

Family Profiles from the Casas Blancas/Santa Carmelo (CUMC) Community

All families for the community in Nicaragua that Community UMC is building are from one of two current areas in Nicaragua: Casas Blancas and Santa Carmelo. A description of both areas are found below. In addition, a description of each family is found on the following pages. Please pray for this new community as it is built over the course of the next 4-6 months. Also, please pray for the new families as they prepare for their new homes!

Description of Casas Blancas

Casas Blancas (White Houses) community is located 1 km from La Dalia district; it is a fertile area surrounded by many trees and its main economic activity is agriculture, sowing grains such as corn and beans. They live in extreme poverty conditions. It is a big community where its inhabitants work the land and also as maids. During the coffee harvest season they travel to other farms to work there and earn money for the sustainability of their families. Sometimes they find themselves forced to go away from their community since there is no other way to survive. In this community there are 3 scholars who work in the Rainbow school, in which there are about 30 children who attend it daily to receive school reinforcement. There is an elementary school in which most of the children study. High school students travel to La Dalia in order to study there since there's no high school in the community. Housing conditions here are bad, so people find themselves forced to live with their relatives stacked in the same house.

Description of Santa Carmela

Santa Carmela community is located 6 km from the district of La Dalia. It is a fertile area surrounded by many trees and its main economic activity is the agriculture; they sow grains such as beans, corn and rice. They live in extreme poverty conditions and in a landslides vulnerable area because of its geographic situation. There is a river through which it is impossible to pass during Winter because of its volume of water. This makes house Access and children to go to school a difficult thing. The economically active population work the land, they sow corn, beans and rice for the family consumption, but best time for work is during the coffee harvest in different coffee farms; though this means to go away from home to far different farms during this season. They do this in order to get a better money income so that they can support their families. They have electricity power, but don't have potable water. There is an elementary school that receives children from 1st to 6th year; it has two teachers and each one of them teaches to 3 different levels out of the six that the school offers; it also has a preschool teacher, who is a Rainbow Network scholarship student and her name is Elieta Maria Rugama. The infrastructure of the houses doesn't fulfill the minimal required conditions to be inhabited because of the poverty rate in which families live.

Erasmus Artola Family
(from Casas Blancas)



Mr. Erasmo Artola (74 years old) lives with Mrs. Paula Castrillo and they have two children, Yonthon Gadiel and Jonathan Adolfo Artola. They also live with their granddaughter Migdalia, she is 7 years old; and with two siblings of hers. They are glad since their dream has always been to have their own house, admirable and dignified. They have never had a house of their own in which they can feel comfortable and with better conditions. Their current house is made of Wood and it gets wet by the inside when it rains since there are several holes in the roof and they haven't been able to fix them. *(translated from Spanish)*

Silvia del socorro Aviles Family
(from Casas Blancas)



This family counts with five members, Silvia Aviles (34 years old) and her husband, Israel Machado, and their three children, Anielka Aviles, 16 years old; Darling Aviles, 16 years old and Isamar Machado, 7 years old. This family has always longed for a dignified house and it is not of their own; they are just borrowing it while they build one, but the tough economic situation hasn't allowed them to build it so that they improve their life conditions for their children, so they wish to be benefitted with a house. *(translated from Spanish)*

Erika Blandino Family
(from Casas Blancas)



The family is made by her mom Antonia Martinez, her dad, Domingo Blandino, who Works in El Cua, Bocay so she is never at home because she travels every 15 days along with her husband, Geimel. Erika, 21 years old, is 7 months in her pregnancy and they long for having a house since where they live doesn't belong to them and their dream is to have their own house. They have a money income of 100 dollars and they are also benefitted by a loan from the Rainbow Network and this allows them to have a cosmetic sales business so that they increase their money income at home. *(translated from Spanish)*

