



AMIGOS CENTER
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 106 South 2nd Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
www.amigoscenter.org

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2012 Newsletter Amigos Center

**As One Wonderful Year Passes...
 A New Year of Hope Presents Itself!**



2012 Newsletter

Amigos Center



Year End Newsletter

A Message From Our Development Director

As we move closer to the holiday season and reflect on our blessings, I want to thank those of you who have helped to change so many lives with your gifts this past year. Because of your generosity, we have been able to provide over 10,000 visits or contacts to individuals seeking services. You have made a difference!

For those of you who may not know much about the Amigos Center, I invite you to come tour our Centers to learn more about what we, together are doing in Southwest Florida. I also ask that you consider a gift in support of our mission to help provide the immigrant community in the five county region of Southwest Florida with the tools necessary to succeed in the U.S.A.

Blessings,
Leah H. McCann,
Director of Development

A Message From The Board Of Directors

In 2012 we celebrated our 15th anniversary of helping immigrants to Southwest Florida lead more successful and productive lives. It was certainly a year of challenges but with your prayers and help we have been able to meet those challenges! As we continue to pursue our mission we hope that you will continue to stand with us – each of our success stories is your success story as well.

On behalf of our Board of Directors I humbly thank you for your support. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wondrous 2013.

Patricia O'Donnell,
Board Chair

We provide immigrants to SW FL with the tools to be successful and contributing members of our community and the Kingdom of God.

Immokalee Social Services

Karl Glander, *Service Director*

Christian Castillo, *Receptionist*

Volunteers - 133 helped with food pantry, clothing distribution, ESOL classes, maintenance



CLIENTS SERVED	2012	2011	2010
Emergency Food Bank	*1,820	1,834	2,255
Clothing distribution	*840	977	1,270
ESOL students	*90	94	22

* Estimate 2012

Our offices are open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. Call Leah for a tour at your convenience 239.297.9658.

During 2012 we were able to refurbish our English language computer lab and classroom thanks to a grant given by the Community Foundation of Collier County. Thanks to our volunteer teachers, we have expanded our classes from one day a week to three. Classes are currently divided into beginner and intermediate. Next year we would like to expand to four levels, if we have the volunteer teachers.

The newly refurbished English language computer lab and classroom in Immokalee



Immokalee Social Services Continued...

We continue to receive donations of used and new clothing for distribution every Thursday. We have recently experimented with asking for a \$1.00 (one dollar) donation for each bag of clothing. We found that our clients are happy to pay and feel pride in helping Amigos Center with their donation.



New and used clothing donations.

We worked closely with Harry Chapin Food Bank to offer several Mobile Food Pantries throughout Immokalee. Your donations make it possible for us to provide emergency food pantry services every Tuesday to families in need. An estimated 281,000 pounds of food were distributed in 2012 with a value of \$410,000. Volunteers logged 4,939 hours valued at \$36,000.



Mobile food pantry volunteers.

“Lead Gift”

... received in the amount of \$10,000 from **Dr. Daniel Dosoretz of 21st Century Oncology**

Bonita Springs Immigration Services

Maria Herrera, Accredited Immigration Representative

Christina Leddin, Accredited Immigration Representative

Marisol Dickerson, Administrative Assistant



CLIENTS SERVED	2012	2011	2010
Immigration Clients	*740	521	627

* Estimate 2012

In order to assure sustainable immigration services, we have decided to eliminate our humanitarian services in our Bonita Springs office so that we can focus our resources on providing prompt, efficient and affordable immigration services into the foreseeable future. This means that we have transitioned Marisol, our former Case Worker, to the position of Immigration Administrative Assistant. Marisol will help our immigration staff by making photocopies, client appointments, phone calls, etc.

