



### To the Friends & Stakeholders of Open Arms...



#### By Ken Neuenschwander, OA Board Chair

As you probably know, Open Arms board and staff went through an extensive strategic planning process a couple years ago which has been invaluable to guide our steps and provide the benchmarks to measure our progress toward our goals. The plan is particularly helpful when there are staff changes.

When there is a very small staff, one personnel change is a major event for the organization and could derail the ministry. Thanks to the strength of the ministry, through the leadership Haroldo and Raul and many volunteers, as well as a strategic plan in place, Open Arms Ministries is strong and thriving. This would not be possible without our reassigned and new staff; we believe God orchestrated the set of circumstances and events that brought them together. We are amazed and thankful!

#### Denver Steiner, OA Board Treasurer

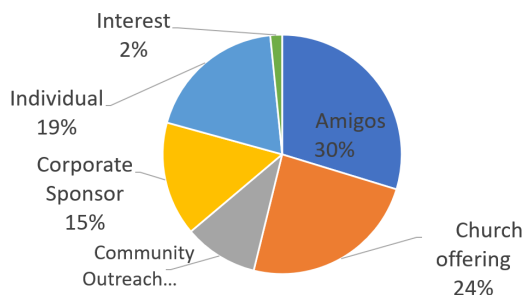
Dear Open Arm Supporters,

At the end of November, we sent out end of year financial support request, and you answered! This combined with a surprise grant from the JM Smucker Company earlier in the year, allowed us to finish 2023 strong in the black with our best giving year in recent history.

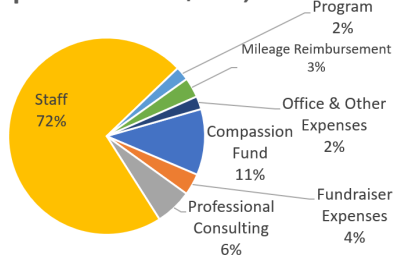
The added support in our reserves gives us the confidence, as we enter 2024, to say yes more often to compassion request for medical, legal, rent and utilities assistance to the clients we help daily. It also allows us to explore where God may be taking us next in 2024 and beyond.

Thanks again to all of you, supporters, for allowing us to welcome with open arms the immigrants that come to our community.

#### 2023 Giving Total: \$149,839



#### 2023 Expenses Total: \$138,337



Pablo, Jennifer and Seneca are a team! They each bring their own special gifts to enhance and carry out their responsibilities and they all have a passionate love for the ministry and the people with whom they work. We love their energy and endless ideas. They are expanding our outreach in the Latino community as well as the network of organizations, churches and individuals who support and assist the ministry.

New opportunities and challenges are always before the board and staff to consider. We covet your prayers as we discern where God is leading. Your prayer support is so vital as we walk with our Latino brothers and sisters. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your financial support! Our ministry is growing, requests for assistance are increasing, the tutoring program is growing which all translates into more miles to drive and staffing hours. Your prayers and financial support make it all possible! So, thank you for your continued support!

#### By Seneca Bowers, Education Coordinator

Last year ended with an exciting celebration for the tutoring program, and this year has already started off with many blessings and answers to prayer.



During the students' winter break, we celebrated a day of Christmas festivities with just over 45 students and 15 volunteers. This event was the largest "camp-esque" event that we've held thus far, thanks to a growing number of students meeting with tutors, and a large amount of support from gracious volunteers. Together we enjoyed a day filled with winter activities, at Orrville Mennonite Church who so graciously let us use their space. The students started off with Christmas cookie decorating, then went through many different stations of games and activities, read Christmas books, and did Christmas crafts. Our event ended with everyone together, watching the older kids teach the younger kids about the Christmas story through a play they had been practicing throughout the day!

As school started up again after the break, we were so blessed to have 5 new volunteers express interest in joining our team! This has been an answer to prayers, as we've had a growing list of students that teachers have recommended to our program.

Getting new students started with volunteers is very exciting, but it's also been continually inspiring to watch the already established relationships between existing tutors and their students. The students celebrated their 100th day of school recently by designing and decorating their own t-shirts to wear on their special day. Some of our tutors were able to join in on the fun, and celebrate this accomplishment with them.

We're already looking ahead to planning a spring break activity for the students in April, and along with the new life of spring around the corner, continuing to facilitate growth in the students lives.

## By Pablo Delgado, Executive Director

In Matthew 25:34, Jesus directly links himself with people in vulnerable situations. He tells the disciples that when they welcomed, fed, and gave something to drink to the stranger, they were welcoming, feeding and, giving a drink to Jesus Himself.

As believers in Christ, this call is for us to recognize the image of God in all people, regardless of place of origin, skin color, or language. It asks us to see that when we welcome, partner, and accompany Latino immigrants in tangible ways, we welcome Jesus.

You have answered the call and you have sent us in 2023 to serve Latino families in difficult moments. I pray that together we continue stepping into many opportunities to partner, love and, serve our Latino neighbors in 2024.

A young man from Guatemala came to ask for prayer, which is not the most frequent initial request. He then explained that he tried to end his life on different occasions because of the pressure that he feels to pay back a loan that he took to be able to bring his wife and son to the US. We both went through different Bible verses, discovering the message of salvation. He received Christ this month. Open Arms has blessed him with a bed for his child, groceries, help for his rent, and we're connecting him with a potential employer. Most importantly, we encouraged him to strengthen his relationship with the Lord.



Valeria is a single mom to Amy, who was born with Down Syndrome. Valeria has had a rough year in the US, not having anyone to rely on. She has seen God's hand providing for her, as she had to quit her job to care for her baby. God used someone to donate to Open Arms specifically for her rent. Open Arms has been able to bless her with diapers and clothes.

Anselma is another single mom, caring for her two-month-old baby who suffers of an atrial septal defect, a birth defect of the heart. Open Arms has helped her filling out applications for the baby to receive appropriate medical care, groceries, and prayer.

When you pray, attend the events, spread the word about Open Arms, support, and walk with Open Arms, you're making a difference for people that are in vulnerable situations in our communities.



## Save the Date:

A poster for a Stand Up Comedy Show. The background is light blue with decorative circular elements. At the top, it says "Stand Up Comedy Show" in large, bold, black letters. Below that, it says "BENEFITING OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRY" in smaller, bold, black letters. To the left of this text is a blue icon of a person with arms raised. In the center, there is a blue circle with the number "26" and the text "APRIL 2024 7:00 PM". Below this, there are two circular portraits of comedians, Brett Hollis and Bob Mortimer. To the right of the portraits is a large, detailed illustration of a vintage microphone on a stand. At the bottom, it says "FEATURING BRETT HOLLIS &amp; BOB MORTIMER" and "GRACE CHURCH 5850 CO HWY 77 MILLERSBURG, OH 44654". At the very bottom, there are two columns of text: "BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! DESSERTS PROVIDED OPEN-ARMS.US" and "THERE WILL BE A FREE WILL OFFERING TAKEN FOR OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRY".

## 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](https://open-arms.us/donate)

Phone: 330-765-9955 | Email: [info@open-arms.us](mailto:info@open-arms.us) | Website: [open-arms.us](https://open-arms.us)



**Open Arms**  
**Brazos Abiertos**  
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