



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



Marry a U.S. Citizen

Just because you marry a US citizen does not mean that you can legally live in the United States. Amigos Center Immigration Specialist Trainee Eulalia Troncoso had one such case in 2006 involving a 27 year-old Colombian woman. Having allowed her tourist visa to expire, she was living in the U.S. illegally when she met and married a U.S. citizen. The happy couple applied for her legal residency through the office of a local Notary Public. Unfortunately, the Notary Public did not show due diligence in their case. After having waited more time than expected for a response from U.S. immigration authorities the couple consulted with our Amigos Center. After doing an intake interview, Eulalia made an appointment for the couple with the US Citizenship and Immigration Service Center in Miami. While at that appointment they discovered that they had missed a prior appointment for review of their petition for residency and that their case was considered closed. This was bad news. It meant that they had to start all over again. They lost not only valuable time but also the \$765 fee the government charged to consider her case, the \$200 medical exam fee, plus the hundreds of dollars already paid to the Notary Public who initially handled their case. She was also subject to deportation proceedings. To make matters worse, she received news from Colombia that her father had suffered two serious heart attacks. She was desperate to return to Colombia to be with him during this crisis, yet without proper immigration papers, she would not be able to return to the United States to be with her husband.

At that point the family turned to Amigos Center once again. Immigration Specialist Eulalia helped turn this disastrous and increasingly dire situation around. She provided encouragement to the couple, properly completed all necessary immigration forms and followed through on the case. Within five months the wife received her permanent U.S. residency. She is now free to come and go between Colombia and the USA as she pleases.

Amigos Center Banquet 2007

On Monday, March 12, 2007 we celebrate the Fourth Annual Amigos Center Fundraising Banquet. It will be held at the Broadway Palm Theater, Fort Myers. Contact your church office or Pastor Selle (437-6727) for a ticket. Tickets are \$60 General Admission and \$90 for VIP seating. Thank you for supporting Amigos Center.

Sarah says....

I am blessed to be a part of a ministry to women in Rosemary Park where I lead the devotional time, getting to share God's abundant love with many women who feel lonely, abused, and unlovely. Many of these girls stay at home with the kids all day while the husband works, having no way to travel besides on foot, which can at times be dangerous. One of these women, Yolanda, age 21, has two beautiful boys, Angel and Luis, to occupy her time, but she is very lonely as she and her husband are here with no other family. She misses her home so much and feels alone and helpless here. Thanks be to God we are able to provide a place of nourishment and friendship as she tries to make a life here in the United States. Please pray for Yolanda and the other women in Rosemary Park. If you are interested in helping at a Wednesday morning event with these women please give us a call (437-6727).

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Check out the new additions to the website and sign the guestbook! See our wish list, updated statistics, the fundraising banquet, our updated Immokalee Mission plan, and more!

Give thanks to God for . . .

- The 3,200 immigrants touched by God's love through Amigos Center during 2006.

Pray for . . .

- Yolanda and the other women in Rosemary Park
- Our 2007 fund raising banquet.