

Extreme Makeover: San José edition

March 4, 2011



Before



After

"We got to see our prayers, wishes and dreams fulfilled thanks to all of you." These are words of gratitude from Luis Mir whose father, Melaneo Mir, benefited from the Housing Department's Home Repair/Rehabilitation program. 90-year old Mir was living in a home with inadequate heat, failing plumbing and electrical, a leaking roof, water-damaged bathrooms and kitchen, and substandard construction. Within a few months, Mr. Mir could remain safely in his home thanks to the combined efforts of his adult children – Luis and Miriam, contractor Raul Manzo of RM Fantastic and City staff.

The project began with paperwork from the City underwriting the funding and bid procurement to overseeing the construction and completion of the renovation. Marcelo Mota was the Development Specialist who assisted Mr. Mir with the underwriting. Mark Ruffing, as the Building Rehab Inspector, oversaw the renovation itself. The physical portion of the home rehabilitation began Dec. 6, 2010. It involved a new roof and gutters, new energy-efficient furnace system, new copper plumbing, new electrical service panel, new energy-efficient windows, renovated bathrooms and kitchen, and corrections to previous substandard construction. On Feb. 3, 2011, Mr. Mir returned to his transformed home on the 1900 block of Cinderella Lane, and, as his son explained, "my words are not enough to express my sincere joy and happiness to see this kind of work being performed in a very practical way that reaches out to the less fortunate and benefits so many in the community..." Now, the younger Mir can rest easy, living miles away in Florida, knowing that his father has a safe place to live, thanks to the City and its community partners.

The City's home repair programs are geared toward low-income San José residents who need help fixing critical items in their home. This can include leaking roofs, faulty wiring, leaky plumbing, inoperable furnaces/water heaters and other urgent needs. The programs utilize qualified, licensed contractors to perform the work. Funding for the Home Repair/Rehabilitation program comes from the San José Redevelopment Agency, the State of California, and federal funding sources, such as Community Development Block Grants.

Interested persons can call (408) 975-4440 to see if they or someone they know qualify for the program. Further information is available at <http://www.sjhousing.org/program/repairs.html> and on Housing's Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/SanJoseHomeOwnershipPrograms>.