**Benjamin Antonio Hernandez
Cordero Family**
(from Santa Carmela)



Benjamin Antonio (28 years old) and his family; Fanny Rugama is the wife and Inner Ossiell Hernandez studies the 3rd year of elementary school in Santa Carmela School. This is a small family that participates actively in the community since Fanny is the Health coordinator for the community. Their house also works as a Rainbow School and it daily receives 12 children who are assisted by the scholarship student Elieta Maria Rugama, who is Fanny's sister. Their house is in bad conditions and when it rains the water gets into the house since the current is very strong and the ground inside of the house gets wet, so they have to use rubber boots even inside of the house when it is Winter. They do have electricity power but don't have potable water or latrine, and it is very hard. They have always dreamed of having a small but comfortable house in order to give their child and the children they might have in the future a better life style. *(translated from Spanish)*

Maria Lidia Cruz Family
(from Santa Carmela)



Maria Lidia Cruz is 52 years old and lives in her house with Mr. Clotilde Rugama who is 52 years old and is currently working out of the community. They live with their two children: Melvin Fanor Rugama who is 25 years old and is currently working out of the community; Elieta Rugama who is 17 years old and is a scholarship of the Rainbow Network; she is studying the 5th year of high school and teaches 14 children from preschool and also helps with the Rainbow school at her sister Fanny's house. She has to pass through a river that has a strong current during Winter and doesn't allow anyone to pass, in order to help with the Rainbow school. This family, as many other in the community, dreams of having a better conditioned house since they wouldn't be able to build it due to the lack of resources to do it because they don't have a month salary and they only earn enough money for food. *(translated from Spanish)*

Melba López Cruz Family
(from Santa Carmela)



This family is made by 4 members: Gregorio Diaz Vasquez is 49 years old; Melba Lopez Cruz is 42 years old; and their children are Gelder Enoc Diaz and Samir Emanuel Hernandez who is their grandchild, but she takes care of him since he was a Little boy because his mom left to work in other place. This family has always longed for a dignified house since the one they have is in bad conditions and doesn't belong to them, but it is lent. They have not been able to build their own house because the hard economic situation hasn't allowed them to do it. They don't have potable water or latrines; they only have electricity power. *(translated from Spanish)*

Estebana Diaz Family
(from Casas Blancas)



Mrs. Estebana (53 years old) and Mr. Jairo Rayo's family is made of their 22-year-old daughter, Ana Maria Diaz; she studied high school and currently she is not studying; their son Marlon Jose Diaz, 26 years old and also studied high school and is not working currently since the family's economic conditions didn't allowed him to study. They live in a house that doesn't belong to them and that's why they want and need their own house since they have never had one. Mr. Juan and his son, Marlon go out to work to sustain the family and they monthly earn 100 dollars each, but this is not enough to buy a land lot to build a house, yet. *(translated from Spanish)*

Leoncia Dormus Family
(from Santa Carmela)



This is Leoncia Dormus' family, who is 52 years old. It is made by her husband Feliciano Espinoza who is 53 years old. Her daughter, Alba del Carmen Espinoza is 16 years old and studies the third year of high school; her granddaughter, Angela Rodriguez is 14 years old and she lives with her since she was a little girl, since her mom has to go out to work in order to be able to support the family. The house they live in is very small and without the conditions needed. During the rainy season it is hard for them to be there because it gets wet. They don't have electricity power, potable water or latrine. Their dream is to have a little house with the basic conditions. *(translated from Spanish)*

Leyser Erasmo Alonso Escobar Family
(from Casas Blancas)



This family is made by four persons, Leyser, 22 years old, his wife Karina who is 22 years old and his daughter, Leysi Nayeska Blandon who is 1 year old and Leyser's mother who lives with them. They long for having a house since they have never had one, because where they live currently doesn't belong to them so they have to rent it; and due to the lack of money they haven't been able to build a house with the conditions for their daughter to grow up healthy. They have a monthly money income of 100 dollars since he Works in agriculture and raising and selling hens. They are benefited with a loan from the Rainbow Network and that allows them to have their own business. *(translated from Spanish)*

