



### Open Arms Founder Retires

Raul Tadeo was one of several visionaries who, in July 2001, called a meeting with representatives from thirteen churches in Wayne County to discuss how best to reach out to the growing number of Spanish-speaking immigrants who were moving into the area. From that meeting, Open Arms Hispanic Ministries was formed, with Raul as the first paid staff person. Along with pastoring at Salem Mennonite Church, Raul and his wife Vanita began to share God’s welcoming love with immigrants in many ways, such as translating paperwork, interpreting at medical offices, providing rides to appointments, and praying with hospital patients. When Raul and Vanita moved into an independent living duplex at Orrvilla Retirement Community in June 2019, Raul built an office in one corner of his garage so he could continue to minister via his computer and phone. When asked about retirement, he asked, “What else would I do?”

Over the last several months, Vanita has struggled with severe back pain and has needed more assistance in her daily routines. Raul has decided



to focus his attention on his wife and has given notice of his retirement as of Sept 7, 2021. Words cannot express sufficiently the gratitude and love that the Open Arms board and staff have for the Tadeos. We wish them God’s richest blessings in the next step of their journey.

**- Haroldo Nunes**

### Successful Summer “Fellowship Fiesta” Picnic

In February of this year, Open Arms began to plan for an event of fellowship and support in the summer, hoping that COVID-19 restrictions would allow for such a time by July. We knew we had to stress safety for the good of all. What we decided upon was a summer boxed-meal picnic, and we were then blessed with the offer from Oak Grove Mennonite Church to use their beautiful picnic area with donated huge tent, tables and chairs for our event this past July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Haroldo had arranged for music from a lively, inspiring local Mariachi group for entertainment. The mix of delicious boxed meals, fellowship, wonderful live music, sharing of Open Arms highlights, and recognition of tutors by their students made for a joyous, congenial afternoon after so many months of not being able to meet in person in large groups. Open Arms was blessed with gener-



ous individual gifts and sponsorship by a number of faithful businesses with net total of approximately \$7,800 for the picnic. Thanks, and God’s blessings to all of you (over 150 in attendance) who supported us on this memorable day.

## From the Desk of the Director



*"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right".*

**James 2:8 (NIV)**

Dear sisters and brothers,  
It is with happiness and gratitude that I'm writing this report today. I feel that the ministry of Open Arms is responding to our mission to: *"Seek to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Hispanic immigrants in*

*Wayne County and surrounding areas."* As you already know, we are living in difficult times, where we are experiencing a spike in the cases of Covid-19 pandemic and the problems with asylees at the Southern border.

In the last three months I have been busy helping families with different school matters, doctors and dentist appointments, and their needs with the tutoring program. I have also been taking people to immigration lawyers, being an

advocate for Hispanics in our community. In addition, I'm helping to get State ID's and drivers' licenses and assisting families to register their children for the new school year. In addition, we are working in our tutoring program, which is helping Hispanic students to not get behind in school. I feel blessed that our Savior and Lord equipped me to the task that I'm doing with the Ministry, trying to follow His purpose for my life. Thanks be to the Lord!

We have been blessed again, to have had a good gathering in the Summer with our picnic at Oak Grove Church in Smithville. Now, we are planning already our Fall event that will take place Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Salem Mennonite Church in Kidron, featuring "Renacer", a group that plays music from the Andes.

It is so good to see God at work in many ways and in many lives through a small but dedicated group of staff, volunteers and a good number of devoted donors.

Thanks so much for your love and compassion for our Hispanic sisters and brothers! In Christ's Love!



**Open Arms  
Hispanic  
Ministries**

*Brazos Abiertos*

**Sharing God's love by  
meeting needs of  
Hispanic immigrants in  
Wayne Co., Ohio, and  
surrounding areas**

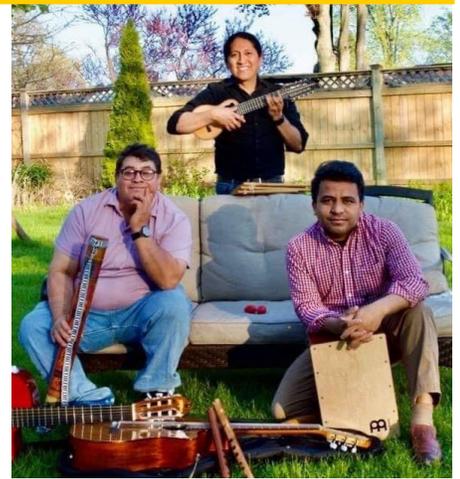
**Join Us For:  
Songs & Salsa**



*Tortilla chips served with a variety of  
flavorful salsas and dips*

**Sunday October 10,  
2021 at 6pm**

Salem Mennonite Church  
3363 Zuercher Rd Dalton, OH



**Music provided by Renacer  
of Goshen, IN**

*Free will offering benefits  
Open Arms Hispanic Ministries*

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**Open Arms  
Hispanic Ministries**

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