

FSS PARTICIPANT BECOMING A HOMEOWNER

With the help of Habitat for Humanity and the New York Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman's Land Bank Revitalization Initiative, Family Self Sufficiency participant Luis Sotomayor and wife Saretha are about to become homeowners.



In a press conference on March 24, 2017, including Eric Schneiderman, Albany County Executive, Dan McCoy, Albany Mayor, Kathy Sheehan and a host of local legislators, Saretha spoke for the family saying, "Our family of

seven is looking forward to moving from a cramped apartment where we converted the dining room into a bedroom." The family is moving into a beautifully renovated townhome on Clinton Avenue.

Saretha explained to a room full of supporters and press that "With this chance to own our home we take pride in being able to provide stable housing for our children and our grandchildren. We believe our story sets an example that anything is possible if you put your mind to it."



Working to better their situation, the Sotomayors have achieved something amazing. But, their road to success was long.

Saretha said, "We lived for a time in a homeless shelter. We relocated to Albany with the hopes of finding new opportunities."

They have certainly found new opportunities to house their

family and provide security for them. The Family Self-Sufficiency program is usually a five year program where participants escrow money while they earn increases derived from employment. In this case, the family was deemed self-sufficient through Luis' employment at Catholic Charities and Saretha's position at Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, as well as by achieving the goal of homeownership. Their perseverance and commitment to achieving their goals have provided their family new hope.

