

## Love Builds a House

By

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**Part four –The house is refurbished** in the final chapter of “Love builds a house” we find our homeowner Juan Jiron seeking financial help from [USDA Rural Development](#) to repair his aging home.

Surrounded by so many memories, Juan Jiron continued to live in the home he built for he and his wife Arabella and their family after she passed away. This is where he was the happiest. Over the years the house he shared with Arabella became the family’s central place to gather. Juan built it with his own hands and love which provided those warm feelings of happiness for both Juan and those that came by to visit with him.



*Paula Jiron Ewy (left) and Carmelina Jiron Anderson (right) helped their father find financing to refurbish his home through USDA Rural Development’s housing program’s Single-Family Housing Repair Loans and Grant Program*

However, his beloved home was really showing its age and needed to be refurbished. There were numerous issues such as the living room flooring was worn out.

The family worried for their father’s wellbeing because after Arabella died, Juan hurt his sciatica and was unsteady at times.

Paula Jiron Ewy his youngest daughter said, “We got him a cane which helped but he still took a fall on the living room floor, which luckily he did not break any bones or hurt himself, other than some bruising.”

But what to do? Mr. Jiron didn’t want to leave his home even though his house was having issues. Besides the bad flooring the plumbing was a mess. There were constant issues with the pipes leaking and they were full of rust which caused low water pressure.

The house needed to be made livable once again, but the cost to fix the home was expensive and Mr. Jiron was living on a fixed income. He would have to live in the house as is. It would be too difficult financially to pay for the repairs. What to do?

Juan’s daughters Carmelina Jiron Anderson and Paula Jiron Ewy began searching for a solution to help repair their father’s home.

Soon they were directed to the “Single-Family Housing Repair Loans and Grant Program” which is a housing rehabilitation program offered by USDA Rural Development.

The program fit the bill. It's available for residents living in rural areas with less than 35,000 people. The Jiron home is in Pojoaque, New Mexico which has a population of just over 1,900 people. It is certainly was in a rural area!

The funding program offers low-cost loans to repair, improve, or modernize a house or to remove health and safety hazards in a home. In New Mexico, the program can provide a loan up to \$40,000 that can be repaid over 20 years at a fixed interest rate of one percent. And, also in New Mexico, very low-income families age 62 or older who are qualified can apply for a once in a lifetime grant up to \$10,000 dollars.

Mr. Jiron applied for the funding and was approved for a \$7,500 grant.

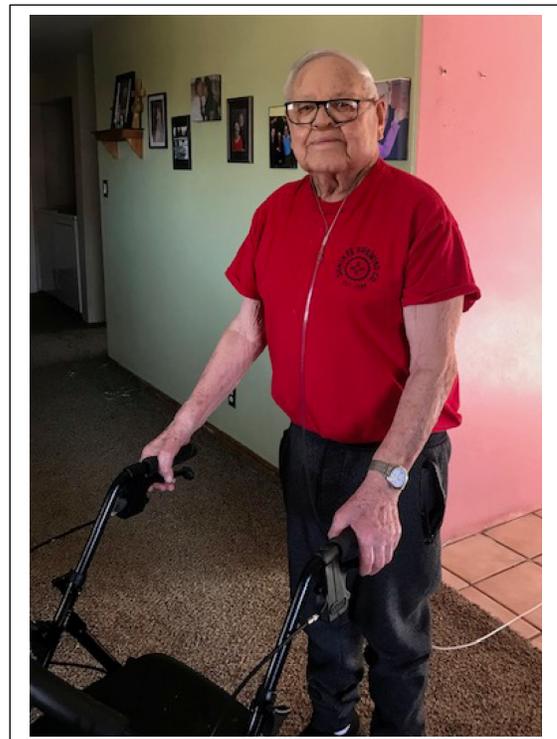
With the application completed and approved in November of 2020 Juan Jiron greeted the contractors as they came to his home to begin the refurbishment of his beloved house.

In a couple of weeks, the work was completed said Paula Ewy, "My dad was so excited to see the contractors come and work on his home. All those major items that needed to be fixed that he couldn't do were being taken care of. Soon the work was done, and he could once again enjoy the house he built for my mom and my brother, sisters, and I."

Paula reports he enjoyed one last Christmas in the house he built so many years ago. Juan Jiron was happy once again to be living in his newly refurbished home that brought him so many joyful memories.

Then suddenly one day in January of 2021, Juan passed away just two months after his home was refurbished. Although the family grieved their sudden loss, they truly believe he is once again reunited with Arabella the love of his life.

The family also believes his love built the house they will always call home. And the family knows their father died a happy man—especially because he was able to enjoy his home once again during the last days of his life with a little help from USDA Rural Development.



*Juan Jiron enjoys his house once again right after it was refurbished*

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### **Epilogue**

This is a true story about Juan and Arabella Jiron and the house they lived in where they raised their family in Pojoaque, New Mexico located in the north central part of the state. And how USDA Rural Development helped with the needed financing to refurbish the home.

### **Thank you**

USDA Rural Development wants to thank the Jiron family for contributing the photos and the memories of their parent's life and their home.

[Click here](#) to read the letter sent to the staff of USDA Rural Development by the Jiron family which inspired the writing of the story entitled, "Love Builds a Home".

[Click here](#) to read all four segments of "Love Builds a Home"

### **Information on the Single-Family Housing Repair Loan and Grant program**

[Click here](#) for detailed information on USDA Rural Development's the Single-Family Housing Repair Loan and Grant program that financed the refurbishment of the Jiron's home.

For more information about or how to apply for the Single-Family Housing Repair Loans & Grant program call 505-761-4950 or visit USDA Rural Development's [website](#) .

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