



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



Financial Rebound

We reported to many of you at the beginning of the year we faced a financial crisis that threatened to empty our cash reserves by July 2008. This was due to a simultaneous drop in donations during 2007 and an increase in personnel and programs costs related to our Immokalee mission. Since that time, many of you have responded and I am happy to report that our cash reserves have rebounded to their summer of 2007 level. Our Board of Directors and staff have developed a plan that, God willing, will help us maintain sustainable funding for our programs. We will provide you with more details this summer.

Collier Harvest

On May 12 our Immokalee Amigos Center received two pallets of donated food as a result of the Collier Harvest campaign spearheaded by the U.S. Postal Service. This is a timely gift for many families. The downturn in the economy, especially in the construction industry has caused many to be without jobs or to be under employed which have led to a 30 to 50% increase in requests for assistance from the local nonprofits for emergency needs including: food, rent and utilities. In a recent newspaper article (News Press, October 10, 2007) nonprofit agencies were describing an overall upswing of 20 to 50% in the need for emergency services from last year's numbers. Thank you for your support of Collier Harvest and of our emergency food bank. Call Pastor Selle (239) 437-6727 if you want to help.

Women's Legacy Fund

We are so very grateful for a recent \$5,000 grant Amigos Center received from the Women's Legacy Fund. The grant will help us fill a part-time position of Language Program Director. This is really good news because we have prospective students call our office every day looking for English classes. The Language Program Director must speak English and Spanish, have own

transportation, be detail oriented and be a self-starter. Call Pastor Selle (437-6727) if you are interested in applying.

Immokalee Sunday Worship

On May 11, 2008 we held our first Sunday morning Spanish worship service in Immokalee. We are pleased to report an attendance of 70 people. Creole worship services will begin on Sunday May 18. While the Spanish group is in worship, the Haitian group will have their Sunday School. Then we switch places and while the Haitian group is in the sanctuary for their worship the Spanish group will hold their Sunday School for adults, youth and children.

Encounters with Christ

In an effort to stimulate greater discipleship and membership in Immokalee, we will soon hold the first event we call "Encuentro Familiar con Cristo" (Family Encounter with Christ). The idea is to invite a select group of families to a Sunday afternoon gathering at the Immokalee church. We offer food, a clear presentation of the Gospel of Salvation and a call to discipleship. Our invited guests will be invited to respond to Christ's call and to offer the names of friends that might be interested in attending a future "Encuentro Familiar con Cristo."

Give thanks to God for...

- the financial rebound of Amigos en Cristo;
- the food provided by "Collier Harvest";
- the 70 people who came to our first Spanish Sunday Worship in Immokalee.

Pray for...

- the search for a new Language Program Director;
- the participants in our "Encuentro Familiar con Cristo".

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