



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org

Hurricane Wilma Recovery

The initial phase of our hurricane recovery efforts have resulted in having served 189 families with a total of 695 people (78% Mexican). Total money spent on direct relief aid has totaled \$13, 689. We are now planning phase 2. Phase 2 efforts are intended to minimize the pending crisis for migrant workers who are coming from fields up North to work in Southwest Florida. Because Hurricane Wilma destroyed area farm crops, no work will be available until about February 1 creating a severe hardship for these workers. We expect to help 200 families with, on average, \$100 in gift cards from Walmart. This together with donated food and clothing will help them subsist until work in the fields resumes. We are working with local packing plant management to design a way to assess and meet the needs of their migrant workforce. Their management has decided to forgo the normal room & bed charge at their 900 bed migrant camp during this interim period. We anticipate helping about 200 farm worker families, representing about 800 people. The United Way of Lee County along with other individuals and local churches have promised increased funding to meet this need. Our phase two relief efforts with migrant workers will begin in January. It is felt that January will be a particularly difficult time for migrant workers since the media attention and charitable efforts of the public typically subside once the holiday season has passed.



Wheat Ridge Partnership

Wheat Ridge Ministries has awarded Amigos en Cristo a grant of \$30,000 to be distributed over 36 months. Eight grants totaling \$235,000 were awarded nationwide. Wheat Ridge Ministries (originally the Wheat Ridge Foundation) is recognized throughout the world as an independent Lutheran charitable organization that provides support for new church-related health and hope ministries in pursuit of its mission – “Lutherans



seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ.” Over 100 ministries are currently receiving assistance through Wheat Ridge funding. For more information visit www.wheatridge.org

Rising to the Challenge

Thank you to all those who have already sent in their end of year donation. So far we have received over \$10,900 for our general operating budget. This more than matched the \$10,000 challenge grant we received. Amigos en Cristo and Amigos Center (our social service agency) depend on your generosity to help us achieve our ministry plans. One of our immigration clients sent a \$500 gift. He said he and his family were very happy with the service we provided his American son who applied for residency for his Peruvian wife.

Sarah Says....

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7, NKJV)

The Christmas season is a wonderful time to see people graciously and joyfully give to others. It has been a blessing to be a part of a few giving programs this season and to see the happiness and joy that it brings to those who receive those gifts and the joy of those who give. Thank you to all that have participated in our children’s gift program this Christmas, allowing us to serve 450 children.

May the joy of giving and receiving continue on into the new year as we continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior and the new life we have through Him.

Give thanks to God for . . .

- Our friends who provide the financial support we need.

Pray for . . .

- Ongoing hurricane recovery efforts.