



Summer Camp 2023!

By Cheryl Weiss, Volunteer

After the successful 2022-23 academic year Open Arms tutoring program for Latino elementary and middle-school students in the Smithville, Orrville, and Dalton schools, we held the Summer Kid's Camp for them and others at Orrville Mennonite Church each Wednesday in June and July from 9:00 am to 2:30 p.m. The Camp, with 32 children from four to sixteen years of age and with twenty-five volunteers, was enriching and fun for all, with days filled with opportunities to keep speaking English while improving reading and writing skills, building friendships, and enjoying a variety of activities.



The younger students participated in fun language, music, and arts projects with time for play factored in, while the older students honed their reading skills and also had fun in cooking classes, drama productions and personal-growth sessions, still with time for games and recreation. Open Arms extends a huge "thank you" for the generous time given by all our volunteers: group leaders, "reading buddies," class assistants, recreation leaders and meal and transportation providers. Kid's Camp concluded with a pool party and lunch at Camp Luz for all students, their families, and volunteers. This party was a great time of fellowship and fun for all.



Final plans are underway for the Tutoring Program's 2023-2024 academic year, with a big "Welcome" to Open Arms' new Education Coordinator, Seneca Bowers. At this point, there are twenty-three students with tutors, but new referrals come in all the time. The program continues to depend on its dedicated tutors, each working one-on-one with an assigned student once or twice a week. We continue to receive new referrals for Latino students with reading or math struggles and also for students new to the area with limited or no English-language skills, so we are always looking for additional tutors. Interested persons can call the Open Arms Office at 330-765-9955. Seneca will get back in touch with you to provide further information.

It is a joy to share God's love by working with the students we tutor.



Meet Our New Staff!



Pablo Delgado *Executive Director*

I'm very honored and thankful to take the position of the Executive Director of Open Arms. Open Arms is an amazing organization and ministry, we see Latino immigrants not through a political lens, but through a biblical lens, we are called to love everyone equally and approach their needs with understanding and compassion. I commit to seek God's guidance in everything, to take our vision and make a reality through ensuring that we continue to welcome and serve the Latino community, sharing Christ in everything we do, to work on the development of our Strategic Plan and to continue to maintain the great relationships that Open Arms have established.



Seneca Bowers *Education Coordinator*

I am so honored and excited to be a part of the Open Arms team! I have lived in this community my whole life, and my husband Quinn and I currently live in Dalton. We attend Living Water and volunteer with the Hispanic campus, Agua Viva. My love for Spanish began in high school where I interpreted for Hispanic students, continued in college where I completed my degree in the language, and blossoms now, as I am to use my passion to serve in my community. When I am not working, I enjoy hiking, gardening, and being outside with my family and friends.



Jennifer Hicks *Executive Assistant*

I was born and raised in Guatemala City with an American parent and closely connected with the U.S. expat community in Guatemala. This affords me the advantage of being completely bilingual. I moved away from home at the age of 19 and lived in Savannah Georgia, Lake Charles Louisiana, Los Angeles California, Roatan Honduras, and again in Guatemala before settling here in Orrville. I have three lovely children, Sofia (9), Patrick (6), and Floyd (4). When I am not working with Open Arms, I volunteer with Agua Viva church in Orrville and I homeschool my 4 children. I am so excited to be able to serve my Latino community.

STAFF: Pablo Delgado, *Executive Director*; Jennifer Hicks, *Administrative Assistant*; Seneca Bowers, *Education Coordinator*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Ken Neuenschwander, Galen Lehman, Denver Steiner, Gloria Miller, Nate Scott, Kelly Lawlis, Lynn Hamrick

Many Changes at Open Arms

By **Pablo Delgado**, Executive Director

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...He has made everything beautiful in its time. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (paraphrased)

These verses point to God allowing a season for everyone and everything. July presented several changes in the organization of Open Arms, not just in the Executive Director position. We're thankful for Kathy Troyer, who is ending her period as board member (serving as Vice Chair) and stepping down from the Tutoring Program. Thank you, Kathy, for being such a passionate ambassador, representing The Kingdom in every interaction with the kids and their families, for your creativity and organization skills and for having a genuine desire to know every child personally. Kathy is being replaced with Galen Lehman as vice chair. We're also thankful for Dan King, who served as a board chair for the last 6 years. Thank you, Dan, for your leadership but also for being in the trenches doing the work and being committed to the success of Open Arms. Ken Neuenschwander is replacing Dan as chair of the board.

We welcomed Lynne Hamrick, a new board member. Lynn is a retired nurse - over the years she has worked with patients from many countries and cultures and has developed a heart for the cares and concerns of immigrant families. She has a great passion and love for immigrants. She's a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Wooster and serves on their Immigration Social Justice Committee.

We also thank Kelsey Troyer for her time as Administrative Assistant. Her efficiency in running the administrative side of things kept the ministry operating smoothly. We pray for blessings over her family and a healthy pregnancy.



Three generations of directors. From left to right:
Pablo Delgado, Haroldo Nunes, Raul Tadeo

Save the Date! Song & Salsa

October 8th Starting at 5pm
Hosted by: Salem Mennonite of Kidron
3363 Zuercher Rd, Dalton, OH 44618

*Come Listen to a Mariachi Band
and Updates from Open Arms*



Phone: 330-765-9955 | Email: info@open-arms.us | Website: open-arms.us



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