



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

June 2009, Newsletter #132

www.amigoscenter.org



Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Immokalee

By Sarah Willig, DCE

On Sunday, May 3 we celebrated both Children's Day (traditionally celebrated in Mexico on April 30th) and Cinco de Mayo (the May 5 celebration remembering Mexico's victory in the battle of Puebla). Our Hispanic congregation took ownership in the outreach event and helped make it a success. For the kids we had a bounce house, races with prizes, and da pinata, as well as music and food for the whole family.

Hope Lutheran Foundation Grant

By Ashby Greenlee

Thank you Hope Lutheran Foundation! Amigos en Cristo recently received a grant that will be used to fund a marriage enrichment program. This program will consist of a marriage retreat and financial classes for immigrant couples. The purpose behind the marriage enrichment program is to help prevent family disintegration and enhance the self-sufficiency of the immigrant community.

Study after study has shown the top reasons for divorce include lack of communication and financial problems. With help from our Lord and the Hope Lutheran Foundation, the Amigos Center marriage enrichment project will begin to address these issues by sharing the love of Christ and providing Biblical and practical tools to restore hope to the people in our community who truly need it. Thank you Hope Lutheran Foundation for using the gifts God has provided to reach out and bless others!

Haitian Outreach

By Sarah Willig, DCE

In June we will have a week-long outreach event for the Haitian community of Immokalee. The Haitian congregation is planning a full week of prayer, music and fun. The last night of the event, June 21st, we are bringing in a choir from Miami. If you are interested to check it out, we'd love to have you come out and participate in this exciting event.

Friends of Amigos Tour!

Every 2nd Thursday, 9am, Bonita Springs

Do you know all there is to know about Amigos en Cristo? We challenge you to come to a tour! We are sure you'll be inspired and learn something new ☺ Our next tour will be June 11 so call and reserve your spot!

We are also offering tours at our center in Immokalee! Come and see our pregnancy center, food bank, church plant, and more!

Call Ashby at 239-560-5805

Updated Info

Do you have a new address? A phone number that has changed? We are updating our database and need your help!

A Client's Story

Diana K.V. called Lala, our immigration specialist at the beginning of April. Her husband had been abusing her throughout the past year, demanding money from her and threatening to turn her into immigration if she did not pay. She was the only one working and worked two shifts so that she could provide at home and for her father's chemotherapy because he has cancer. When she tried to escape, he drugged her, making her feel mentally ill. With the sensitivity of the situation, Lala advised to go the Shelter for Abused Women where she spent the next few days. Scared to return home, Diana drove to Miami to fly home to Peru. She wanted to escape so badly that she left her car in Miami with many personal belongings and called Lala a week later and Lala went to get the car for her.

The family in Peru had contacted Lala to express gratitude for all we had done for her, and because Lala had helped her from the beginning with her immigration paperwork and throughout all of this very sad experience. Diana is still in Peru. As of this moment she does not know whether she is coming back to the States, even though she has things to take care of, such as her car, that is still parked at Lala's house while she decides what to do.

Enlist Your Small Group in the Freedom Project

The Freedom Project works like this: On or around July 4th, small groups asks members to bring in donations of any amounts, pooling their donations for the Immokalee Pregnancy Center. The goal is to have the funds to hire a bilingual client service director by the end of 2009. This would allow us to be open daily for walk-ins and allow women to have the opportunity to choose the true free choice: life.

Call Diane Hanson for more information: 239-657-2016.

Give thanks to God for...

- The Hope Lutheran Foundation
- His perfect timing, providing what is needed at the right time.

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Pray for...

- The Selle family as they are coping with the death of Pastor Robert Selle's father

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