



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

February 2008, Newsletter #117

www.amigoscenter.org



2008 Banquet

Our 2008 fundraising banquet promises to be the best yet. First of all, our keynote speaker is Naples author and song writer, [Carlene Thissen](#). Among her books is Immokalee's Fields of Hope, a vivid story of Mexican, Haitian and Guatemalan immigrants living in Immokalee. Secondly, it will be held at the Three Oaks Banquet hall in Estero, just a block from I-75 at Corkscrew Road. We trust this venue will be much more accessible for our Collier County attendees. Save the date: Friday, April 11. Doors open at 6:00 PM for the silent auction. General admission tickets are \$60pp and VIP tickets are \$90pp. For more information call Sarah Willig, (239) 784-8474.

Back to Work

Juan Esteban was granted asylum in April 2007. Logically he wanted to apply for legal residency in the U.S. for his family. His immigration attorney asked him to pay \$ 500.00 in advance so that they could begin the immigration process. At that point however he could not pay. He had lost his job because the Social Security Administration Office had made an error on his date of birth. Consequently, his employer terminated his employment until the error was fixed.

Juan Esteban came to Amigos Center in June 2007 for help. Our immigration specialist called the Social Security Office and the error was fixed. Our case workers were able to provide translation and transportation for several visits to the Social Security Office in Fort Myers. His family petitions were made and now they are just waiting for the interview at the American Embassy in Guatemala to receive their Resident Cards.

Juan Esteban and his family have been blessed by Our Lord because a generous couple donated a car, a 1985 Mercedes Benz's model that Amigos Center gave to Juan Esteban. With his social security information corrected and with

transportation, Juan Esteban is able to get back to work. A very special added bonus for Juan Esteban is that he now attends our Spanish worship services in Bonita Springs.

Outreach to Women in Rosemary Park (by DCE Sarah Willig)

On October 7, 2007 Miami area LCMS clergy and deacons, Florida-Georgia District officials and Pastor Selle gathered at Hospital del Alma Lutheran Church, Homestead, FL for the ordination of Pastor Amado Lomba-George. Pastor Lomba is a native son of Hospital del Alma. Pastor Lomba has been called by the Southwest Florida Outreach Council to work with Pastor Selle in Immokalee, FL. Since Pastor Lomba was called on behalf of the Outreach Council churches of Southwest Florida, he will be installed into his office by many of the council churches during the next few months. This will give many of you the opportunity to meet him personally.

GivingPlus® Program helps you make a bigger impact.

Over the years, Amigos Center has been blessed with many generous donors who demonstrate their support of our ministry. Their financial donations have been supplemented through a wonderful one-of-a-kind member-directed gifting program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. It's called the GivingPlus® Program. The resulting supplemental contributions have helped us reach many of our goals: Serve 3,496 unduplicated clients in 2007, that represents 7% more people than our goal for the year.

Looking ahead, other important projects also need our attention. For example, we will be opening our Immokalee Amigos Center early 2008. This will enable us to offer our services to thousands of new people in Immokalee, Florida.

Telephone: (239) 437-6727, Rev. Robert and Donna Selle, DCE Sarah Willig

Through the GivingPlus® Program, you can help Amigos Center meet these important needs in a way that increases the impact of your gift. For more information on how you can be a partner in our ministry and participate in the GivingPlus® Program:

Contact Pastor Selle at (239) 437-6727 or BobSelle@aol.com.

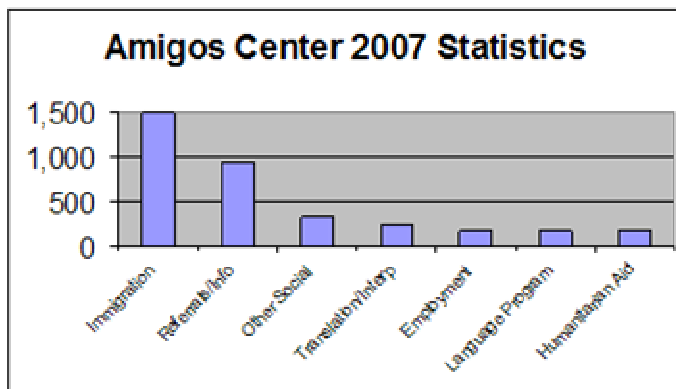
Visit www.thrivent.com.

Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

We encourage you to make the most of your financial donation to our ministry through the GivingPlus® Program.

2007 Statistics

Our Amigos Center staff once again did an outstanding job of serving the immigrant community during 2007. We served 3,496 unduplicated clients. That is 7% more than we had set as a 2007 goal.



Give thanks to God for . . .

- the 3,496 lives that were touched by God's love through the efforts of Amigos Center staff and volunteers.
- a solution to Juan Esteban predicament.
- the work permits for our Immokalee property have been approved by Collier County authorities.

Pray for . . .

- Our fundraising banquet.
- Sarah Willig's outreach to the women of Rosemary Park, Bonita Springs.