



A Few Thoughts on the Pandemic & Our Mission:

When we welcomed in the New Year, none of us knew that 2020 would be unlike any other previous year in our lifetimes. When news began circulating of a new virus entering our country, most of us assumed it would be a minor inconvenience that easily would be mitigated. Now we recognize the harsh realities: daily routines disrupted, limitations on travel and gatherings, parents and children struggling to do schoolwork remotely, many small businesses closing, layoffs, sickness, hospitalizations, even deaths of friends and loved ones.

So what should be our focus as followers of Jesus as the pandemic continues to spread, with no signs of abating in the near future? Specifically, how should Open Arms respond to these challenges in light of our mission? Let me suggest a scripture as an answer to both questions. Galatians 6:9-10 reads, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” In the face of so many struggles, those of us seeking to show God’s love to immigrants are sometimes tempted to give up. But God promises a harvest if we continue to serve others in need. Smiling (through our masks) at Hispanics in the grocery store. Befriending a Hispanic family in our neighborhood. Tutoring a student struggling to adjust to online learning. Continuing to support the work of Open Arms with our financial gifts. And nothing is more important than the ministry of prayer. Please continue to pray for Open Arms – its staff, board, and volunteers. Pray for immigrants who are more vulnerable to Covid 19 – working in meatpacking and manufacturing plants, restaurants, etc. And pray for immigration issues beyond northeast Ohio. The ongoing deportation of working fathers, leaving families with no income. The 545 children still separated from their parents, which began three years ago during the immigration crackdown at the U.S.-Mexico border. And pray for our elected officials, for bipartisan agreement to work for comprehensive immigration reform that is both compassionate and just.

Thank you for your support of Open Arms Hispanic Ministry during the past year. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of God’s people during this pandemic! And we will continue to reach out to those in need, regardless of the obstacles.

May God bless us all with continued health, strength, and wisdom, as we look forward with hope to another year of ministry, sharing God’s love with our Hispanic neighbors.

In Christ’s grace and peace,
~ **Dan King** - Chair of the Board



Haroldo assists with translation at a dental appointment

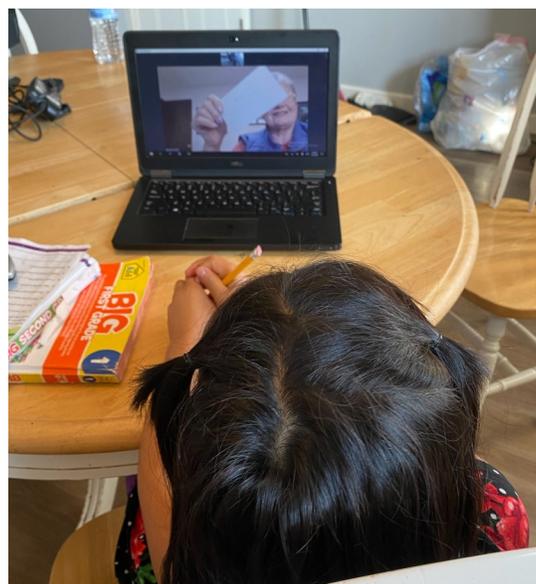
Remote Tutoring Program: Update

Our online tutoring program for Hispanic elementary-school students in the Orrville and Green schools continues to help students with their progress in English-language learning and with their academics. Open Arms has been blessed with tutors who, with all the challenges of forging through computer problems and scheduling issues related to our online tutoring format, work with diligence, creativity, and care for their students. Student families are very grateful for the tutors’ help. Open Arms is blessed to have as tutors: Kathy Troyer, Lou Erb, and Linda Schrock with Orrville students and Janelle Collier, Wanda Beattie, and Melissa Schrock with Green students. You may find out more about the tutoring program by contacting the Open Arms office at 330-765-9955.

Here are a few tutor comments: “Tutoring for me has been an adventure and privilege. I get to shepherd my young second-grader through the maze of learning to read while learning myself how to do this virtually on ZOOM! Every week is an adventure, but last week having her say to me, “I love to read and learn more” was a great reward for all our hard work.”

Another tutor with a second-grader, reports: “I delight in tutoring my student. She is full of energy, bubbly and has a good sense of humor. She likes to trick me, and I tease her. We do all of this as her readable vocabulary increases through games, stories and practice.”

A tutor with a third grader writes: “His teacher sent some math flash cards home last Thursday. He quizzed me! That was great because it made him read the problems. He didn’t want to stop. That was so much fun!”



Tutoring student taking on-line class

Why I support Open Arms Hispanic Ministries as an Amigo



Like many of the children today whose parents are supported by Open Arms Hispanic Ministries I, too, am the child of immigrants. But my parents had an easier path to citizenship. My mother arrived with her mother from Germany in 1923 to finally be reunited in NYC with my grandfather who sought citizenship shortly before the outbreak of the first world war. My father was a

birthright citizen as his German mother made the deliberate decision to have her child in the U.S. to afford her son the legal right to U.S. citizenship. Today my Dad would be given the derogatory label of “anchor baby.” My mom became a naturalized citizen, and my dad left Germany to exercise his American citizenship in 1928.

Our immigration system has been broken for many years, and the opportunities afforded my parents are “slim to none” for so many in the community that Open Arms serves with love and compassion.

The broken immigration system became very apparent to me when our church group visited Tucson, Arizona and participated in a Borderlinks experience. We walked migrant trails in the desert; visited staging areas where immigrants were gathering supplies and meeting unscrupulous coyote guides to take them into the desert; we visited migrant shelters and immigration detention centers; we witnessed migration-related court proceedings, and we meet with migrants and heard their courageous stories.

The immigrant parents we met in Mexico and Arizona said they wanted a better life for their children just as my parents wanted for my sister and me. I support the Open Arms Hispanic Ministries for a number of reasons; not the least of which is knowing that God loves us all equally and we should love one another in the same way. I thank Haroldo Nunes and the Open Arms Board and staff for their tireless efforts in supporting the hopes and dreams of our local immigrant community.

~ **Bill Weiss**



**Open Arms
Hispanic
Ministries**

Brazos Abiertos

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

Treasurer Report

Dear Friends & Amigos of Open Arms, Historically, the mission of Open Arms has been to support the Hispanics in our community both spiritually and physically. The “physical” outreach of our organization has graciously been carried out by our staff in the way of translation and transportation, and typically with a small budget for emergency needs. As we all know, the COVID-19 crisis of 2020 has brought on new challenges and situations. The Open Arms staff and board have worked hard to address the needs that have arisen in the Hispanic community.

We are extremely grateful to our friends and Amigos who have supported the organization throughout

these trying times. By the grace of God, we have been able to greatly increase our Compassion Fund and have disbursed *over \$16,000 for hardship situations, both medical and financial*. Examples include, paying for medical bills, helping with rent money, utility bills, replacing broken appliances, grocery cards and so on.

We also know that this crisis is not over. Your continued support will allow us to minister through the winter and spring and hopefully to the other side of COVID-19. We also ask that you pray for the health and safety of our staff as they do their best to work safely in the community.

Que Dios les bendiga,
~ **Doug Zehr** – Treasurer

Phone: 330-765-9955 | E-mail: info@openarmshispanicministry.org | Website: openarmshispanicministry.org



**Open Arms
Hispanic Ministries**

1305 W. Market St.
Orville, OH 44667