

Holding on to hope



■ IN DEEP THOUGHT:

Catalina Moreno reflects on her move and worries about providing a comfortable place for her children to sleep. There is only one mattress in the home.



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■ **MORNING ACTION** This is the last day Catalina Moreno will be living at her sister's house. She has spent the past two years having only this bed in her sister's home. Canisetta loaned her a bed for the oldest boy Carlos, 8, while Catalina shares this bed with Rolando, 7, and Abdon, 4.

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Today is the day Catalina Moreno moves into her new trailer.

Since leaving her husband of seven years, she and her three boys have been living with her sister, Canisetta Moreno. She couldn't live with him any longer. Since then, they haven't communicated. In those two years, the Morenos have been sleeping on a mattress in her sister's living room.

Catalina came to the United States with her father when she was 17. She obtained a work visa through the Department of Agriculture and has worked in the fields in Ohio, Tennessee and Texas. But she always comes back to Hillsborough County.

Now that she has her own place, she hopes she doesn't have to travel. She said that she earns more in the field than working a steady job that pays minimum wage.

It is a dilemma for her, she doesn't like working in the field and it will not take her anywhere. For the last eight months, she has been studying English at Beth-El Mission. While she studies, the boys are in day care at the mission. English is hard for her, especially since everyone in her environment speaks Spanish.

Taking care of payments on the trailer will be a challenge for her. Now, more than ever she will need to learn English to get ahead.



■ HOLD ON

Catalina Moreno plays with her youngest son Abdon, 4. He is a very cheerful and energetic child.



■ BUILDING A BED

Catalina Moreno picks up a brick outside her new trailer. She only had four to support her mattress.