We experienced a transition of immigration personnel this year when Eulalia Troncoso retired due to health concerns. We have been greatly blessed to have hired Maria Herrera as a replacement. A big bonus is that Maria comes with many years experience helping immigrants apply for visas on the basis of domestic violence cases (VAWA – Violence Against Women Act) and victims of crime (U-Visas). Maria's presence allows us to expand our services to include these two categories of clientele.



of Lee, Hendry and Glades

We are thankful to the United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades County for their financial support (\$30,000 annually) of our immigration work in Bonita Springs and south Lee County. Amigos Center has been a proud partner agency since 2005.

Fort Myers Immigration Services

Christina Leddin, Accredited Immigration Representative

CLIENTS SERVED	2012	2011	2010
Immigration Clients	*820	848	931

* Estimate 2012



Christina Leddin hard at work.

We continue to use the office space graciously provided by Lutheran Services Florida in their Fort Myers administrative building. This office has offered immigration services to the community since September 2001.



Kington Amigos Center

Nine volunteers helped with English classes, children's programs, sewing classes, etc. Pastor Robert Selle (led weekly devotions and led English classes)



- During 2012 we continued to offer programs for both children and adults every Wednesday evening at our Kingston Amigos Center, located in a trailer park in Bonita Springs.
- We are especially thankful to BB&T Bank in Bonita for selecting Amigos Center as their Lighthouse Project. Over 10 staff member and volunteers came out to renovate our trailer to help make it a safe and healthy place to meet.
- During 2013 we plan on getting electricity hooked up.



Our Churches

A baptism ceremony at our Immokalee church.

HAITIAN IMMOKALEE

Our Haitian church plant in Immokalee continues to thrive under the leadership of Vicar Andre Mezilus. Andre is expected to finish his theological studies with the Ethnic Institute of Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO by February 2013. At that time Amigos en Cristo expects to extend a divine call to him to serve as missionary pastor of our Haitian churches in Southwest Florida. Seminarian and member of our Immokalee Haitian Church, Saint Luc Charelus, is now eligible for a vicarage assignment with us.

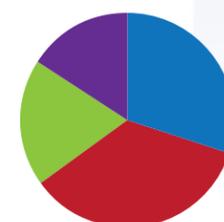
HISPANIC BONITA SPRINGS

Pastor Bob continues to serve together with lay minister Armando Ortegon. Pastoral acts this year include, one (1) adult baptism, two (2) baptisms of children, three (3) first communions and two (2) weddings. Three (3) students completed one theology class with the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO.

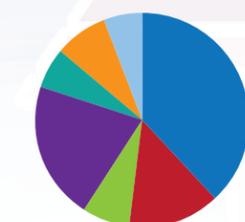
HISPANIC IMMOKALEE

Under the direction of Pastor Bob our Immokalee Hispanic mission celebrated during 2012 the baptism of nine (9) young adults, six (6) first communions, three (3) confirmations and two (2) adult affirmations of faith. Two adult students completed their first theology class with the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary, St Louis, MO. We had hoped to extend a divine call for a full-time pastor during 2012, however our tight financial situation has not allowed it to happen yet.

How We Will Spend In 2013



Estimated 2013 Funding Sources



Fort Myers Administrative Office

Rev. Robert Selle, Executive Director

Leah McCann, Development Director

Donna Selle, Administrative Assistant

Zion Lutheran Church has provided office space free of charge to Amigos en Cristo since 2005. This office serves as a hub of support activity for our staff and client services such as financial records, payroll, strategic planning, corporate records and other essential services.



Rev. Robert & Donna Selle

Leah began program of study with the Lutheran Foundation for her Christian Development Executive (CDE). These studies will help Amigos better serve our donors who wish to consider us in their estate planning. For more information call Leah at 239.297.9658.



Amigos Center is very proud to have partnered with the Boston Red Sox during their Acts of Kindness

SAVE THE DATE

“It's A Small World”

Annual Fundraising Dinner or Luncheon
3/14/13, 6-7pm @ St. Michael's Lutheran
3/20/13, 12-1pm @ Hilton Naples
Please R.S.V.P. to Leah McCann at:
leah@amigoscenter.org
or 239.297.9658

