

Homeownership Dream Becomes a Reality



Reedville Apartment resident Isaac Alonzo and his family recently moved into their first home, thanking Bienestar for the support that made their lifetime dream come true. Isaac and his family lived in a farmworker apartment at Reedville Apartment in Aloha for ten years. Isaac has worked at Iwasaki Bros. Nursery for many years, and his wife is employed at Reser's Foods. Isaac served as a Bienestar Promotor for Reedville Apartments for 4 years and was also a member of the Board of Directors.

In 2009 Executive Director Shawcross discovered that Isaac is a gifted artist, and in a visit to the family's apartment, found it full of beautiful art work. Sharing her discovery with Walters Art Center in Hillsboro, Isaac had a show of his work. Grant funding from Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council and RACC led to other projects for Isaac. He designed and painted a wall mural at Sunset Gardens, designed mosaic tile benches for Sunset Gardens, and designed a mosaic tile mural for Elm Park Apartments. Walters Art Center invited him back for a second show in 2011.

In addition to serving as a Promotor, Isaac took advantage of Bienestar's ESL, computer and financial literacy classes, IDA (Individual Development Account) program, and homeownership counseling. After saving for three years in the IDA program that Bienestar offers in partnership with Adelante Mujeres, the family's savings of \$3000 were matched 3:1 for a down payment. Alonzo and his wife sought homeownership counseling with Program Services Director Gracie Garcia, a certified HUD and NeighborWorks counselor, who helped them through the final steps to ownership. The single family home they purchased in Aloha is just a few blocks from Reedville Apartments where their journey began.