



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

April 2005, Newsletter #86

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

## Easter Baptisms

When Rogelio arrived from Cuba to begin a new life twenty-five years ago the last thing on his mind was beginning a new life in Christ. However, this Easter that is exactly what he will be doing along two of his daughters, Victoria and America Paz. On Easter Day our Amigos en Cristo Church, Bonita Springs will welcome Rogelio and his family to a new life in Christ through the waters of Baptism.

## New Amigos Office Opens

April 21 marks the beginning of a new phase of ministry for our Amigos Center. This is the day we open our first office in Collier County. Messiah Lutheran Church in Golden Gate will host our newest social service center. We will teach English, provide legal immigration services and offer other tools for success in the United States. First generation Hispanic immigrants have skyrocketed to 37% of the Golden Gate population.

## English Tutors Trained

Thanks to the Bonita Literacy Council our Amigos Center English tutors are becoming better trained and more confident. Andrea Smith is the reason. She has served as a volunteer English teacher for both organizations for several years. So she was a natural bridge between the need of the Amigos Center and the expertise of the Literacy Council. Andrea received special training from the Literacy Council so that she could train other tutors. So far this year she has trained eight Amigos Center volunteer teachers to use the Laubach curriculum.

## New Language Director

Our new volunteer language director is Kathy Donlan. She is a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church where she formerly served as the director of the Board of Human Care. Kathy is a retired elementary school teacher with experience as an adult literacy teacher. As director of the Amigos

Center Language program Kathy is responsible for overseeing recruitment, training and support of our English and our Spanish tutors. She also coordinates publicity for our classes and registration of students. Thank you Kathy!

## Fundraising Banquet 2005

Thank you to all who contributed your time and/or treasure to our Second Annual Amigos Center Fundraising Banquet. It is encouraging to see hundreds of you turning out to show your support.

Fox 4 News featured a special segment on a Colombian family and how the Amigos Center contributed to their new life in the United States. The family fled Colombia after receiving death threats from guerrilla groups.

## LCMS World Relief: Ablaze

Amigos en Cristo has received a grant of \$10,000 from World Relief of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The grant is intended to support our efforts to minister to the Hispanic immigrant community through both word and deed. This grant was made possible by **Ablaze!** - a global Lutheran mission movement to share the Good News of Jesus.



## Thrivent Matching Gift

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match your gift to the Amigos Center if you are a Thrivent member. For more info go to: [www.thrivent.com/fraternal/churchcommunity/givingplus.html](http://www.thrivent.com/fraternal/churchcommunity/givingplus.html).

## Give thanks to God for . . .

- Our new Golden Gate Amigos Center;
- Our new English tutors

## Pray for . . .

- Rogelio and his daughters Victoria and America Paz as they begin a new life in Christ.