



To the Friends & Stakeholders of Open Arms...

Serving with Joy: Jaimee Wenger's Summer at Open Arms

This summer, Dalton High School graduate Jaimee Wenger joined Open Arms' summer camp, serving children ages four to six in the Latino community. Her Spanish teacher, who also serves with Open Arms, encouraged Jaimee and her brother to get involved.

"I love getting to connect with little kids, and I'm planning to go to college to teach, so it was a great opportunity to gain experience," Jaimee said.

What stood out most to her was the sweetness of the children and the chance to connect across languages. "Some of the younger kids barely speak any English at all, and it was very special to communicate with them and take care of their needs."

Over the summer, she saw the children—and herself—grow. One little boy who was too shy to respond at first gained confidence in English as the weeks went on. "It seemed to be that way for a lot of the kids," she reflected.

The experience also opened her eyes. "It showed me how ignorant I was to the struggles many Hispanic families face here. It's sad to see how hard it is just to live life in general, but it made me want to help more."

Jaimee especially valued introducing children to biblical truths, even for the first time. She plans to continue serving through Open Arms' tutoring program when she returns from college this winter.

Her encouragement to future volunteers is simple:

"Totally go for it. Even if you don't know much Spanish, there are always ways you can help."

For the children, she hopes: "That they grow up with hope, achieve good things in life, and find success here in America."



Rollin Mukanza, Akron Update

Over the last few months Open Arms Akron has continued to make its presence known in the North Hill community of the city and to the people leading the city of Akron. Open Arms Akron participated and partnered with other organizations through various outreach events to reach a larger audience of its community. Below are some highlights.

During the summer, Open Arms Akron collaborated with the Immigrant Platform in the organization of a large VBS (Vacation Bible School) where 233 attendees from the North Hill community participated.

Open Arms Akron applied for and was awarded a \$1,500 Youth, Sport, and Wellness grant initiated by the Mayor of Akron to promote healthy habits in youth. Open Arms was invited to meet the mayor of the city.

Open Arms Akron collaborated with Gerber's Poultry and facilitated the hiring of more than 62 Congolese in its production facility in Kidron. In appreciation, Gerber's Poultry donated \$2,000 to Open Arms.



Akron Mayor, Shammias Malik



Pablo Delgado, Executive Director

This past couple of months have gone fast, they have been full of both challenges and blessings for Open Arms Hispanic Ministry. More and more immigrant families are reaching out, looking not only for help with immediate needs, but also for friendship, belonging, and hope. I have seen families who have decided to relocate to the Wayne County area from other cities like Atlanta and Chicago where they didn't feel safe.

Many families face overwhelming legal challenges. Open Arms has stepped in to cover fees for passports, contribute toward lawyer costs, and provide reliable transportation to attorney appointments, embassies from their respective countries and court hearings. This practical assistance helps to ease the burden for families who often feel powerless in navigating the legal system.

This summer we hosted a camp for Hispanic kids where laughter, games and fun were in abundance. We had role models visit:

an immigrant pediatrician with Akron Children, a Hispanic realtor, counselors to help kids move through trauma and many loving volunteers that came and inspired our group of kids to dream bigger and live for the plan that God has designed for their lives.

We have had a couple of events for the Hispanic families in Camp Luz, we had a service with a sermon in Spanish, worship, then lunch was served, there were swimming pools, canoes, and so much laughter and fun. This was a blessing to many families, that for a few hours, they were able to sit and relax and enjoy the day. We're so thankful to our brothers and sisters who made this possible.

Through it all, we see God's hand at work opening doors, building bridges, and reminding us that every act of love makes a difference. The challenges are real, but so is the hope. We are grateful for your prayers, support and for sending us: Open Arms Hispanic Ministry to continue welcoming, accompanying, and partnering.

Pupusas and Perseverance: A Story of Hope

On Saturday, November 2, Open Arms will host Praise and Pupusas, a special evening of food, music, and fellowship. Guests will enjoy authentic pupusas—thick corn tortillas filled with cheese, beans, or pork, always served with tangy curtido slaw and tomato salsa—alongside an evening of worship and community. More details are available in the flyer attached.

Pupusas are more than food; they are a symbol of Salvadoran identity, celebrated each year on National Pupusa Day. Though they originated in El Salvador over a thousand years ago, their warmth and flavor have spread far beyond, carried by those who make new homes in other lands.

One of the women preparing pupusas for our event, Rixcy Fuentes, learned to make them in Honduras, taught by a Salvadoran friend. She has lived in the United States for nearly ten years. Her story reflects the resilience and sacrifice behind so many immigrant journeys.

“When I was about 20, I was studying and working in my village, making the equivalent of only \$50 a month. When my mother died, she left behind six younger siblings. I couldn’t support them with what I earned, and there were no opportunities. A friend encouraged me to come to the U.S., where I slowly found work and was able to send money back to my family. Over time, my siblings also came here, and we were reunited.”

Life in America has not been without hardship. María endured domestic abuse before finding safety with her current partner and building a new family. “It has been a blessing to be here,” she says. “If there is anything I’d like Americans to know about immigrants, it’s that most of us don’t come to make things worse. We come because we have no choice. It takes sacrifice, but we do it for our families.”

Her story, like the pupusas she prepares, is one of love, perseverance, and hope.

You can hear more stories like Rixcy’s— and enjoy authentic pupusas yourself— at our upcoming fundraiser *Praise +Pupusas*, on Sunday, November 2nd, from 5:00-7:00 PM at Salem Mennonite Church (3363 Zuercher Rd. Dalton OH). Join us for food, music, fellowship, and an update on how Open Arms is serving the community!



Ways to Support Open Arms:

Donate via Check:

Open Arms
1305 W Market St
Orrville, OH 44667

Donate Online:

open-arms.us/donate

Looking for Ways to Help?

Join Us for Litigating for Liberation

Come to OCSiLiO's fundraiser on Friday, October 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM in Mackey Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church (353 E. Pine St., Wooster). Enjoy Central American finger foods, learn about defending detained Ohio immigrants, and join a Q&A. Free-will offering accepted.

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