

The Moya family: They always had their faith and it all worked out

Record-Journal reporter Dan Champagne recently spent nine days in La Romana, Dominican Republic, with missionaries from this area. Here is another installment of his Dominican Journal.



Stories and photos by
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WILSON MOYA hadn't seen his home or his mother in nearly two years. When he finally returned, he brought a wife and baby boy to greet her.

Moya met his wife Sandra, formerly Sandra Cartenuto, at a Bible study class in April 2003 in La Romana, where Sandra, a lifelong Wallingford resident, was serving as a missionary for a year. The two hit it off even though they didn't speak the same language.

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—Wilson Moya

Moya, who was working as the social services director at The Good Samaritan Hospital, filed paperwork for a visa in February 2004, but didn't get an appointment until six months later. He arrived in the United States Aug. 26, 2004 and the two were married at First Baptist Church of Wallingford that October.

His visa would not allow him to re-enter the United States if he decided to return to La Romana, so there was no way he could visit his mother, Ana Moya.

But he got his green card in March, finally allowing him to visit his mother. He and Sandra decided to do so on the mission that brought them together, their 8-month-old son, Wilson Jr., in tow.



Wilson Moya, left, with Wilson Jr., his wife Sandra, right, and his mother, Ana Moya, in La Romana, Dominican Republic.

Moya learned English through classes at Middlesex Community College in Meriden and now works in construction.

"I'm so happy to be home to see my mother and my family," Moya said. "Everything is different than I remember. Everything is a lot poorer, but my mother was really happy to see the baby. She loves him a lot." "Obviously I was excited for Wilson to get to come home and for his mother to see the baby," said Sandra Moya, a 1997 Lyman Hall High School graduate. "We wanted his mom to come up for the birth, but she couldn't because she didn't have a visa." The family spent time playing with Wilson Jr. at the beach and posed for pictures at Altos de Chavón, a resort in La Romana.

"The baby really took to her," said Sandra Moya, a residential counselor at the Children's Home of Cromwell. "I was a little nervous because I didn't know how he would react. He was really fussy when he was a few months old and it may not have been the best time to bring him down any way. I guess everything works out for a reason." The fam-

ily reunion was made even more special with the addition of Sandra Moya's mother, Patricia Hermance of Wallingford, who joined the missionary team for the trip. It was the first time Hermance met Ana Moya.

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— Patricia Hermance of Wallingford, about her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Wilson Moya

“It was wonderful to be able to meet her and see how she lives,” Hermance said. “Sandra and Wilson have talked about her so much, so it was great to finally be able to meet her face to face since she's

part of the family.” Hermance said she and Ana Moya mostly talked about the baby and that the baby seemed to really enjoy the company of both his grandmothers.

“I guess it was meant to be this way,” Hermance said. “God wanted it to be like this. They had to go through so much to just get everything in order. They're not afraid to take chances. Even when things didn't seem to be going too well, they always had their faith and it all worked out.”

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