



Fall Tutoring Program

This summer, Open Arms was blessed with a very successful pilot remote tutoring program for Hispanic elementary students. The success of that program and what we learned from it have led to the start of our fall 2020 tutoring program, now underway with students from the Orrville and Green local schools. We are beginning with a total of six students and tutors.

With the increase in remote instruction beginning in the spring of this year due to COVID-related school closings and again being offered as an option this fall in most schools, many local Hispanic families have expressed their apprehension about the prospect of distance learning, mainly due to concerns over internet access and their children falling behind educationally. The OA Executive Director's strong relationship with both Orrville and Green Local Schools has allowed for a good working relationship between the OA volunteer tutors and the Hispanic students' teachers to provide access to class work most needed at each student's grade level. The three students in Orrville are taking classes remotely, and the three at Green are in the classroom; yet in both cases, the remote one-on-one tutoring offers needed support.

The program works as follows: Open Arms through Haroldo Nunes, assures that each student has internet access, a suitable computer, and knowledge of a meeting platform (most often Zoom). Haroldo then introduces the students and their families to the tutor via Zoom. The tutors and students meet once or twice weekly with tutors providing



support as students gain confidence in academics and English skills as needed.

A first grader who will be continuing with the same tutor she had states, "My tutor is nice. I love to learn from my tutor. My classes are fun!" Haroldo reports that this student is so excited about the work she is doing with her tutor. Tutors report that the Zoom technology is working very well, that the one-on-one connections are good, and that it is helpful for the families to see and meet the tutor online.

Open Arms is thankful to God for opening the doors connecting skilled, dedicated volunteer tutors with Hispanic students eager to learn and succeed in our schools. It has been a blessing to see God's love expressed in the connections made between the children being tutored and nurtured and the tutors offering such loving care.

Letter From the Director



Dear Sisters and Brothers,
It is with happiness and gratitude that I'm writing this report today. I feel that the ministry of Open Arms is responding to our mission of "Sharing God's love by meeting needs of Hispanic immigrants in Wayne County, Ohio, and surrounding areas." As you already know, we are living in difficult times, where we are experiencing a pandemic that took the lives of more than

183,000 people, a good number of whom are people of color. In addition, the racial division is bringing turmoil to larges cities of the country, where lives are being lost with no reason. We are praying and standing for peace and justice, as well, comforting families that are getting sick and having a hard time to keep up with their bills and feed their children. We have been helping families with groceries, payment of bills and giving them spiritual support in this time of this pandemic. We have distributed more than \$16,000.00 in the last five months. We feel grateful for your prayers and financial support of Open Arms. Thanks so much for your giving hearts!

I participated last Sunday in the event called: "Stand Together: Interfaith Vigil Against Racism", organized by the Akron Interfaith and Social Justice Group. We had a total of 30 different organizations sponsoring the event with a good

number of them participating in it. All the Ohio Department of Health's guidelines were followed and the attendance was amazing. I had the honor to share some words with the public as well as to have a bilingual prayer of lament for all lives of sisters and brothers of color that were lost to police brutality.

In the last two months I have been busy helping families with different school matters, doctor and dentist appointments, the tutoring program, as well as taking people to immigration lawyers and working with a professional counselor to help a couple having difficulties in their marriage. I feel blessed that

...“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,”
James 2:8

our Savior and Lord equipped me to the task that I'm doing with the Ministry, trying to follow His purpose for my life. Thanks be to the Lord! I'm assisting a family in which the husband and wife both had Covid-19. He recuperated very fast, but the wife was almost three months in a coma at the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus in Cleveland, Ohio. Last week, they told me that she is back home and they are so grateful for the prayers and material help that we gave to them. God is good!

We have been blessed again to see God at work in many ways and in many lives through a small but dedicated group of staff and volunteers.

Thanks so much for your love and compassion for our Hispanic sisters and brothers!

In Christ's Love!

Pastor Haroldo Nunes Executive Director

The History of Open Arms Hispanic Ministries



In 1999 a group of Mexican workers were sent from a pallet factory in the state of Georgia to the pallet factory in Smithville, Ohio. Steve Gill, friend of Raul Tadeo, was serving as the Human resource person at this factory. Steve did not understand Spanish and regularly called Raul, who spoke fluent Spanish, to go to help him with translating for the Mexican workers.

By the summer of 2001, there was a good number of Mexicans who had arrived in the area to work at the pallet factory. By that summer, persons of the Mennonite congregations of Wayne and Holmes counties were invited to a meeting to discern how the Mennonite church could help meet the needs of the new immigrants. On July 16, 2001, persons representing 13 area Mennonite churches met. There was a strong agreement that our churches should be reaching out to help these newcomers with their various needs. Thus, a new ministry was begun and was named OPEN ARMS HISPANIC MINISTRIES. Raul was chosen to serve as

coordinator of the program and he began translating at the offices of dentists, doctors, schools, and for housing needs, legal needs, etc.

In 2006, Haroldo Nunes, (with his family) moved to Orrville. His plan was to help Raul in the Open Arms Hispanic Ministries while supporting himself and his family. In 2011 Haroldo was ordained and became halftime pastor of the Salem Mennonite Church and halftime missionary for Open Arms Hispanic Ministries. From that time until the present, Open Arms has become known throughout the area as a source of support and advocacy for the needs of our Hispanic brothers and sisters, and our Executive Director is called upon to speak about these needs at many events and to offer direct support to area Hispanics.

To date Open Arms Ministries is a well-organized program with a Board of Directors of seven members from various area churches. Dan King is chairman of our board. Haroldo is Executive director and Raul is service and translation provider.

Raul Tadeo



**Open Arms
Hispanic
Ministries**

Brazos Abiertos

***Sharing God's love by
meeting needs of
Hispanic immigrants in
Wayne Co., Ohio, and
surrounding areas***

Please Join Us September 19th at 6pm:

OPEN ARMS LIVE ONLINE

Messages and Songs of Care & Support

WHAT: Updates on helping to meet needs of our Hispanic brothers and sisters during this time of COVID-19. Ministry updates from Executive Director Haroldo Nunes and Chair of the Board Dan King, testimony from an individual helped by Open Arms, and music led by John Schmid.

WHEN: Saturday, September 19th, 2020. We will go live at 6:00pm and finish the program before 7:00pm. The program will be recorded if you can't attend Live.

WHERE: Access this live event on the Open Arms Facebook Page at: [tinyurl.com/OAHMLive](https://www.facebook.com/OAHMLive)
Recording Accessible at this link after event is over.



**Open Arms
Hispanic Ministries**

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