Maria Cinta Maldonado Gaitan Family
(from Santa Carmela)



46 year old Maria Cinta Maldonado Gaitan's family is very poor that doesn't have its own house and they are currently living in the father-in-law house, where they live in extreme poverty conditions; the house is in bad shape and it floods when it rains. Emiliano Rugama, Maria's husband, is the one who supports the family working in agriculture; he doesn't have a fix salary. The house doesn't have the basic services such as electricity power or potable water or latrine. Their children are: Xiomara Rugama who is 17 and has different abilities since she was born with Child's Cerebral Palsy. She is the main member of the family since they struggle in order to give her a better life style. Erika Rugama is 15 years old and doesn't go to school and she has never been to school. Kelvin Rugama is 26 years old and studied high school with a Rainbow Network's scholarship. This family dreams of having a house in order to enhance their life conditions and the access to the town, since it is difficult to them to take her to the doctor in the town. *(translated from Spanish)*

Pastor López Gonzales Family
(from Santa Carmela)



24 year old Pastor Gonzales's young and humble family dwells in this humble house along with their little son. It is hard for them to live like this. Their daughter, Sarai Lopez Hernandez, who is 3 years old, already walks and her mom, Maria de los Angeles Hernandez lost her second baby two months ago because of the difficult access to their community which is far from town, so she couldn't come out to the hospital on time. However, she doesn't lose hope on having a big family though it means to make a sacrifice since the house in which they are living doesn't have the conditions needed for a family to live there; but, as they don't have anywhere to go or the resources to build a better one, they keep on living there. That is why they dream of having a much better house with the basic services such as electricity power, potable water and latrine; since here they lack these conditions. They pray daily that God makes their dream come true. *(translated from Spanish)*

Nicolás López Gonzales Family
(from Santa Carmela)



This is 28 year old Nicolás López Gonzales' family which includes his wife Ana Marlene Díaz who is 22 years old and their little daughter Francis Mileydis who is 2 years old. This a small family, struggling to have a better home. Nicolás is the community Coordinator in Santa Carmela; he struggles for his community and works on agriculture because what he earns is not enough to build a better house.

The house in which they currently live is made of tin roof, but in bad shape, the walls are made of "rejones". They don't have electricity power or potable water. They dream of having a worthy-to-live house with the basic services such as potable water and electricity power and also with a latrine since they don't have one; there are some latrines that are in very bad shape. *(translated from Spanish)*

Eleno Castro Granado Family
(from Casas Blancas)



This is Mr. Eleno Castro's family, a currently 61-year-old single father with one son, Rafael Antonio Castro, who is 23 years old and studies the third year of Teaching School; and one grandson, Francisco Rigoberto Mendoza, 18 years old, graduated from high school, but currently not studying. This family longs for having its own house since they currently live in its sister's house, and they need a place where they can live with dignity, because they have always had to rent. Mr. Eleno Works the land and monthly earns about 150 dollars and use it to help his son with his studies and also for food for the family. *(translated from Spanish)*

Maritza Guido Family
(from Casas Blancas)



They are four persons in this family: Maritza Guido (38 years old) and Jose Alejandro along with their son, Jose Alexander Hernandez Guido who is 13 years old and is in the second year of high school. He is a scholar and helps in the Rainbow school with 11 children. He's got many goals set for his future and wants to have a dignified house since his parents hasn't been able to build a house due to the lack of money because they work the land and their money income is very low. During the rainy season the house where they live floods and it's hard to live like this, so they give thanks for this housing Project. *(translated from Spanish)*

Zayda Isabel Aviles Jimenez Family
(from Casas Blancas)



Zayda Isabel Avilés (27 years old) and her husband, Raul Rugama, have a very poor family, with two children, Marcela Rugama who is four years old and Gabriela Aviles, who is 4 months old; they live in a house that is not their own and they have always dreamed of having a house with dignify conditions, since the place they are currently gets flooded when it rains and the major problem is that her husband Works out of the community and comes back home every 15 days and he earns an 80 dollar a month salary and she also Works as a teacher for children in the community. *(translated from Spanish)*

