

Homeowner Rebuilds Home Destroyed by Tornado

Outline Of Need:

In 2001, the Vasquez family's new home, which they had occupied for only two months, was demolished by a tornado that left merely the basement salvageable. Displaced by the storm, this couple in their 20's with children ranging in ages from 4 yr. to 9 yr. relied on relatives for a place to stay until they could move into an apartment facility.

The process of picking up the pieces began quickly for Joaquin Vasquez. He took his survival spirit of providing for his family and created a floor plan for the construction of an energy efficient, low maintenance home. Step by step he marked the floor plan, which included enlarging the main floor area. Joaquin took two to three months off work and with the help of family, friends and contractors rebuilt his family home in less than a year.

Joaquin faced another storm as he learned that the conventional financing would only provide a portion of the dollars needed to rebuild. Joaquin approached city officials in Jackson, Neb. for guidance. The city officials directed him to Rob Bock of Security National Bank in Allen, Neb. as he worked with the housing partners of USDA Rural Development, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

How Rural Development Helped:

The housing partners joined forces to provide the Vasquez family with the money needed for their new home. The Northeast Housing Initiative CHDO assisted with down payment assistance. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority provided first time homebuyers rates. Security National Bank of Allen helped with a housing loan backed by a guarantee from USDA Rural Development. Insurance proceeds comprised the balance of the funding.

The Results:

Visit Hope Street in Jackson and you will find the house of the Vasquez family. Thanks to the teamwork of the housing partners and those who helped construct the dwelling, Joaquin and his family now have a place to call home.

"The toil of rebuilding is worth the home we live in today," stated Vasquez. "We are grateful to all who helped us in our time of need--from family and friends to those who assisted in financing our home. It is good to be home again."

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