



## YUGO's House Building Ministry Ensenada, Mexico

Greetings from Mexico! We are so excited to share with you the story of a family with whom you and your team will be sharing the love and hope of Jesus. Take the time to get to know them and begin to pray about how God could use you.

# Meet your Family: The Castellano Gonzalez Family



## THEIR STORY

Guillermo is from Guadalajara. His family moved to Ensenada when he was in elementary school. He completed 6th grade and then dropped out of school. He started using drugs when he was 12, something he would struggle with for many years. When he was 18, he met his first wife. They had three kids. He tells us that she divorced him and got full custody of the kids because of his drug use. He was ashamed to say that while he was using, he did not maintain a relationship with his children. And now that he is sober, none of his children have any interest in having a relationship with him. At 45, Guillermo checked himself into a rehab center and has been sober for three years now.

Rosa is from Mexicali. She moved to Ensenada with her mom when her parents divorced. She was 4 years old. She only completed elementary school and then dropped out. She started using drugs recreationally but quickly got addicted. Rosa had her first child when she was 19. She went on to have two more children. All three of them are from different fathers. Rosa tells us that her life as an addict resulted in many failed relationships. She finally decided to get cleaned up when she was 32. She checked into a rehab center and has been sober for six years now.

Guillermo and Rosa started dating when he was 34 and she was 24, the kids were 5, 2 and 3 months old. Guillermo has been the only father figure they have known. Guillermo and Rosa have been living together for fourteen years, they have no kids together, and they are not legally married. Their entire relationship, they have been renting anywhere they can find the cheapest rates. They are currently living in a small two bedroom home that has water, power, and an indoor bathroom. They have a 2-burner camping stove, a full size refrigerator (that belongs to the homeowner), and a small dining table with two chairs. They have a queen size bed in one bedroom and a twin size bed in the other. They pay \$55 per month.

Guillermo and Rosa both work full time to support their family. Their combined income is \$134 per week. They provided the mandatory education for their kids that is required by Mexico, which is 1-9. After that, Daniela decided to get a full time job instead of going on to high school. Yareli got pregnant right after 9th grade so she did not go on to high school either. The baby's father wanted nothing to do with the baby. Yareli, with the help of her parents, decided to keep the baby and raise it on her own. Right now, she is not working because she stays home to care for baby Nicolas. It is unclear if Fernando will be going to high school or not. \*All high schools in Mexico are private schools and charge tuition. You have to apply, register for classes and buy all your books and materials. They are run similar to a junior college in the states.

Despite their low wages, Guillermo and Rosa were able to save enough money to buy some property a year and a half ago. They are currently making payments on their land in the amount of \$55 per month. Their hope is to pay off their land and then build a home on it that is big enough for every person in the house to have a bed. When they found out about the house building ministry through YUGO, they decided to ask Pastor Abundis if he would recommend them for the program.

Pastor Abundis met this couple three years ago because of his involvement with the rehab center that Rosa and Guillermo attended. (Pastor Abundis mentors the men only, which is why he never met Rosa when she was there six years ago. He tells us that they are attending the Sunday services of the chapel within the rehab center and are also attending a bible study through his church. He is happy to share that he has been able to witness God working and transforming both of them.)

As he has gotten to know them and their physical and spiritual needs, he shared with us that the reason he recommended them for the house building ministry through YUGO is because he feels like this house would be a symbol of a brand new start for this family. He has watched them work hard to provide a basic education for their kids plus, they are supporting their older daughter and their grand baby. He does not see anyway that their finances will be able to afford them better living conditions anytime soon.

Pastor Abundis asked that you join him in prayer for this family to completely heal from their past and all the pain their years of addiction brought them. He asks that you continue to pray for Guillermo and Rosa to maintain their sobriety, for their children to have no resentment towards them, and for this home to be a place where they can all move forward in love. He thanks you for your interest in this ministry. He looks forward to meeting you all soon.





## Guillermo Castellanos

Father, 48 years old  
Ranch Handyman



## Rosa Elvira Gonzalez

Mother, 38 years old  
Smoothie Shack



Yareli

Daughter, 19 years old  
Stay at home mom



Daniela

Daughter, 16 years old  
Taco Restaurant



## Fernando

Son, 14 years old  
Student, 8th grade

**\*Unavailable during interview**



## Nicolas

Grandson, 2 years old



## Their Community

The Castellano Gonzalez family is currently living in a small rural town called Paraiso/Tinajitas, south of Ensenada. This area of the city is home to thousands of migrant families, who came from southern states of Mexico, looking for better opportunities. Many 'colonias' don't have the most basic services, such as running water, electricity, and sewage systems. However, these areas are often the ones that offer the lowest prices to acquire a piece of land, and for that reason many families will buy in those areas despite the lack of services. For these families, the most common job opportunity is as a field laborer, providing workers the equivalent of about 65 dollars per week. These factors combined create a challenging environment for families to grow and create a safe space to call home.







## Meet their Pastor



### Carlos Abundis

*Capilla Calvario*

We have an incredible team of local pastors that YUGO Ministries partners with and they really are the front line of our ministry. Many of the local pastors do not receive any kind of salary for their ministry - they live by faith that God will provide. Some pastors need to find part time work in order to provide for their families. The pastors who work with us to prepare for your team have put a lot of work and resources into the preparations as well.

The local pastor you are partnering with is Pastor Carlos Abundis.

## Above and Beyond

Your missions team is already doing so much, but if you choose to go above and beyond to love this family, please consider these ways we've found to meet their specific needs.

- Platform: Double
- Bunkbeds: Twin/Twin
- Table
- Baño
- Food Basket
- House Basket
- Curtain Rods