

Amigos Center Advisory Board Minutes
St. Michael's Lutheran Church & School
November 7, 2005 - 4:00 PM

Members Present: Bob Selle, Jon Zehnder, Denny Brown, Charles and Audrey Mueller, Eulalia "Lala" Troncoso,
Participation with Telephone Conference Call: Veronica Culbertson, Marve Ann Alaimo, Leonardo García
Absent: Julio Estremera,
Special Invited Guest: Sarah Paganes

- Opening prayer/oración de abertura: Led by Pastor Jon
- Selle showed a powerpoint presentation that outlines the different ministries of Amigos Center along with personal testimonials regarding the positive impact of Amigos Center on the community.
- Our Misión Statement / El propósito del Amigos Center: Read by Selle
 - **Amigos Center's mission statement is to provide the Hispanic immigrant community and migrant workers of Southwest Florida with the tools necessary to succeed in the USA.**
- Minutes from last meeting / Acta de la última reunión: Approved without ammendment
- 2005 Financial and Statistical Report / Informe financiara y estadísticas:
 - Written statistical report presented by Denny Brown shows that through first nine months of 2006 our total unduplicated clients at 5% higher than same period one year ago. Most of this increase is from immigration services (up from 743 to 860: 26%). Number of Employment and Information referrals is down from 771 to 540. No reason offered. Number of language students is up from 64 enrolled to 135. This is due to the work of Kathy Donlan, our new volunteer Language Director.
 - Our financial statement for first 3 quarters shows a surplus of \$30,071. This surplus may decrease during last quarter since most of our grant money is front loaded and no other fundraising events are planned during last quarter.
- 2005 Audit update/ informe sobre el auditoria:
 - Denny Brown reports that Monthly reconciliation of bank accounts and regular review of Income/Expenses are in order and without material variances. Books are in good shape and should present no problems for end of year audit. Our CPA still needs a peer review. Zehnder recommended two CPAs in his congregation: Bob Richardson or Marty Redovan. He will speak with them.
- Director's Report / Informe del Director Ejecutivo

Past business

Strategic Logic Model

- Selle presented a copy of the logic models developed by Brown, Donlan and Selle during training in Outcome Evaluation Training workshop sponsored by Collier County Community Foundation. Charlie Mueller stated that this represents a clear and honest picture of what Amigos Center is doing..

Charlotte County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Dept. Playground

- Selle shared a letter of thanks and photo of playground equipment purchased for displaced families of Hurricane Charlie. Amigos Center donated \$7,000 earlier this year.

Accreditation renewal for Christina Leddin reapplied

- Our reapplication for accreditation for Christina with the BIA as disapproved again. Once again due to no fault on her fault. The BIA is going to require Amigos Center to apply for recognition for our Fort Myers office before she can be accredited to work out of it.

Thrivent Financial GivingPlus program and special allocation of \$800,000

- We need 7 more people to reach our challenge grant goal.

Personnel policy concerning vacation time and sick days

- This item is tabled until the next Advisory Board meeting because our staff has not yet been able to present a recommendation

2005 Newcomer's Guide will go to print soon (Minuteman Press)

- Should be at printers within the month.

Mexican Mobile Consulate (November 12)

New business

Hurricane Recovery Committee

- United Way of Lee County has selected Amigos Center to head up hurricane recovery efforts in the labor camps of Bonita Springs. They will provide funding for program and for additional personnel. Selle has hired Diego Grisales as Program Director for Hurricane Recovery until the end of the year. Looks like the vegetable crops will be totally lost because of hurricane Wilma, that means no work for migrant farmworkers from end of November until 15 of January. Selle has obtained additional funding from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Lutheran Services Florida that can be used for hurricane recovery outside the labor camps.

Immokalee Ministry Center

- We are studying the feasibility of buying a 7,500 sq foot building in downtown Immokalee from Lutheran Services Florida. This could serve as a center for Lutheran Church work and social services offered by Amigos Center. Selle will organize a team to study what social services can be done. Second committee will study How it can be done (financially). Estimated cost of building, \$630,000.

Fundraising Banquet, Friday, March 24, 2006

- (Doug Molloy, Keynote speaker: Human Trafficking) . Charlie observed that the food provided for past two fundraising "banquets" has been lacking. If it is going to be called a banquet, we should provide better fare, if it isn't a banquet, that is okay, but let's not call it that.

Romell Corp contract

- Zehnder will study contract for capacity building that Romell sent us.

New Advisory Council member: Diego Grisales

- Advisory Board members unanimously accept Diego Grisales as a member of board. However, we should limit the number of staff on Advisory Board to existing three: Selle, Eulalia and Diego).

Biographical information on Diego Grisales

Born in Pereira, Columbia in 1959, Diego is married and has two children. He received a Master's degree in Economic and Financing Administration in Columbia from the Technological University of Pereira. Prior to coming to the United States in 2003, Diego was a professor of Economy and Business at Catholic University. He also taught high school Spanish for three years at Calazans High School, Columbia. He currently works as a sales associate at Expo

Design Center, Naples. He also serves as a Board member of the Bonita Literacy Council and is a member of the Lion's Club International. Diego teaches four Spanish classes for Amigos Center during our fall 2005 semester. He was recently hired as a temporary employee of Amigos Center as the Program Director of our Hurricane Wilma Recovery Program.

Next Meeting / Próxima reunión: Monday, January 30 / Lunes, 30 de Enero, 2006