



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



Immigration Success Story

Many of the Amigos Center clients entered the U.S. without inspection either on foot or on a boat. Most of these immigrants cannot get permanent legal residency in the U.S. due to their undocumented entry. The only way to assist such a client is to move the immigration case to their home country. Upon leaving the U.S. any client over 18 years of age will be subject to a 10-year stay in their home country due to their unlawful presence of over one year in the U.S. Before the client leaves, we prepare a waiver that the client then takes to their home country to submit to the U.S. Embassy with the hope that the waiver will be approved and the client will be allowed to re-enter the U.S. prior to the 10 years out. One such undocumented Guatemalan mother of three children returned this past March to Guatemala. Her U.S. citizen husband was left alone to take care of their three children, his small business and their home. Thankfully, our immigrant mother's waiver case was approved at the end of September. She was able to re-enter the U.S. with her immigrant visa. She is now reunited with her family and able to get her social security number and driver's license.

Leadership Formation

Five theology students and church leaders from our Bonita Springs Hispanic Church will participate with Rev. Selle at a Theological Consultation at the Center for Hispanic Studies on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. More than 40 Lutheran Hispanic/Latino church workers will participate in the first Hispanic Lutheran Theological Consultation to be held Oct. 29-31 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The event is titled "Who Are We? Lutheran Identity and Hispanic Ministries." According to the web-site of the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS):

"Participants will be joined by 25 students from the Seminary Level program of CHS, the Spanish-language alternate route program of The Lutheran

Church—Missouri Synod leading to certification for the pastoral ministry or consecration into deaconess ministry. Guests from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will also be present. Concordia Seminary students with a working or fluent knowledge of Spanish may attend at no cost."

Volunteer Service Director

One of the reasons that Amigos Center has been such a blessing for the immigrant community of SW Florida is because of our volunteers: Sue Parker has taken on the responsibility of Amigos Center Service Director. She manages the day-to-day operations for our Amigos Center programs, offices and staff. She comes to us as a volunteer, with God providing her managerial gifts through training in her 25 year career in the IT department of a regional Midwest bank. Sue is thankful for the blessing of being able to leave work early and wants to use that blessing of time wisely, to assist in sharing Christ's love with others. While her organizational skills have already produced fruits of freeing up a portion of Pastor Selle's time for ministry, she still sees the following as some of the challenges facing her in this new position:

- Community awareness and effectiveness of the Amigos Center in Collier County
- Getting volunteer language program teachers and training locations for areas throughout our SW Florida footprint
- Continued donations to support our programs

Sue has been married 34 years to husband Rich, and they have two grown married sons with families still in Ohio. Sue & Rich are members of Faith Lutheran Church in Naples.

Give thanks to God for . . .

- The blessings that Sue Parker brings to us.

Pray for . . .

- Our Hispanic church leaders;
- Volunteers with management abilities.