



To the Friends & Stakeholders of Open Arms...

Lynne Hamrick, OA Board Member

I have had the privilege to serve on the board of Open Arms for just one year. Although my time on the board has been very brief, my interest in the needs of those immigrating to the U.S. has been long-standing.

I have been a person of faith since I was a teenager. In my desire to serve God, I have been very impacted by Biblical passages addressing how we are to love and help the strangers among us. It is a mandate.

I have worked as a nurse since I was 20 years old, a nurse practitioner for almost 30 years. I have worked in Miami, FL.; Philadelphia, PA; Akron and Orrville, OH; Pacific Grove, CA. In each of these positions I have been exposed to people from all over the



world coming to our country to escape crime, persecution, gangs and drugs, inability to make a living, desire for a better life for their families. These are compelling reasons for people to leave everything they know and love to try to make a new life. It is important to welcome and assist them.

My exposure to Open Arms began the 16 years I worked in Orrville. I did not realize that the county had become a destination for many immigrants. Often Rev. Raul Tadeo or his wife, Vanita, would accompany patients to translate for the visit. It became clear to me that they were providing many other services, really coming alongside people and helping them integrate into the community. My church, Westminster Presbyterian, has partnered with and supported the work of Open Arms. As I came to understand the depth of the ministry I became more interested in being of service. It is an honor to work together with like minded people.

Sue Ritchie, Tutor

Several years ago I began to try to learn Spanish using an app on my phone. I later found out at Sunday School that a classmate also did Du-olingo. We started talking about it and she told me she was using what she had learned by helping a high school student through the Open Arms Ministry. After talking to her briefly about it, Pablo, the Head of Open Arms Ministry, spoke to our Sunday School Class. While sharing with us the mission of this group he said they were in need of tutors. As a retired teacher and parent of two grown children I thought that maybe I would be able to help.

After meeting with Seneca and Abraham's mother, I began meeting with Abraham once a week at the library. We would work on homework and play games to practice vocabulary words. One week Abraham was studying money so I brought coins and trinkets that he could "buy" at my store. The following week Abraham shared with me that he got an "A" on his test about money. He was very proud of his accomplishment.

Once school was out I knew I wanted to keep helping Abraham with his reading. I began helping with the camp at Open Arms and also took Abraham and two of his cousins to the library to begin the summer reading program. The first week we signed up, read books, tried the weekly challenge of estimation, checked a book out then went to Dairy Queen for lunch. I would like to continue working with them, but it is a little tough with them all being at different ages and needing different degrees of assistance. I know as a teacher and mom how important it is to keep students engaged in learning especially over the summer, but you have to mix it up with some fun activities.

I really thought I would be using and hopefully learning Spanish through all of this but these kids are amazing with their use of English. With many of the parents of our students not speaking English there is such a need in helping our students with just listening to them read. They really appreciate all the help we give them and I can honestly say I have gotten so much more from them.



Excerpt of an interview with Carlos (Name and photo changed for security purposes)

What do you think is the incentive for people to come to the USA?

In all countries the financial situation is very difficult. I don't forget the land I come from, and I know people from other countries feel the same, but the need is such that we find ourselves forced to come here to try and get ahead in life. It's so bad that we are willing to risk the dangerous journey to come here. That's why I'm so grateful for the opportunity to come here so that I can work and have the chance to make a difference back in Mexico. We risk hunger, pain, the elements, even our lives to come here to make a difference.

I get up at 1PM every day, make my food and then I go to work. I come home at 5 AM straight to sleep and then get up and do it again the next day. For me, this routine is not a life. My life is in Mexico with my family. So my aim is to return to Mexico giving thanks first to God then to this country for giving me the opportunity to get ahead.

What is the biggest difficulty living in the USA?

For us immigrants, not only from Mexico, but also any other immigrant, the hardest difficulty is the language barrier. If you cannot speak the language you can only function about 20% of what a fluent person can, and that is if you're diligent in learning English. In my case I can't even count in English and I've been living here for 5 years. Therefore, I give thanks to Open Arms and to God for what you do, because without you we would be in a much different place. It is evident to me that the Love of God abounds in this ministry, Because without the Love of God people are unaware of the needs of their neighbors. So, I feel and I see that you operate based on what you believe and what you have read in the Word of God. I'm so grateful to God because you leave your houses to come and help us in what we need to do.

Open Arms primarily helps me with medical transportation and translation. There is a chance I would still do those things however, I would be much more reluctant because the language barrier creates such issues and when there is someone there to clear things up it makes a substantial difference.



Pablo Delgado, Executive Director

It's a nice warm July and Open Arms is keeping busy. From dentist visits, providing beds for kids and adults, eye exams, doctor visits, pharmacy visits; visits to government buildings in Cleveland, the health department, and Centro San Jose Immigrant Project, there's never a dull moment!

The MCC Connections has been donating bicycles to Ralph Detrow for Open Arms. Ralph is a good friend and neighbor, who connected me to O.A. originally. Ralph has been repairing the bicycles and helping give them to Hispanic kids from our Tutoring and Summer programs. He said: "I do it because it's always nice to see kids having fun". Gracias, MCC! Gracias, Ralph!



The Summer Camp program is going full steam ahead, we're running out of space we have so many kids. It's a good problem to have! Thank you everyone that has supported us, and thank you Jesus for bringing these amazing kids to us. Some of them speak English and Spanish, some only Spanish, and some kids other dialects, like K'iche' and Q'anjob'al. They all have many things in common, they look around the room and there are

other kids that look like them, sound like them, and play like them. It's a safe place to be, have fun and learn about Jesus!

Kids running around, riding their bikes brings to my mind how Paul compared our Christian life to an athlete: to run the race we have ahead for our eternal prize.

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! 25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step.

1 Cor 9:24 NLT



Ways to Support our Ministry:

Mail checks to: Open Arms

1305 W Market St

Orrville, OH 44667

Online: Visit our website:

open-arms.us/donate



Latin Festival

Where: Orrville Park Pavillion

When: 09/28/2024

Join us for Authentic Hispanic

food from all over Latin

America, cooked by our local

Community of Latinos.

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



Open Arms
Brazos Abiertos
1305 W. Market St.
Orrville, OH 44667