



# Amigos en Cristo

A Ministry of the Southwest Florida Outreach Council: LCMS

November 2009, Newsletter #137

[www.amigoscenter.org](http://www.amigoscenter.org)



## Extreme Home "ReHab" by Pastor Bob Selle



Thanks to the volunteers of Amigos Center and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans chapters in Lee and Collier counties "Change for Change Program," we were able to make a significant improvement in the Bonita Springs home of a single mother and her two kids. Over a two week period, nine volunteers worked over 200 hours to completely refurbish a bedroom and bathroom.

*Maria Louisa and two children with Paul on right*

The home had been damaged in the flood following Tropical Storm Fay in August of 2008. The volunteers worked under the supervision of contractor Paul Garcia. This was a moving spiritual experience for Paul since he felt certain that, through a series of events, God had called him to help this long-suffering family of three. To see more pictures of the home transformation, please visit [www.amigoscenter.org](http://www.amigoscenter.org)

## Needs Nook

Were you inspired by the Extreme Home story? Want to help but don't have the time to donate to the project? A small gift card to Home Depot, Lowes, or Wal-mart will go towards the rebuilding of homes such as the one featured. Give them to a church leader or stick one in the mail to Amigos Center, 25999 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.



*Needs Nook features an Amigos Center need each month. To find out how you or your church, business, or small group can regularly participate, please contact Spencer or Ashby Greenlee at 239-560-5805.*

## Middle School Youth Gathering

By Sarah Willig, DCE

We are taking 10 middle school youth, 1 high school leader, and 4 adult chaperones to participate in the Florida Georgia District LCMS Middle School Youth Gathering in Leeseburg, FL on November 6-8. We are very excited to bring these kids from Bonita Springs and Immokalee to experience God in a fun filled weekend. Many have never been away from home for the weekend, let alone stay in hotel style housing and they are very excited about it. The cost is \$150 per person including registration, lodging, meals, and transportation. We have asked the youth to invest their time in volunteer hours since most cannot pay to go on the trip. Please pray for sponsors to help cover the cost of the trip as well as for the group to bond closer together and for each participant to experience God in a mighty way during the weekend. If you are interested in sponsoring a child on this trip, please contact Sarah at 239-784-8474.

## Amigos Advocates by Ashby Greenlee

Have you ever tried to read a contract and been confused by the wording? Can you imagine how much more difficult it would be if English was your second language? Recently, Rosa came to visit Marisol needing translation for a real estate document left on her door. She was being instructed that a new company was taking over and that all tenants were to be evicted. She had 48 hours to contest. Rosa, a recent widow and mother of two, came to Amigos



Center frightened and unsure of what to do.

"People come to our center because they believe in us and trust us and when we can, we help them find solutions." -Marisol Dickerson, Case Worker for the Amigos Bonita Springs Center. Marisol says she sees people with all kinds of issues and usually it goes deeper than just the surface problem. She had helped Rosa when her husband had passed in February and knowing her situation, she called the company and got a two week extension for their family in addition to \$1500 to help them move. When we are down, we look to friends for comfort and support. We are friends (amigos) to many families just like Rosa's and want to be a safe place for them to come for help and for prayer. Amigos Center strongly believes in advocating for those who cannot do so for themselves. Last year, we were able to see nearly 1,900 people with social services and over 1,500 with immigration services.

### Upcoming Events

- **Make a Difference Day!** Oct 24, 2009 Take time to help someone else today! Mow a yard, donate food, make a difference!
- **Middle School Gathering** November 6-8
- **Marriage Retreat** for Bonita Springs Congregation November 13-15
- **Tour of Immokalee** Amigos Center, Nov 10th, 11am. Call Spencer or Ashby at 239-560-5805 to sign up you or your group!
- **Tour of Bonita Springs** Amigos Center, Nov 12th, 9am. Call Ashby at 239-560-5805 to sign up!
- **Save the Date!** The Annual Amigos Center Fundraiser will be March 24, 2010 at 12:00pm! It's a free lunch with an inspiring message at Three Oaks Banquet Hall. RSVP Ashby at 239-560-5805

### Have an IRA? Don't Delay!

Congress recently extended the ability to make qualified distributions totaling up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities such as Amigos en Cristo. This provision is available for such distributions made from Jan.1, 2006 through Dec. 31, 2009. The IRA holder must be age 70 and 1/2 years or older when the qualified charitable distribution is made and it must be made directly from the IRA to the charity.

### Prayers and Praise

**Praise:** Thanks to a recent donation, a washer and dryer were donated to the family featured above! Thank you to all of our donors for the diaper drive support, the clothing received recently, and the food drive from CREW!

**Prayers:** Please pray for our middle schoolers (for both funding and safe travels), Eulalia (a member of our staff), and for resources to flow as the need for humanitarian aid increases.