



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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[www.amigoscenter.org](http://www.amigoscenter.org)



## New Worker for Immokalee

Pastor Amado has arrived. Born in Cuba 72 years ago, Amado is now a naturalized citizen of the USA and a recent graduate of the Center for Hispanic Studies of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He has been called by our circuit outreach council churches to work with Pastor Selle as a mission developer in Immokalee. He is now busy looking for a place to live and getting to know Immokalee. Welcome aboard Amado!

## United Way of Lee County

We just received news that the United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades County has allotted \$30,000 to Amigos Center for our 2008 budget. United Way supports our efforts to provide quality, low-cost legal immigration help to Lee County residents. Last year we helped 1,480 people with their immigration needs. This will be the fourth year Amigos Center has been a partner agency of the United Way.

## Human Trafficking: Enough!

Human trafficking takes place when a person is exploited for an employers benefit and works under the threat of force or coercion. Victims have been duped. Their lives are not their own. Their handlers consider them merchandise. Eighty percent of female victims of human trafficking end up involved with prostitution and/or the pornography industry. Victims can also end up working in agriculture, hotels or even hospitals. They can be of any race, age, sex, or educational level. Florida has the second highest number of victims. The problem is growing. It is expected to soon replace drug trafficking as the number one commercial criminal enterprise.

Amigos Center has partnered with the Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. They provide us with training and materials. We have set the goal of making at least four outreach efforts each month in order to inform and empower

the community around us concerning this growing plague.

If your church group or civic organization would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Selle at (239) 437-6727.

## Grateful and with Hope

Lisa, a 42 year old disabled woman came to our Bonita Springs Amigos Center looking for help. Her car broke down and her overdue electric bill had grown to \$400.00. She came to the Amigos Center stressed and depressed. Marisol, our case worker, prayed with her, gave her a food voucher for \$100.00 and a list of other Social Agencies including Lee County Human Resources. Like many of our clients, Lisa left our center with a renewed sense of hope.

## Help Wanted

Would you like to impact the lives of children and families this summer? We have the opportunity for you! This summer on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 A.M. to noon we have a program for the 10-15 children who live around our Kingston Amigos Center in Bonita Springs. The kids will receive spiritual nourishment and have lots of fun through Bible stories, games and activities. No Spanish is required, just a love for children and their families and a willingness to be a positive influence in the lives of kids who need it. For more information contact Sarah Willig at 239-784-8474. THANK YOU!

## Give thanks to God for . . .

- The safe arrival of Pastor Amado Lomba.
- The support of the United Way.

## Pray for . . .

- Pastor Amado as he looks for a place to live in Immokalee.
- The many victims of human trafficking and our efforts to address this awful human crisis.