

# Open Arms Hispanic Ministry

*Seeking to meet the spiritual and physical needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County and surrounding areas*



**Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2**

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Haroldo Nunes

## Latino Retreat of 2019

The 16th Hispanic Family Retreat was held at Camp Luz on a weekend of June 2019. The main theme was, "Christ, our only Hope", taken from the book of Mathew 6:25-34. There were two main messages on the topic: "How to face the worries and anxieties of our world". Our visiting speaker was Dina Gonzalez Pina, who works with Mennonite Central Committee. She has studied at Fuller Theological Seminary and Fresno Pacific University, having received her Master's degree in Conflict Studies and Peace making. To help the group understand her presentation better, she used many illustrations and overhead projections.

There was an attendance of 124 persons, which included adults, youth, children and babies. Every participant was given a T shirt to wear for the weekend, with the Spanish words, "seek ye first the kingdom of God", printed on it. Those who attended were from the Spanish speaking congregation of Columbus, Ohio and Salem Mennonite Church of Wooster. Those in attendance represented several Central American countries.

Raul Tadeo interviewed Celso, had recently arrived from Honduras. What did he experience at this retreat? "The weekend was a wonderful experience. I learned how, as Christians, we should treat one another. The illustrations Dina used helped me to better understand the messages.

What did Maria learn at the retreat? "In a drama that was presented, I was made aware that as Christians we should not let our cell phones control our lives. The lady in the drama would not put away her cell phone to greet and talk to people who visited her home. God wants us give our full attention to one another as we meet one another.

Luis said, "On the weekend, I learned that there are many Christians that waste much time worrying about what is happening in the world around them."

Juan said, "It was wonderful to meet Hispanics from various countries of Latin America. I made friends with a good number of persons from the church of Columbus, Ohio. I feel that my church family grew very much during the retreat. It was a blessing for me to interact with others that I had not known before.



## New Position at Open Arms

For some time now, we at Open Arms have realized the growing need for a part-time administrative assistant to help our Executive Director stay abreast of the many details of a growing ministry. We are in the process of developing a job description. In addition, we are making plans for an Open Arms office at Orrville Mennonite Church. We are beginning to pray and look for the right person, one who is...

- ...bilingual
- ...friendly, personable, organized
- ...skillful in computer work, social media platforms, etc
- ...a committed follower of Jesus Christ

Feel free to contact us for more information, and for suggestions of possible names.

**For more information or to partner in this ministry to area Hispanics contact:**

**Open Arms  
PO Box 124  
Kidron, OH 44636  
330-933-9376**

**[openarmshispanicministry.org](http://openarmshispanicministry.org)**

**Thanks for your prayers and support!**



## Immigration Detainee Care Kits

**Open Arms Hispanic Ministries**, responding to the humanitarian crisis at our southern border and a call from area churches to help immigrants when they are released from detention centers, is coordinating an effort to assemble MCC Immigration Detainee Care Kits. \*

**Orrville Mennonite Church**, located at: **1305 W Market St, Orrville, OH 44667** will be used as collection site for kits and will host an event on **October 2nd. (7-8:30pm)**. That evening will begin with a report from an MCC Great Lakes staff person on the current immigration situation at the border and how kits are being distributed and detainees supported. Following the update, attendees will have opportunity to assist in assembling kits, participate in a kit blessing and preparing them for shipment. All are welcome to participate in collecting items for kits or attending the October 2nd meeting. (Please contact Open Arms/Haroldo Nunes at 330-933-9376 if you have additional questions).

Open Arms personnel will be coordinating this effort with area churches, assigning which items each congregation will provide. **Designated dates to drop off any supplies or full kits at Orrville Mennonite Church will be four Mondays - Aug 12, Aug 26, Sept 9, Sept 23, from 9 am until noon.** Full kits can also be brought to the October 2nd. Immigration meeting.

