

Open Arms Hispanic Ministry

Seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County and surrounding areas



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

Immigration Detainee Care Kits For Our Southern Border

This fall, Open Arms was blessed to organize collections toward the national MCC immigration detainee care kit drive. You can read more about the drive-in Raul Tadeo's article.:

For nearly 100 years, MCC has been walking alongside and offering relief to those who are hungry and without clothing or water. Today MCC is actively working to support people who are seeking a better life for themselves and their families by migrating to the U.S.

Recently MCC has started collecting IMMIGRATION DETAINEE CARE KITS to provide clothes and basic human needs for men, women and children seeking refuge and who have been detained by U.S. Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). When immigrants are released, after days, weeks, or months of detention, they are released with nothing but the clothes they have traveled with and often shoes without shoelaces, and the hope of being reunited with some family member to meet them at their destination. The kits provide individuals with a glimmer of hope that the journey they have endured is worth it and gives them back dignity that they have lost in the process of being in the hands of our government detention system. The kits include hygiene items and clothing.

MCC is partnering with the South Texas Response Teams, a group of local pastors working with a number of religious organizations, to distribute kits to people as they leave detention and are taken to bus stations or airports to reconnect with the families.

Open Arms Hispanic Ministries, led by Haroldo Nunes, Executive Director, sponsored an event for the collecting Kits. Churches, from Wayne and Holmes Counties, of Ohio, were invited to join together for the assembling of the kits. On the



evening of October 2, approximately 120 people came together at the Orrville Mennonite church, Orrville, Ohio. A good number of youth and adults from various area churches came to help complete the kits.

Kathy Troyer did a great job in organizing the work that needed to be done to complete the kits. Several work stations, tables with hygiene items and clothing of various sizes, were set up throughout the church. These were manned by Open Arms board members, helping in the assembly process. Several youth groups participated in the assembling process, plus a good number of adults. There was an attendance of 120 people present.

When the kits were all assembled and ready for shipment, they were carried out the door and onto the MCC truck where they were placed in the shipping boxes and packed for shipment. The amount of kits completed was approximately 175. A local business, P Graham Dunn, offered to ship the kits and pay for the freight charges.

Kits' contents, as well as financial donations for kit items, were given by 17 participating Churches and church members. The total given was close to \$1,500.00 in cash.

Executive Director:
Haroldo Nunes

Coordinator:
Raul Tadeo

Open Arms Board of Directors:
Dan King
Douglas Zehr
Cheryl Weiss
Kelly Troyer
Denver Steiner
Kathy Troyer
Jim Bay

Board Advisory:
Thomas Dunn
Chad Lehman

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

Open Arms 330-933-9376
openarmshispanicministry.org
Thanks for your prayers and support!

Update your Newsletter Preferences:

Are you receiving duplicate copies or would prefer a digital edition? To update your newsletter preferences, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/OpenArmsNews>



From the Desk of the Director



My sisters and brothers, I thank God for you and your support of Open Arms. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve and help with the spiritual and material needs of Hispanic immigrants in our area.

My wife Esmirna and I have been busy helping people with immigration lawyers, school meetings, doctor's appointments, court appearances and so on. This is a time of suffering and uncertainty for our Hispanic sisters and brothers in the United States. We are seeing people that have not been able to work for months now because of the stricter enforcement at the meat processing plants and other work sites that are major sources of employment for our Hispanic immigrants. The biggest problem now for these companies is that employers are finding very few Americans to hire for many of the jobs that the immigrant workforce does, which affects their stability and hurts the general economy. Raids are still occurring at work sites, causing fear, confusion, and in some cases taking people to the edge of committing suicide. Employers are hoping for assistance with their immigrant workforce at this unstable time for both employer and employees, and I am happy to report that I have been able to be of service locally.

I'm helping a company in Wooster with a workforce that is more than 50% Hispanic. They started a program to assist their employees with problems that can reduce their performance at work. We are also working with two other organizations that are supporting their Anglo workforce as well. This is a dream that we have had for some time that God is helping us to accomplish!

We are also working to strengthen our partnership with OHuddle. I started a mentorship relationship with a Hispanic boy whose family I've been helping with employment, Medicaid and other needs. One of our Board members will also begin tutoring in mid-October through our partnership. We are trying to recruit more volunteers that will be able to

help ESL (English as Second Language) students at Orrville Jr. High and High School.

In addition, I hope we can be working to fortify the partnership with Living Water and their ministry in the Massillon area to work together to support our Hispanic sisters and brothers with their needs and challenges in Stark County. Unhappily, a good number of people moved from the area because Freshmark laid off many Hispanic employees.

On October 13th, we held our fall fundraiser, "Songs and Salsa." The event was well attended, and the donations raised toward our ministry showed the generosity of people sharing God's love with their support of Open Arms Hispanic Ministry.

Soon we will start to plan the 17th Hispanic Family Retreat, which will take place at Camp Luz, June 12-14th 2020. Please pray for this important event for Ohio's Hispanic families.

Thanks to the Holy Spirit that is empowering our work and the Creator that is giving us guidance, love, courage, gifts and talents to build together, the Kingdom of God in Earth.

Thanks for your contribution! Please keep praying, supporting, helping and loving our Hispanic sisters and brothers, giving them hope!

May the peace of God be with you! Blessings!

Pastor Haroldo Nunes



Why Do I Support Open Arms Hispanic Ministry as an Amigo?

My familiarity with Open Arms began when several of our churches began meeting together. We became familiar with some of the local Spanish speaking immigrants by playing soccer with parents and kids and friendships with them began to develop. Prior to this time, these people were invisible to me. I would see people who looked to be from Latin America, but generally gave it no second thought. At the beginning of my contact, I looked at them as a different group of "other" people. As time passed, I started to learn to know them as individuals.... As I learned stories (about) the ministries of Open Arms, including Bible studies, commitments to Christ and new passions for faith, I started to get a feel for what was happening.... As I began to know more of the new immigrant workers, it was always nice to know that I had resources through Open Arms to whom I could connect them.

One story that I have told numerous times is when my daughter and I went to play pickup soccer in the evening with some local Mexican players. They invited her (not me, of course) to join them at a Sunday Hispanic league game. We were a bit apprehensive because this was a serious league but we were shown incredible hospitality. One Mexican man named Jr. said "you are our guest, you go to the taco truck and

get whatever you want, we are paying." They gave her a team shirt, socks and had her play with them. Never have we been so humbled. Gestures like these show you who is the good Samaritan. We learned much that day.

Last winter our family accepted a Congolese refugee into our home for a few months. This man had a very similar and difficult immigration story. Learning of the difficult process, then angst, the waiting, and the helplessness that the system imposes, I developed a new understanding and a bit of empathy for the immigrant. The question, "when did I see you hungry?" is haunting. Just walking with him through the challenges of the legal system, attempting to get a work permit and the threat of deportation was a wake-up call to the emotional stress that people new to a country must face.

We support Open Arms because we know the people involved. We know others who support Open Arms and we know that our donated dollars are stretched. We know people who have been helped and we know people who may be helped in the future. I would encourage you to share from your abundance with those who have less.



~Keith Hostetler