



From the Desk of the Director

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations”. Psalm 100:4-5 (NIV)

Dear sisters and brothers,

It is with happiness and gratitude that I’m writing this report today. One year after my successful prostate surgery, I thank God for his faithfulness. Also, after four months of my diet, I was able to reach my goal losing more than 35 pounds while continuing to exercise and eat healthier. Also, in my yearly physical I was able to see the results of a hard work. My cholesterol was down by 50, my blood pressure is better and I’m feeling really well. Every day and especially at this Thanksgiving Day, I want to shout out that God is good and praise him all of my days!

Every morning, when I start my day, I try to follow Jesus’ steps with our mission: *“Seek to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County and surrounding areas.”* I have been busy going back and forth in the last two months helping people with their needs. A lot of people are having health needs, and I had been able to help them with appointments in different specialties. I can see how God is using the ministry to assist and support our Hispanic sisters and brothers. I asked a family how Open Arms is helping them with their material and spiritual

needs. This is what they said:

“My family is very grateful to God and to the ministry... I do not have words how to describe the great love that Open Arms is giving to my family and the other migrants that are being served through the ministry. We are grateful for the help with the tutoring for our kids and everything that we are able to be helped with, like appointments at the BMV, work related issues, housing and so on. We are very grateful to everyone that welcomed us and have love and compassion for our family!”

Another accomplishment is that an adult that received driving classes from a volunteer, was able to get her driver’s license. At this point, our volunteer was able to teach three people, but just one took the driving test at this point. Praise the Lord for that!

Our tutoring program is going well. I’m happy to see kids learning more and be able to feel more confident in themselves. I feel grateful for our tutors and what they are doing to help those Hispanic children from Orrville, Smithville and Dalton schools.

In addition, I’m working with People to People and the Orrville Salvation Army to enroll children to participate in their Christmas programs. We have a good number of families that will take advantage of their programs in addition to the families receiving a box of food for the Holidays. Thanks be to the Lord!

It is so good to see God at work in many ways and in many lives through a small but dedicated group of Open Arms 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! Pastor Haroldo Nunes, Executive Director

Thanking God for a Good Year— Dan King, OA Board Chair

In spite of the limitations and uncertainties brought about by the ongoing pandemic, it has been a positive and eventful year for Open Arms Hispanic Ministries. Following are a few highlights:



Our **tutoring program** continues to support 6 elementary students and 3 middle school students from five Hispanic families. Tutors meet with their students weekly at the local library or the Breakaway building in Smithville. Also, we have assisted 4 preschoolers from these families to enroll in Headstart or early childhood education programs to help them learn English and be better prepared for Kindergarten. Our students are making great progress and appreciate the support and friendship they receive from their tutors.

“Fellowship Fiesta” summer picnic at Oak Grove Mennonite Church. Under a large tent, sheltering participants from rainy, windy weather, over 150 people enjoyed boxed picnic meals and the delightful sounds of a Mariachi band. Also featured were 13 students and their tutors involved in our new summer tutoring program.

Songs and Salsa event at Salem Mennonite Church on October 10 featured a wide variety of homemade salsas and chips, along with “sounds of the Andes” by the music group “Renacer” from Goshen,

Indiana. Also that evening, Raul and Vanita Tadeo, now retired, were honored for twenty years of selfless ministry to Hispanics. Words of appreciation and the presentation of a plaque resulted in a standing ovation to express gratitude and love to them.

Three new board members - Open Arms is blessed in receiving the following new members this year: Gloria Miller, Nate Scott, and Ken Neuenschwander.

New hire – Kelsey Hilty Troyer joined the OA team this month as our new Administrative Assistant. She will work primarily from home and will set aside one morning each week in the office.

Solid financial giving - Despite the economic uncertainties created by Covid 19, giving to Open Arms has remained strong, whether from individuals or churches. About 25 donors in our “Amigos” program (those who commit to \$1,000+ yearly) help to provide a solid financial foundation. In turn, we have disbursed over \$13,000.00 from our Compassion Fund to Hispanics to help them meet a variety of needs.

We are grateful to all who support and pray for Open Arm’s ministry. Most of all we are grateful to God for providing all that we need to “share God’s love with Hispanic immigrants” in our part of the world.

Welcome Board Member, Nate Scott

My name is Nate Scott and it has been my privilege to have begun serving on the Open Arms board this year. We have a great team and I believe that the ministry has a bright future! I am a follower of Jesus, the husband of Liz and the father of Ava, Harper, Sara and Will. I enjoy basketball, campfires and dinners with neighbors. My perfect day would end in a bustling restaurant with great food and a table filled with people I love.

I'm originally from south-central Pennsylvania and have lived with my family in Wooster, Liz's hometown, for the past 7 years. She and I met at Penn State University, got married a week after graduation, then spent almost 7 years in Baltimore, MD before moving to Wooster. My adult life has been marked by the intersection -- and, sometimes, tension -- of faith and work. I was a full-time Young Life volunteer leader during my time at Penn State; I led an HIV/AIDS initiative and a 20's and 30's "small group" of 25 through my local church in Baltimore while working full-time for a landscape architecture and planning firm; our move to Wooster was motivated by a call to plant a church focused on everyday

discipleship for which I have been a bi-vocational pastor. My connection to Open Arms was established in this intersection of faith and work. I met Haroldo, our executive director, in my human resources role at a local manufacturing company in Wooster. We began a "supportive employment program" designed to assist employees with non-work-related issues like financial management, substance abuse, transportation limitations and challenges associated with immigration and language barriers. Roughly 40% of our workforce at the time were Hispanic, originating from countries across Central America. Haroldo was brought in to offer services to these Hispanics and we enjoyed a time of getting to know one another and, in turn, me learning about Open Arms.

I believe that my experience illustrates my ability to initiate, manage and grow meaningful work, and I am passionate about helping the ministry successfully navigate the many opportunities to deepen our impact in Wayne County and beyond.



Open Arms Hispanic Ministries

Brazos Abiertos

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



Welcome, Kelsey

Kelsey Hilty Troyer has joined Open Arms as the new administrative assistant. Kelsey takes on the role with a background in administrative experience, as she is also the admin for both Crown Hill and Oak Grove Mennonite Church. In addition, Kelsey has served on Ohio Mennonite Conference's Immigration Resource Team and was the coordinator for the former East Central Ohio Sanctuary Network. She lives in Dalton with her husband, Ben, and their six-month-old son, Murphy.

The Open Arms board and staff are looking forward to a day-long retreat on December 11. The group appreciates your prayers, as we spend the day reflecting on the work of Open Arms and visioning/planning for the future.

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**Open Arms
Hispanic Ministries**

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