Griselda Teresa Gutiérrez López Family
(from Santa Carmela)



Griselda Teresa Gutierrez Lopez, 38 years old, and her husband, Juan Jesus Zeas, 57 years old. He goes out to work and comes back home every month. They have a 3 children family; Kenny del Rosario Zeas Gutierrez, Maryeris de Jesus Zeas Gutierrez, Alexa Juiet Zeas Gutierrez; and her brother in law, Elvin Antonio Hernandez. They live in overcrowding conditions since they have only one room in their house in which they all sleep. There are two families living in the house. She lives with her father in law and siblings in law, in a house made of wood with dirt floor, in very bad conditions so they want and need to be in conditions that allow them to live in health since their children grow up and it is vital for them to have a healthy development. They want to live in a dignified house from the bottom of their hearts. *(translated from Spanish)*

Arlen Perez Martinez Family
(from Casas Blancas)



Arlen Torrez (28 years old) and Magdiel Ochoa's family is made of their two children and they also live with her parents. They humble house they rent is not of their own but it is in very bad conditions and their economic situation hasn't allowed them to build, but they don't lose their hope to have a house with better conditions that allow their children to grow up in a healthy environment because here diseases are hitting every time stronger mainly those caused by mosquitos. Here they don't have electricity power or potable water or latrines. They long for having their own house since they have never had something of their own and they wish they dream to come true one day, having a dignified house. *(translated from Spanish)*

Mario Isabel Hernandez Ortega Family
(from Santa Carmela)



Mr. Mario Isabel (35 years old) and his family: His wife, Lucrecia Manzanares and their two children Nelson Omar Hernandez Manzanares, who is 5 years old; and Heydi Xiomara Hernandez Manzanares who is 4 months old and doesn't study. This family lives in a house in very bad conditions. It is not their own house. Mr. Mario works for the town as a technician in the improvement of the roads earning a 150 dollars month salary. He travels 6 km to get his job. They want to live in a house with good conditions and to have a better access to the town since where they live, when the winter comes the water leaks into the house and even the river holds people from passing through it because of its volume of water. When this happens children can't go to school and he doesn't go to work neither. He dreams of giving his children a better environment to grow up and for them to be healthy. *(translated from Spanish)*

Elsa Lisbeth Rizo Sotelo Family
(from Santa Carmela)



27 year old Elsa's family is made of 5 people. 3 children: Jerson Eliel Castro is 8 years old; Odalys Masiel Castro is 6 years old and is studying the 1st year of elementary school; and Axel Eliu Castro. The two older ones attend the school in Santa Carmela School every day. The house in which they live is in very bad shape and when it rains they get wet since the roof is made of plastic and it has holes so it allows the water to pass through it into the house. Henry, Elsa's husband, works the land and he is out of home most of the time, since she needs to go to other places in order to earn enough money to support his family. They have always dreamed of having a house for their children to live in good conditions, because the place where they currently live gets wet. They are in someone else's house and don't have electricity power of potable water or latrine where they live. *(translated from Spanish)*

Ludania Garcia Urbina Family
(from Casas Blancas)



This is Ludania Garcia (30 years old) and Ronald Estrada's family. They have two children, David Estrada and Alondra Estrada. They are not at school yet since they are two and three years old. This family lives in a house in very bad conditions and it doesn't belong to them so they rent it for themselves. Ronald and Ludania both work and have a salary of 150 dollars per month and they travel 2 km daily to get their job. They wish they lived in a house with dignified conditions and with a better access to town since the house where they currently live gets flooded when the winter comes and humidity produces sickness, so they dream is to give their children a better environment to grow up healthy and safe. *(translated from Spanish)*