Ana Alicia Hinojosa, MCC Central States Immigration Education Coordinator, explains, "The immigration detainee care kits provide clothes and basic human needs to men, women and children seeking refuge who have been detained by U.S. Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and are seeking asylum in the U.S. When they are released after days, weeks, or months of detention they get out with nothing but the clothes they traveled with, shoes without shoelaces, and the hope of being reunited with family at their destination. Our immigration detainee care kits provide individuals with a glimmer of hope that the journey they have endured is worth it and gives them back dignity that they have lost in the process of being in the hands of our government detention system."

Open Arms is trying to apply Jesus words in our everyday

journey: *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me". Matt 25:35-36 (NIV)*

\*See details for kit contents at [mcc.org/immigrationkit](http://mcc.org/immigrationkit)



### IMMIGRATION DETAINEE CARE KITS

When people who have been placed in immigration detention centers are released, they often have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help to rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the detention center.

MCC is partnering with the *South Texas Response Team*, a group of local pastors working with Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, Loaves and Fishes in Harlingen, Angry Tias & Abuelas in the Rio Grande Valley and other partners to distribute kits to people as they leave detention and are taken to bus stations or airports to reconnect with their families.

#### CLOTHING

Please compile packs sizes small, medium or large for both men and women.

- ~ 1 jogging suit (new, sweatpants and sweat-shirt; can be purchased as separate items)
- ~ 1 t-shirt (new, crew or v-neck)
- ~ 1 pair of socks (new)
- ~ 1 pair of underwear (new)

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- ~ 1 pair of shoelaces (outdoor or sport style, any color)
- ~ 1 pen (black)
- ~ 1 small notebook
- ~ adult size backpack or small duffel bag

#### HYGIENE PRODUCTS

Please put these items in one-gallon closable plastic bag.

- ~ 1 washcloth
- ~ 1 bath towel
- ~ 1 adult-sized toothbrush (new, in package)
- ~ 1 small toothpaste (2.7-3.5 oz.)
- ~ 1 package bath wipes (premoistened soft wipes)
- ~ 1 razor (disposable)
- ~ 1 small shaving cream (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 comb (wide-tooth)
- ~ 1 small deodorant (2-3 oz.)
- ~ 1 small body lotion (2-3 oz.)

For female packs only

- ~ sanitary napkins (18-24 count; ultra-thin)

Please limit donations to these NEW items. Compile in backpacks or small duffel bags. Please mark them with a label stating "Male" or "Female" and also the clothing size "Small, Medium or Large." Drop kits off at the MCC Material Resources Center at MCC 121 E. 30th, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117. Questions? Contact [katemast@mcc.org](mailto:katemast@mcc.org) or call 316.283.2720.



[mcc.org/immigrationkit](http://mcc.org/immigrationkit)

## Why Do I Support Open Arms Hispanic Ministry as an Amigo?

I support the ministry of Open Arms for many reasons, but one of the main reasons is what I experienced in a church in Honduras. It was the first Christmas of our MCC term in Honduras. My wife Kathy and I were spending the holidays with MCC friends in Santa Cruz de Yojoa. We attended Christmas Eve services together with some neighborhood kids at the local Catholic Church.

It was an interesting service, meaningful and beautiful. At one point the priest was leading in prayer for those who were afuera. The church became very quiet and then I heard it... people near me crying. I looked all around and saw people crying, some weeping with arms around each other. I realized the afuera were those who were in the US. Those who had made the dangerous trip to the north. These around me were their mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters left behind. It was then I recognized the pain, the loss, the sacrifice in this thing we call immigration. It is not a trip of

convenience by those seeking to take our way of life. It is a trip of desperation.

Although I knew this in my head, that night I gained a new understanding and compassion for those who have come into our country as immigrants, by whatever means. Now when I meet our new neighbors from Honduras or Guatemala or Mexico in church or in the store, I often think of that night and wonder about the family they left behind. I strive to treat them with respect, ask them personal questions in my failing Spanish and delight in the change when they sense I am to be trusted. I do my small part, but I am thrilled there is a local organization like Open Arms that does so much more, that supports new arrivals and provides ongoing vital services to meet their physical and spiritual needs.

I support Open Arms because I heard crying in a Honduran church service.

Virgil Troyer

