

## New homeowners-in-progress

### Arrieta Hernandez Family



*David Arrieta Diaz, his wife Yumali Hernandez and their son, Alejandro Arrieta Hernandez, 3. This family is one of our newest homeowners-in-progress and are so excited to be working on their future home.*

Four years ago, David Arrieta Diaz and his wife, Yumali Hernandez moved to the United States from their home country Venezuela, looking for, as they said, “new opportunities.”

They originally settled in Kissimmee, Fla., but quickly realized that wasn’t the right place for them. After a friend who had been in the United States for several decades told them they could find more opportunities and a cheaper cost of living in North Carolina, the couple – along with their son Alejandro Arrieta Hernandez – moved to Goldsboro in May 2015. David began working at Butterball and now is working for Smithfield Packing in Wilson.

They decided to apply to Habitat after hearing about our program from several people, including two different homeowners – one at the NC License Plate office and the other at an English-as-a-Second-Language class at Wayne Community College.

“I heard about it from two people,” David said. “They knew I wanted a house and said to check Habitat.”

Now the couple is hard at work on their sweat equity hours and looking forward to closing this spring on their future home at 975 Norwayne School Road.

“We’re building our house and everything is wonderful for us,” David said. “Yumali loves working at the ReStore and construction and I do, too. I love everything. It’s wonderful.”

The best part, he said, is the opportunity to participate as their new house comes together and begins to take shape into a home. He said they take pictures every chance they get.

Ultimately, though, they said they are doing this for Alejandro – not only so that he has a stable and secure home in which to grow up and run and play, but also for the generational benefits that affordable and stable homeownership can provide.

“Paying rent never ends. Paying rent is just like throwing money into the wind,” David said.