

HELP POURS IN FOR BROTHERS

News of trio reunited after foster care prompts more than 100 offers

CAROLINE DIPPING • U-T

From El Cajon to Oceanside, from homemakers to corporate honchos, more than 100 San Diegans responded with generosity to Wednesday's *Union-Tribune* story of the Brothers Robles, the three men who are now realizing their dream of living together after years apart in foster homes.

Offers of donations ranged from necessities to luxuries. Gift cards to restaurants and supermarkets were popular items

readers wanted to give to the brothers, who have been living on chips and other snack foods while their house is being renovated.

One Rancho Bernardo reader offered his expertise as a real estate appraiser to help the Robleses get a good rate if they choose to refinance. Sofas, dinette sets, a television, a barbecue grill, a refrigerator, dishes and flatware, even a marble bathtub were among the other pledges.

Don Wells, executive director for Just in

SEE **BROTHERS • B2**



Robles brothers (from left) Juan, 22, Jose, 24, and Mario, 26, gather at their home. DAVID BROOKS • U-T

BROTHERS • Cash handouts kindly turned down on the job

FROM **B1**
Time for Foster Youth, the nonprofit that has been coordinating support for the Robleses, said he received 45 calls and e-mails before he got to work in the morning and that board members have received dozens of calls and e-mails. A volunteer was enlisted to handle the calls.

The *Union-Tribune* also received more than 35 calls and e-mails.

Jose Robles, the 24-year-old who bought the fixer-upper in Nestor in July, said the outpouring of support has been overwhelming and a relief. Many of the offers of furnishings will help him and his brothers Juan and Mario settle into their home in time for the holidays.

"People have been coming in to the actual library to say thank you and to try

and give me money directly," said Jose Robles, who, as an employee of the Lemon Grove branch of the County Library, is not permitted to accept such gifts at work. "One gentleman called the library to tell me he is going to donate a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner.

"I had another gentleman asking me advice on how to buy a house. He was inspired that I did that."

Perhaps most exciting was the pledge of a nearly new dishwasher. The brothers have created a "household management system" for sharing chores, but they balk at doing dishes.

"It's our biggest challenge," Jose Robles said. "We argue about it. We just won't do them."

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