



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCM

March 2008, Newsletter #118

www.amigoscenter.org



2008 Banquet

Reserve the night of Friday, April 11 at the Three Oaks Banquet and Conference Center, Estero. This year's banquet will be well worth your effort to come.

*Carlene Thissen, local singer, writer and author of the book "Immokalee's Fields of Hope" is our Keynote Speaker.

*NBC-2 news anchor, Craig Wolf, is our Master of Ceremonies.

*Silvana Camargo, Miss Latina SW Florida and Miss Bolivia International will be in attendance. Silvana and her parents were clients of Amigos Center years ago. Now they are supporters.

Dinner, live music and a silent auction are also on the agenda. Tickets are \$60 for general seating and \$90 for VIP seating. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets or becoming a table sponsor, please contact Rev. Robert Selle by calling (239) 437-6727 or sending an email to: BobSelle@amigoscenter.org. Or, send your check payable to "Amigos Center", 25999 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

Chain-Immigration Effect

Ana Campos has her legal papers. It is what Amigos Center Immigration Specialist Christina Leddin calls the Chain-Immigration Effect. Ana came to the United States ten years ago with the intention of getting a job so that she could buy the medicine her father needed to survive. Crossing the Mexican-U.S. border is a difficult and dangerous trek, especially for a woman. But Ana was on a mission and would not be stopped. She arrived without papers, without a job, with no English and no prospect of gaining legal documentation to stay in the U.S. However, while working the fields in Immokalee she met her future husband. Once married they came to Amigos Center. With the assistance of Amigos Center Immigration Specialist Christina Leddin, Ana's husband applied for residency papers for her. After several years of tedious paperwork, phone calls and prayers, Ana received an appointment with the U.S. immigration authorities for what they call an "adjustment interview". Her interview was on February 1. By

February 12 they received the good news. This means that she is now a legal permanent resident, "green card" holder. By God's grace, Pastor Selle happened to visit Ana and her husband the day they received the news from Christina that her petition had been granted. Now Ana Campos has her legal papers. This story demonstrates the chain-immigration effect: one family member moves up the immigration ladder and is then able to bring another one up the ladder of improved immigration status.

Founders Society Grant

Amigos Center is honored and blessed to have been chosen by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation as a recipient of their 2007 Founders Society Grant of \$4,000. This grant is in support of the immigration services for needy families.



Wheat Ridge Ministries

We are entering the third and final year of a grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries that totals \$30,000.



This is in support of our Amigos Center office in Golden Gate. Wheat Ridge Ministries (originally the Wheat Ridge Foundation) is recognized throughout the world as an independent Lutheran charitable organization that provides support for new church-related health and hope ministries in pursuit of its mission – "Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ." Visit www.wheatridge.org.

Give thanks to God for . . .

- Ana Campos and her new life in the USA
- Our \$4,000 grant from SWFL Community Foundation
- Wheat Ridge Ministries and their support of Amigos Center

Pray for . . .

- Silvana Camargo
- A blessed 2008 Banquet/FundRaiser