



Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

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www.amigoscenter.org



Immokalee Pregnancy Center

By Diane Hanson

Sometimes the babies born through pregnancy center ministry do not start off in the best of circumstances. A mother most often is in a variety of difficult situations. And instead of choosing adoption she may take on the role of single parent—another challenging situation. From a worldly perspective it might be easy to look at this child as yet another in a generational downward cycle. “Here we go again,” the world tells us.

While we don’t want to put on rose-colored glasses, our view begins with the basic belief that God creates life. He doesn’t make mistakes. Instead of wondering how this child will make it in this world, we say, “Why not?” A challenging start doesn’t mean a child cannot have a successful future, because God is bigger than societal norms and economic status.

In August of 2008 the Immokalee Pregnancy Center will open its doors to the community of Immokalee. We will offer these mothers practical assistance with child-rearing, decision-making and will walk alongside her as she plans for the future. The door will be open to life-changing decisions that can alter the future of both her baby and her life as well.

Lives will be touched; babies lives will be saved—and the impact will be felt for generations to come.

Hiring: Development Officer

News Release

MINNEAPOLIS (May, 2008) – Amigos en Cristo has received a \$100,000 grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation, Appleton, Wisconsin. It is designed to generate thousands more in financial gifts to the ministry. The grant will allow Amigos en Cristo, Inc. to hire a new Development Officer to help raise funds in support of a new multicultural Lutheran Church and Social Service Agency in Immokalee, Florida.

The grant is part of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation Charitable Gifting Initiative designed to educate supporters of Lutheran institutions and ministries about the advantages of tax-wise charitable gifts.

“We are thrilled to receive this well timed and generous investment from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans,” said Rev. Robert V. Selle, Executive Director of Amigos en Cristo. “This will help us to carry out our vision of establishing a thriving Lutheran Word and sacrament ministry in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole in the Farmworker community of Immokalee, Florida.”

“It is our hope that this grant will strengthen Amigos en Cristo’s ability to inform potential donors of various options available to them to financially support the church’s work,” said Brad Hewitt, president of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. “As people come alongside Amigos en Cristo with charitable gifts, Amigos en Cristo will become increasingly effective in carrying out its mission.”

In 2007, the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation awarded 62 Charitable Gifting Initiative grants to Lutheran nonprofits ranging from \$8,000 to \$100,000. Those grants are expected to generate more than \$177.6 million in immediate or deferred monetary gifts to Lutheran institutions in the coming years.

Telephone: (239) 437-6727, Rev. Robert and Donna Selle, DCE Sarah Willig

Saving Client Big Dollars

By Christina Leddin

During the spring of 2008 a mother came to the Amigos Center to file two applications for her two minor children to remove the conditions on their two-year conditional green cards. Upon reviewing the information for the two cases, Amigos Center realized that the immigration service had erroneously given the wrong type of green cards to the children. They should have been issued 10-year permanent green cards from day one rather than the two-year conditional green cards which then require an additional application to be filed with a fee near the expiration date of the first green card. We then successfully submitted two requests for the correct 10-year permanent green cards at no cost to the client due to the error on the part of the immigration service. The savings to the mother for not having to file applications to remove the conditions on the two-year cards was over \$1,000.

Give thanks to God for...

the opportunity that Thrivent Financial has given us to hire a Development Officer.

Pray for...

God to provide the right person to fill the new Development Officer position.

Diane Hanson and her leadership of the Immokalee Pregnancy Center.

The work of Christina Leddin and other Amigos Center staff.