30 year, no interest mortgage. These hard working families are just looking for a simple, decent house that they can call their own.



**Christopher, Nadira, & Daniel Merino**

***Please help us continue our mission of providing hard working families the opportunity to OWN their own home – by sending in your donation in the envelope provided. Thank you! For more information, please go to our website at [www.habitatpbc.org](http://www.habitatpbc.org).***

### **\*\*NEW OFFICE LOCATION\*\***

#### **Habitat for Humanity Palm Beach County**

1225A S. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
Tel: 561-433-3351 Fax: 561-304-0223

Web Site: [www.habitatpbc.org](http://www.habitatpbc.org)  
Email: [hfhpbcl@bellsouth.net](mailto:hfhpbcl@bellsouth.net)

*This is great news! We now save \$25,000 a year in rent!*



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## ReStore

*A Home Improvement ReSale Store*  
"Summit Commons Plaza"  
1225 S. Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33415  
**Phone:** 561-304-0222  
**Fax:** 561-304-0223



## Thrift Store

1635 North Old Dixie Hwy  
Jupiter, FL 33469  
**Phone:** 561-743-3660  
**Fax:** 561-743-5877

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