



To the Friends & Stakeholders of Open Arms... October 15 Songs and Salsa by Gloria Miller

Friends of Open Arms gathered at Salem Mennonite Church on a Sunday evening October 15 to enjoy a Christian mariachi band, taste various salsas, dips and chips, and hear reports on the program. Tables were given Fall decorations with colorful cloths from Guatemala.

A good number of Latino families and individuals attended, and a highlight of the evening was to hear testimonials of gratitude for the ministry of Open Arms in areas such as: tutoring, counseling, medical, transportation, and documentation.



Another highlight was to meet the new 2023 staff in their current roles: Pablo Delgado as executive director; Seneca Bowers as education coordinator and community outreach; and Jennifer Hicks as administrative assistant. Board member Nate Scott told about the providential way in which the board chose Pablo Delgado for leadership.

Staff told about their sense of calling to Open Arms and some of their joys and challenges of their work. Treasurer Denver Steiner gave a financial update and expressed appreciation for the generous support given to the work.

Among the many volunteers of the evening were a dozen junior high youth from the Oak Grove Mennonite Church who assisted in the set-up and serving.

From the Executive Director: Pablo Delgado

“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)

It has been a hectic couple of months at Open Arms what with transporting families to different medical facilities, welcoming more people as they arrive to the area, helping families fill out government and school forms, signing kids up for Christmas gifts at the Salvation Army, and always running from one appointment to the next one.

In the middle of that, it has also been amazing to see families thriving in the community. They left everything behind at some point to look for a brighter future and stability. I see Latino families smiling through their challenges and difficulties, not giving up. Holding on to the One who is greater, and I see thankfulness. I see so much thankfulness, that some of the Latino men in their means give small donations to help other families. They all appreciate what Open Arms does for them.

Recently I had the opportunity to pick up Ana and her mom at Cleveland airport. It was quite emotional to see little 4-year-old Ana hugging her dad, who she hadn't seen in person since she was only a few months old, since he left to find better opportunities in the US. We also helped Lucia who has one daughter here and two

more kids in her country, she recently developed an eye infection that has prevented her from working. We've been assisting her with medical bills, warm clothes for the winter, transportation and interpretation to her doctor appointments.

We praise God for little Diana, who's surgery went great. We took her to several appointments at Akron Children's for a condition caused by damage to the nerve fibers that coordinate eye movement.

We're grateful for the great opportunity we have to share Jesus with every Latino family, regardless of status, ability to speak English, or nationality.

I speak on behalf of everyone in Open Arms when I thank you for your financial support and your prayers.

We're thankful for every tutor who selflessly provides a wonderful support to our Latino kids. We continue to reach out to our migrant brothers and sisters in need.



Ana & her mom reunited with her dad



Diana and her mom

Tutoring Program

Some of the most awe-inspiring moments during my time at Open Arms thus far have been watching the relationships between the students and their tutors develop. I have been so inspired by the dedication each tutor has to providing incredible opportunities for their students. Several of the kids had birthdays this fall, so their tutor planned a birthday party for all of the students at the library with us that day. Another student wanted to be a part of the band at school, so her tutor took time to demonstrate how to read music. While often we spend our time working on homework, or practicing reading and writing, it is incredible to watch as tutors develop engaging activities, or create crafts and projects to work on with their students. From playing word games the library has, learning how to ask a librarian how to find a specific book they want to read, planting seeds to watch them grow, or watching the lifecycle of a caterpillar then saying goodbye as the butterfly is released to fly to Mexico, there are so many adventures taking place each week and we are excited for those yet to come.

During this first half of the school year, we have added a couple new students to our program, and our grateful to the new tutors who have decided to dedicate some of their time to them. We currently have 26 students and 19 tutors, and hope to be adding more soon! The local schools have a growing population of Hispanic students, and many could use extra support to help them break down any educational barriers they may face. As part of our

mission to empower the Hispanic community, we are praying for more volunteers who are willing to walk alongside the students and partner with their educational journey.

We are very grateful for and excited about the partnership we

have with local organizations, including Orrville school's Heartland EL committee, and the Wayne County Schools Career Center. Orrville recently hosted a Health and Wellness day for their Hispanic families, and we were thrilled to be a part of this successful event. Several community organizations were present and shared information about what they do, and vaccinations were available on site. Pablo, Jen and I were all able to participate by providing interpretation at different booths, as well as having our own booth, to share the services we provide. We were able to hand out books that we had received as a donation, and the kids enjoyed picking one out to take home.

Thank you for your investment in these students, and for your interest in watching the Hispanic community in Wayne County succeed.



Tutoring students witness a butterfly release at Orrville Library

Ways to Support our Ministry:

Check: Mail checks to 1305 W Market St, Orrville, OH 44667 To the name of "Open Arms"

Online: Visit our website at open-arms.us/donate

Join our Amigo Program by making a donation of \$1000 a year. Amigos are a very important group of people who have committed to support the ongoing and growing ministry of Open Arms in a substantial way. Becoming an Amigo is knowing you have significantly assisted Open Arms to welcome, accompany, and partner with Latino immigrants in building a safe and sustainable life in our community. Please become an Amigo today!

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