



Amigos en Cristo

Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



English in Immokalee

By: Spencer Greenlee, Service Director

In a community where 78% of the population speaks a language other than English in the home, the need for English tutoring is great. A trend we are seeing is that children are learning English in school while the parents often have a harder time learning, thus creating a communication breakdown in the home as time goes by. Our recent goal has been to target mothers to help prevent this breakdown by providing English classes every day at 10am. They can bring the children who are not old enough for school to play in a kids corner set up in the computer lab. Often illiterate in their own language, the use of pictures and audio computer programs in a one-on-one or small group setting is very helpful. My wife and I have struggled to learn a new language and that is with the benefit of an education. We can't imagine how much harder it would be with the additional obstacle of illiteracy. I'm continually amazed at the strength and courage shown by these students every day. Though the journey is slow, we are seeing progress and hope to make a difference in their lives, and the lives of their children.

Undie Sunday at Peace Lutheran

Recently, Peace Lutheran in Naples hosted "Undie Sunday" in an effort to collect much needed basics for families in Immokalee. Because of their efforts, 141 pairs of socks, 282 pair of underwear, 39 undershirts, and 21 pairs of shoes were donated to Amigos en Cristo. These donations are directly benefiting children in Immokalee and were received with great joy and thanksgiving!

Baptism and First Communion

By: Sarah Willig

In September, we are conducting a Baptismal class for a family with 5 children in Immokalee. We are excited to welcome these children into the family of God!

In October in Bonita Springs, we will be having a first communion class for children 7-11 years old. This is a wonderful tradition for families and we are thankful to be able to teach the children about this special sacrament of our faith.

Educational Health Events

Parish Nurse Sheila Morales will be leading two educational talks about the detection of High Blood Pressure and Diabetes following the Spanish church services at Hope Lutheran October 11th and 25th. The National Alliance for Hispanic Health found that Hispanic Americans have the highest percentage rate for high blood pressure out of all other ethnic groups. In addition, 10.4% of Hispanics over the age of 20 have been diagnosed with diabetes. A scan conducted by Sheila of our congregation returned similar findings prompting these events. We are blessed to have Sheila as a part of our team as she continually reaches out to the community with pertinent.

Celebration of Cultures

This First Annual Celebration of Cultures will be a rich and festive three-day community fiesta to celebrate the patchwork quilt Florida has become. The festival takes place in Immokalee at Airport Park on Highway 29 on September 18th, 19th and 20th. Amigos Center will have a booth at the festival with games for the children so come out and join us for music, crafts, ethnic food, cultural dances and more! There is a parade Friday night at 6pm and Saturday and Sunday at noon start such activities as the chili contest and art exhibit. If you've never had a chance to visit Immokalee, this would be a great time!

Upcoming Events

- Immokalee Culture Event, Sept. 18-20
- Diaper Drive
- Tour of Immokalee Center – October 13th, 11am
- Tour of Bonita Springs Center – October 8th, 9am

Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for a successful vacation Bible school

- Praise God for generosity from the fall food drive
- Praise God for His infinite wisdom and grace
- Pray for Sheila and her upcoming educational talks
- Pray for Pastor Selle and the Amigos staff
- Pray for all those coming to Amigos Center, that they would see the love of Christ and connect into a deeper relationship with Him.