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## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

# CASTILLO FAMILY CELEBRATES IN NEW HOME

A supersized Mickey Mouse & Friends holiday stocking adorns the front, double doors of this newly-built Brownsville home. New homeowner Sandra Castillo sits with a large smile at her kitchen island enjoying coffee brewed from a vintage coffee pot atop the shiny, stainless-steel stove.

“The first thing I made in this kitchen when I moved in was coffee,” Castillo said. “Café in my own home.”



Sandra and her husband Mederick Castillo received the keys to her new, four-bedroom, three-bathroom home on Thanksgiving Day, fitting for such a memorable moment.

“Thanksgiving was the perfect day to celebrate and sleep in our new home,” she said. “I feel wonderful – very happy.”

Prior to moving into their new home, Sandra and Mederick, along with their children, 17-year-old Keyla, 8-year-old Mederick Jr. and 4-year-old Geraldine, lived with Mederick’s parents for about five years to save for the dream home. They shared two bedrooms – a cozy space for a family of five.

Three years ago, they purchased property and were ready to build a new home when they visited with the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville. After being advised of a debt-reduction plan, they were able to purchase their new home this year.

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The CDCB, through its La Puerta financial wellness program, helps families become homeownership ready with free, one-on-one or workshop counseling sessions. Once clients are financially ready, CDCB's Lending Department takes over.

"It was a pleasure to work with Mederick and Sandra to provide the mortgage financing necessary to assist them to accomplish their dream of homeownership.," CDCB Director of Homeownership Linda Marín said.

Sandra Castillo was very pleased with the services received at the CDCB and with builder GemStar Homes & Construction.

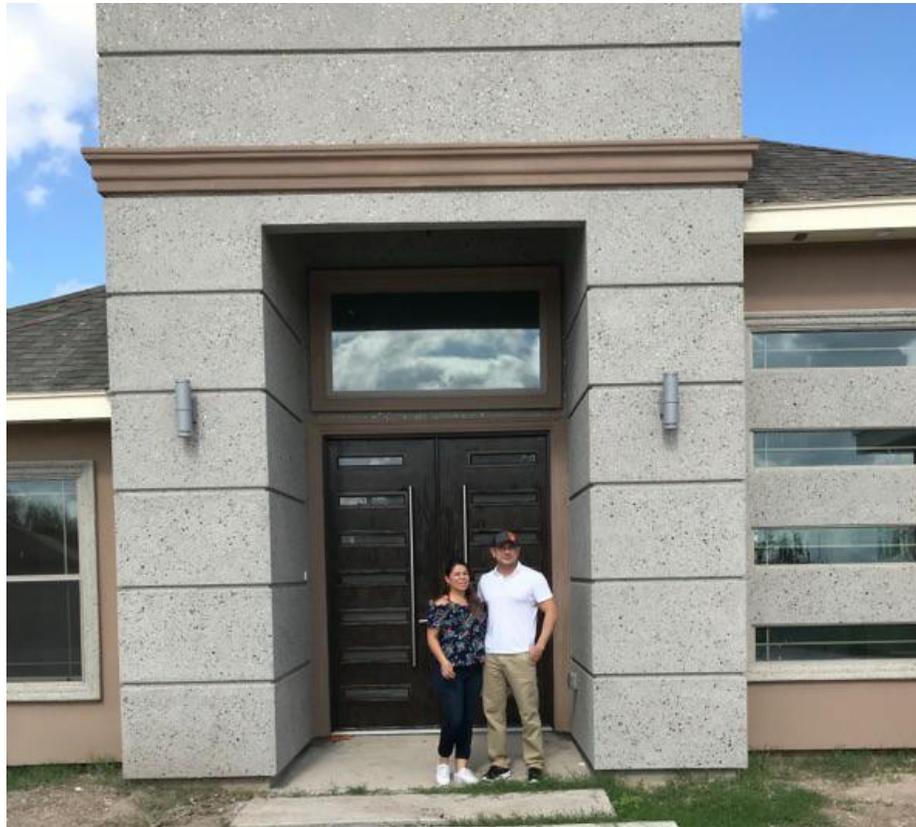
For the family, it is a dream come true.

"Thanks to my husband, my in-laws, and of course, God, for our home and good health," Sandra said.

Little Geraldine agrees.

"I love my house," she eagerly added. "We all have our own room. I like my own room."

The Castillo Family now looks forward to spending their first Christmas in their new home – together.



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