



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

March 2005, Newsletter #85

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

## Outreach to Farm Workers

About fifty farm workers, gardeners and grounds keepers along with their families recently gathered at our Kingston Amigos Center in Bonita Springs to receive vital information on handling pesticides safely. Instead of our regular Tuesday evening Bible study we invited staff from The Farmworker Association of Florida to offer the training session. Farmworker Association staff from Homestead, Pearson and Immokalee used drama and picture charts to explain the symptoms and dangers of pesticide poisoning. Participants received certification in handling pesticides.

## New Staff Training

During February Eulalia "Lala" Troncoso, our new Immigration Specialist Trainee, participated in a special training course in Harlingen, Texas. The course, offering a survey of Immigration Laws is aimed at staff who are new to the practice of immigration law. Topics covered included: Grounds of Inadmissibility, Affidavits of Support, Immigrating through Marriage, 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Protections, Defenses to Removal, The Violence Against Women Act, Naturalization and Board of Immigration Appeals Accreditation. Fifty people participated in this training seminar sponsored by Catholic Charities.

## Fundraising Banquet 2005

You can show your support for our Amigos Center social service ministry by coming to our Second Annual Fundraising Banquet. The event will be held at 7 PM on Friday, March 18 in the Robert F. Anderson Athletic Center, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Fort Myers.

Mr. John Bulger, District Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our banquet.



Cantina Laredo will provide the food. Fox 4 News Reporter Vivian Vedel and David Plazas Editor of the Gazeta Tropical will serve as co-Master of Ceremonies.

Individual tickets (\$30 each) or an entire table of eight are now available. Call Pastor Bob Selle (239) 437-6727 for information.

## Preachers in Training

While Pastor Selle travels to Santiago, Dominican Republic the last weekend of February his preaching duties and worship responsibilities will be filled by Henry Rodriguez of St. Michael's Lutheran. Henry is one of our theology students in training. LCMS Chaplain Bill Miller and Pastor Selle are training three Hispanic church members to assume preaching and worship leader responsibilities.

While in Santiago, Pastor Selle will perform the marriage ceremony of Ellen Hernandez Pascasio, daughter of Diamela Pascasio. Ellen teaches in the school supported by our mission work while her mother, Diamela, is the founder and Director of the school.

## Thrivent Grant

We are pleased to announce that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has awarded us \$28,000 over a two-year period to help with our expansion into the Golden Gate community of Collier County. This project will help us provide the tools necessary to succeed in this county to the growing immigrant population of Collier County.

## Give thanks to God for . . .

- People like Henry Rodriguez and Eulalia Troncoso who are willing to serve others.
- Partners like Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

## Pray for . . .

- Marriage of Ellen and her fiancé Isai

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