

# Open Arms Hispanic Ministry

*Seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs  
of immigrants in Wayne and Holmes counties*



**Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by  
so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels  
without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2**

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Families Retreat

On the weekend of June 16-18 Hispanic families came together at Camp Luz, 42 children, 102 youth and adults. Families came from churches of Western Ohio, Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster and Iglesia Cristiana of Columbus, Ohio. Local Hispanics appreciated getting acquainted with Hispanic Mennonites from other Ohio churches. Meal times were the best times to sit around tables to eat and to make new acquaintances. All appreciated the well prepared meals prepare by the camp cooks. Especially appreciated was the one of frijoles (beans) and tortillas.

The topic chosen for the weekend was "PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU." (John 14:27). Two main messages by Pastor Rafael Barahona dealt with "Peace in the home" and "Peace in the church". The adults were divided into small groups to discuss these topics and talk about what this truth means for our Hispanic homes and churches. The adults had their sessions in Spanish while all the children and youth activities were in English. All the groups had Bible studies plus boating, swimming (in new pool) and organized games.

Everywhere we looked we saw blue t-shirts. Most of those who assisted wore T shirts with the logo "MY PEACE I LEAVE YOU" (in Spanish). Many families spoke of staying up very late. The women talked while the while the boys and men played soccer and basketball, often into the morning hours.

One highlight of the retreat was, when in a worship service, persons responded to an invitation to commit their lives to Christ or renew their commitments. A good number of persons went forward for prayer. Everyone left the camp revived and encouraged saying "Esperamos vernos en 2018" (we hope to see you in 2018).



## SSTT Volunteer

Open Arms is blessed with a volunteer this summer to assist with the Tia-Tío Program. Talia Miller, a recent graduate of Central Christian High School, is participating in Goshen College's Study-Service Theology Term. As part of the program, she spent two and a half week in Guatemala and now must complete forty hours of voluntary service in a religious-based organization in her home community. Talia will work with young children from several Hispanic families on basic reading skills. Thank you Talia for choosing Open Arms!



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**Executive  
Director:**  
Haroldo Nunes

## Why Do I Support Open Arms Hispanic Ministry?

We have chosen to be Amigo supporters for Open Arms because we believe in what Open Arms is doing for the Hispanics in our area. It is a mission that we like to support. We know they have many needs, such as someone to translate, someone to help them find work, places to live, transportation, medical and legal issues, and spiritual needs. We know this keeps Haroldo very busy! We have had the opportunity to get to know some of the Hispanic families very well and consider them our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We find them to be hard-working, loving, people who are trying to provide for their families. We also believe that in loving and helping them we are doing what Jesus would do.



Stan & Shirley Ross

## From the Executive Director's Desk

Hola a todos ustedes! (Hello everyone!)

God is active through our ministry at Open Arms. I would like to keep you informed on how your contributions are making a difference in the life of our Hispanic sisters and brothers. Here are some of our highlights:

- We are thankful that we were able to double the number of our Amigos in 2016. Amigos of Open Arms are individuals and businesses that have committed to annually supporting the ministry with a gift of \$1000 or more. The faithful giving of Amigos helps our ministry to become more sustainable and helps us reach our goals for good stewardship of our finances.
- We had great turnout for our Quinceañera celebration, the 15 year birthday celebration of the Open Arms ministry. We had a lot of fun, great Mexican food, a Mariachi band from Columbus that played Mexican music as we ate and had excellent fellowship. This fundraiser provided much financial support. This was also an opportunity for people who support our ministry to meet our Open Arms committee members.
- We assist Hispanics with referrals, taking them to immigration lawyers and helping them to check in with immigration authorities. We accompany them to courts. We are saddened as we see a lot of hard working parents being separated from their American children.
- We regularly assist immigrants in their personal needs, such as making appointments and taking them to doctors and dentist visits, helping children to enroll at schools, and helping them with various health related issues. A new challenge is to find apartments in the Orrville area for new arrivals. Rentals have gotten scarce.
- We continue to partner with the Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster. Recently we had three Hispanics that accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We will have a baptism for them soon. All the glory is to God!

As a director of Open Arms, I would like to thank you all for your prayers, your partnership and your financial support. Without you, we could not be a light and hope in the life of our Hispanic brothers and sisters!

Thank you very much!!!

Pastor Haroldo Nunes



**For more information or to partner in this ministry to area Hispanics contact:**

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**Make Checks Payable To:**

**Open Arms**

**Thanks for your prayers and support!**

