



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

August 2008, Newsletter #122

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



## English Classes

Thanks to the Women's Legacy Fund, Amigos Center is once again able to offer English classes. Thanks to this funding we hired Regina Arslanian as our part-time Language Program Director. Born and raised in El Salvador, Regina brings to her position eight years of early childhood teaching experience, attention to detailed planning, a friendly disposition and the experience of having fluently learned three languages (Spanish, English and French). If you are interested in teaching English in Immokalee, Golden Gate, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers or Cape Coral, please call Regina at (239) 437-6727.

## A Little Extra Effort

By Eulalia Troncoso (Immigration Specialist)

"I decided to work extra hours on Saturday in the Golden Gate Office to complete the immigration case of our client, Maria A. She was at the edge of a nervous breakdown on Friday when she found out that we could not finish her case that same day. Maria got extremely nervous to the point of desperation. She cried, screamed and begged me to help her, stating she was having nightmares at night, and not been able to drive without a driver's license (The State of Florida will not issue a Driver's License to foreigners unless proper legal immigration papers can be shown). Maria went on and on telling me all the difficulties she has been experiencing. I felt extremely bad for her. I made an exception and finished her case on Saturday. Maria came back to the office three weeks later to tell me that with the immigration papers we helped her with she was able to get her Driver's License. I could see a different person. Her relief and peace of mind was very satisfying to me."

In 2007, the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation awarded 62 Charitable Gifting Initiative grants to Lutheran nonprofits ranging from \$8,000 to \$100,000. Those grants are expected to generate more than \$177.6 million in immediate or deferred monetary gifts to Lutheran institutions in the coming years.

## Summer Job

Our administrative office has been blessed with part-time summer assistant Elizabeth Selle, daughter of Donna and Pastor Bob Selle. Elizabeth is on summer break from her studies of Communication Disorders at Florida State University. While taking a Technical Writing summer class at Edison College, Elizabeth has also worked 20 hours a week this summer with Amigos en Cristo. She has helped our office catch up with a lot of past due organizing, inventory and clean up. "What has surprised me the most about working here is the amount of time, effort and all the people that go behind making this ministry work. I never knew," says Elizabeth. She has found it helpful to her language skills being around people in our office that speak Spanish. When answering the telephone she says: "I can handle it when the caller speaks Spanish in short phrases, but when they start rattling off long sentences, that is when I politely hand the phone over to someone else." Elizabeth's goal is to become fluent in sign language so that some day she can work with deaf children. She returns to FSU in August.

## Give thanks to God for...

The volunteers and staff that make Amigos en Cristo and Amigos Center work.

## Pray for...

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

Regina Arslanian, Language Director; Eulalia Troncoso, Immigration Specialist; Elizabeth Selle, FSU student; and Andre Mezilus, EIT student.