

Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org

Immokalee Lutheran Mission

What do a Rural Health Clinic and a Lutheran mission church have in common? Answer: Immokalee. Immokalee, a SW Florida agricultural town with a year around population of 22,000 plus an additional 18,000 migrant farm workers is facing a crisis in medical care. Immokalee has been declared a Medically Underserved Area by the State of Florida. According to Nancy Frees, Immokalee Health Center Administrator for the Collier County Health Department, there are only two doctors who have a private practice in Immokalee. We are working with one of them to establish a pediatric Rural Health Clinic (RHC) at our proposed mission site. There is only one other RHC in this underserved community. We need your help. We still need \$162,000 for this mission project.

Banquet Results

We set an all-time attendance record of 248 people at our recent Third Annual Amigos Center Fundraising Banquet. President Kieshnick, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, was a special invited guest. He spoke briefly about the ABLAZE mission initiative of our church body. Our keynote speaker, Mr. Doug Molloy, Chief Assistant U.S. District Attorney, spoke powerfully about the issue of Human Trafficking in SW Florida. Christina Leddin, an Amigos Center Immigration Specialist was our honoree for the event. Local immigration attorney Josephine Gagliardi made the award presentation on behalf of the Amigos Center board and staff. We had a net profit of \$23,255 with expenses of \$4,002. Visit our website for pictures and see who our sponsors were, www.amigoscenter.org

Summer Interns

We are looking forward to receiving two summer interns this year. One is a Deaconess student at Concordia University River Forest, IL. The other is a student at Winona State University, MN. Both have extensive Spanish language studies and are looking for a way to practice their language skills

and put their university studies into practice. We will use them to help organize a "Camp Noah" for children affected by Hurricane Wilma in Immokalee. This is a special 5-day camp presented by Lutheran Disaster Response. Both interns will also help with a special summer program for the kids in the neighborhood of our Kingston Amigos Center in Bonita Springs. While here they will live with Hispanic families from our church. I think this will be as close to a total immersion experience as we can provide while still in the United States.

Sarah Says...

God has been blessing our ministry with a lot of growth and prosperity, thanks to the prayer support and financial help from friends like you.

- We are starting a first communion class at Iglesia San Miguel, Fort Myers
- Our LWML Latina group is hosting the Priscilla Zone Rally.
- In May we will visit the Holy Land Experience in Orlando.
- During Holy Week, we held a Seder dinner in Bonita Springs with over 35 people.
- The after-school program in Kingston is one of our newest efforts to provide a safe place and aid to the children there who often come home from school with no parents to supervise them. Martina Ramos, a woman who lives in the labor camp, will work with the program.
- The Amigos en Cristo Church, Bonita Springs, installed Rodolfo Periera as chaplain of our Kingston Amigos Center after-school program.

Call Sarah Paganas to help (239) 784-8474.

Give thanks to God for . . .

- A successful fundraising banquet.

Pray for . . .

- Needed funding for the new mission start-up in Immokalee.
- The leadership of Rodolfo and Martina with our new after-school program.