

Single dad gives daughters a home of their own



Anthony Martinez, a single father in Santa Fe, New Mexico, didn't think home purchase was within his reach. Mike Loftin, executive director at NeighborWorks organization Homewise, thought otherwise and encouraged Anthony to meet with the organization's home purchase advisor.

After meeting home purchase advisor Alice O'Brien and taking a financial fitness class, Anthony discovered that he qualified for homeownership under Santa Fe County's Housing Ordinance. "I didn't think it could really happen for me and my daughters." He also realized that he would be more prepared to own a home by reducing his debt and increasing his savings.

Homewise real estate agent Sig Lindell showed Anthony a home under construction in the Rancho Viejo community. The three-bedroom, two-bath house was in Anthony's price range and was perfect for his family.

Anthony agreed to purchase the home.

While the home was being built, Anthony worked on his debt and savings plan. "I was still unsure about my finances," he said. "Alice helped me work on reducing my debt and a savings plans while my new home was built."

Six months later when the house was finished, Anthony had put more into savings and paid down his debt. He was comfortable with his decision to purchase a home and his new housing payment. "My family loves our home and neighborhood," he said. "I've told my friends about how my great experience with Homewise helped me reach my goal of homeownership."