**Fatima del Socorro Benavides
Vanegas Family**
(from Santa Carmela)



Fatima Benavides Vanegas is 36 years old and her husband Victor Manuel Rugama is 37 years old. They have a numerous family which is made by Jackson Joel who is 19 years old; Elder Rugama who is 17 years old; Jessica Rugama; Ingrid Rugama, Erika Lilieth and Norelis Rugama. All of them live in an overcrowded house since they have only one bedroom in the house and all of them sleep in that room. The kitchen is covered with pieces of materials since they don't have the resources to build a better one. Her husband works in Costa Rica. Needs forced him to leave his home and go out to look for a job in order to be able to support his family. He dreams of being able to give his family a dignified house with the basic conditions and without overcrowding. *(translated from Spanish)*

Aquiles Evelio Diaz Vasquez Family
(from Santa Carmela)



This is 33 year old Aquiles Evelio's family and his wife Maria Elena Rizo. They have two children, Aldo Daniel Diaz Rizo who is 7 years old and studies 2nd year of high school in Santa Carmela School and attends the Rainbow School; and Yasser Evelio who is 3 years old and doesn't study yet. They live in this very humble house. It is one in a very bad status and when it rains it floods all the place so it is hard for them to live like that. They don't have the resources to build a better house for their children to be safe. Besides the danger of the flood, it is difficult to them to live like this because during the rainy season they have had to move to their parents' house because of the danger of diseases caused by the ground humidity. They would like to have a much better house in a future so that they can have the conditions for their children to grow up healthy, but they don't have the conditions to build a good house which is the dream of this family. *(translated from Spanish)*

Clemente Diaz Vasquez Family
(from Santa Carmela)



The house of 45 year old Mr. Clemente and his wife Sixta Silva with their children, Candido Jose Diaz who is 18 years old; he studied elementary; Pedro Pablo Diaz is 17 years old; Nubia del Socorro Diaz is 14 years old; she is studying 6th year of elementary school; Benita Diaz is 9 years old and she is studying the 3rd year of elementary school; Lourdes Josefa Diaz is 7 years old and she is 2nd year of elementary school; and the little Gerardo Antonio who is 1 year old. This is a very poor family and they do not have their own land to live in it. He works the land and he doesn't have a fix salary. The house in which they live is in very bad shape and when it rains they get wet because they don't have any other place to go; so they are forced to stay there in those bad conditions. They dream of having a house where they don't get wet when it rains and in which they have the basic conditions need to live better. *(translated from Spanish)*

Juan Ramon Diaz Vasquez Family
(from Santa Carmela)



Juan Ramon Diaz Vazquez is 38 years old and takes care of his children since he doesn't have his wife, the mother of his children. They are Arlen Diaz Valerio, who is 16 years old; Jessica Diaz Valerio is 15 years old; Flor Diaz Valerio is 13 years old; Deybi Diaz Valerio is 11 years old and Keyling Diaz Valerio who is 4 years old. All of them are in school since Juan Ramon makes a great effort working hard for them to improve themselves. The house in which they live is in very bad conditions and doesn't have electricity power or potable water or latrines. The house in which they currently live gets wet every time it rains and this is hard for them because they don't have any other place to live. Their dream is to have a house with the conditions to live well and with the basic conditions. *(translated from Spanish)*

Mayra Ignacia Diaz Vazquez Family
(from Santa Carmela)



This is Mayra Ignacia Diaz Vazquez's Family; she is a 32 year old single mother and lives with her two children. She travels to La Dalia daily in order to support her home, to work as a home assistant and earning 100 dollars per month. She struggles in order to move forward along with her five children. Vielka Ester Diaz is 14 and she is the oldest. She is in 1st year of high school and helps her mom to take care of the other children. Erling Fernando Diaz is 10 and he is in 4th year of elementary school; Janner Smith Diaz is 8 years old; Nery Exania Diaz is 6 and Maynor Osmani Diaz is 1 year old. This family lives in very bad housing conditions since they don't live in their own house and they wish to have a better place to live. That is Ignacia and her children's dream because they have never had a good house to live. *(translated from Spanish)*