



Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"My...house my castle is, I have my own four walls."
— Thomas Carlyle

I rang the doorbell at 305 Mills Street. It took only a moment for a smiling Angelia Gonzales to answer the summons and open the bright red front door.

My first question was how that doorbell sounded to her: "It sounds wonderful" she said with exuberance. My second question was what I should call this building — this new house of hers: "It's my home" was the quiet, proud reply.

Angelia was showing me her new home this past Monday morning — the new home that she and her family and the Habitat for Humanity volunteers built.

As we walked from room to room one could easily feel her excitement, pride and thorough anticipation.

She explained she got to put her personal touch to a lot of the house décor: light fixtures, paint colors, flooring, counter tops and kitchen cabinets.

We met volunteer Becky Fendley in the hallway. She was working with Angelia this day on any last minute touch-ups and

clean-ups that were needed in the house.

She noted how businesses are great, consistent donors. Balspar Paint Company donates all paints needed for Habitat houses, as does Whirlpool in donating a refrigerator and a cookstove.

Window blinds are donated at cost and a local Columbus floor installer donated his labor in laying the flooring.

There are countless people who donate their time, talent and materials toward the completion of a Habitat home.

And what about that red door? Angelia said Becky assisted her with choosing paint samples and encouraged her to go for the red. After touring the home and getting to know Angelia, I agreed that the rich, vibrant color was just the perfect shade to welcome people into her new home.

Angelia has two small daughters who will be moving with her into this house, and I could feel the excitement she had in not only showing me what would be her daughters' new bedroom but also in sharing with me the plans the three had made for decorating

the room. "There will be a split Dora / Tinkerbell theme with bunk beds and lot of bright colors," said Angelia.

She said the girls have been wanting to come to the house every day, they've been so excited about moving into their new room.

It all began earlier this year when Angelia's housing application was accepted by Habitat for Humanity.

As discussed earlier in this column, more information on this great program can be gained by checking out www.habitat.org or locally www.coloradocountyhfh.org.

Angelia and family (particularly her sister Alex and her dad) and numerous Habitat volunteers have worked many hours since then to arrive at this point today. "There was never a dull moment," said Angelia.

From working to complete the house indoors to preparing outdoors for the yard, "...it's all been exciting," she said.

She tells me the funniest moment may have been when she and Alex were putting their "professional touch" to completing the

rooms by painting the baseboards. An afternoon of laughing and talking while finishing the unattached trimwork ended by her father coming in to survey the day's work. "What professional work?" he asked as he looked around. It turns out Angelia and Alex had painted the rounded backside of the baseboards, not the correct front side which of course would be exposed when nailed in place.

Still laughing under their dad's watchful eye, they began the job of going through all the baseboards and painting the right side. At this point Angelia teased up and gave that soft, appreciative smile of hers, "So many people have done so much for me (and my daughters) and my new home," she said.

A public dedication was held Saturday, September 19, at 10 a.m. A blessing and tour of the home was included. Then, early next week, Angelia and her daughters will be moving into their new home.

"What's the first thing you're going to hang on the walls?" I asked as I surveyed the neat and clean little house just waiting to be occupied. "A picture my 'granny' gave me two months after I was accepted (for the Habitat program)," Angelia shared.

The framed print of praying hands was her first gift for the new house. Angelia pointed to the exact spot on the wall where it would be displayed in the front family room.

We talked about the slab that has already been laid by Habitat for the Ana Servantes house right next door.

As part of the Habitat program, Angelia will be assisting with the completion of her neighbor's home also. Habitat work is truly "never done".

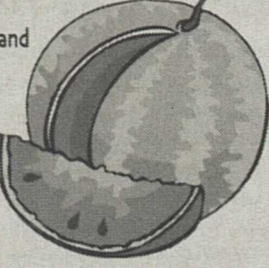
As I wished her well and left Angelia to some time and a little more housework with Becky, it was nice to view the beckoning red front door and the sturdy new mailbox Angelia's dad had proudly erected at the very front of the house.

This place was ready for life — the joys, the challenges, the wonders of everyday sorts of shared moments by family and friends.

It was ready to be called a home.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS RICE CONSOLIDATED ISD'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Rice CISD will hold a public meeting at 6:15pm, October 19, 2009 in the Board Room of the Administration Building 1094 Raider Drive, Altair

The Purpose of this meeting is to discuss Rice CISD's rating on the state's financial accountability system.

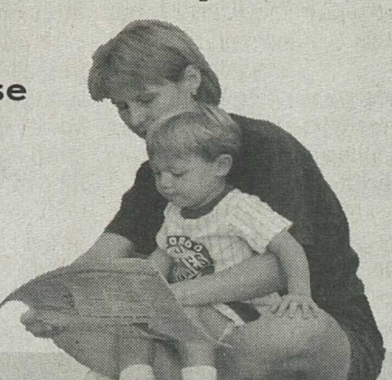


A dedication was held on September 19 at the new home of Angelina Gonzales, which was build by Habitat for Humanity. On hand were: standing: Ivan Menke holding grandson Joshua Colinger, Triston Menke, Steve Finley, Harold Raabe, Lois Raabe, Roger Birdwell. Seated, from left: Clark Powers, Angelia Gonzales, Micah Gonzales, Alexandra Cardenas, Kevin Collison, Lin Baron.

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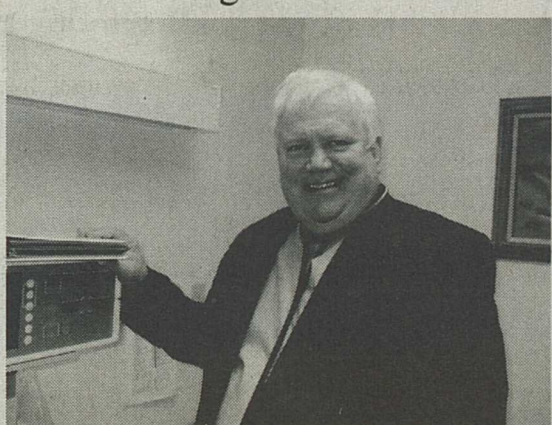


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Saturday, October 17 at the Eagle Lake Community Center

Honoring Dr. Ronald Mahoney



Social Hour 6:00 p.m. Dinner 7:00p.m.
Salute to Honoree 7:30p.m. Dancing 8 :30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

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