



Alpha & Omega
Community Center

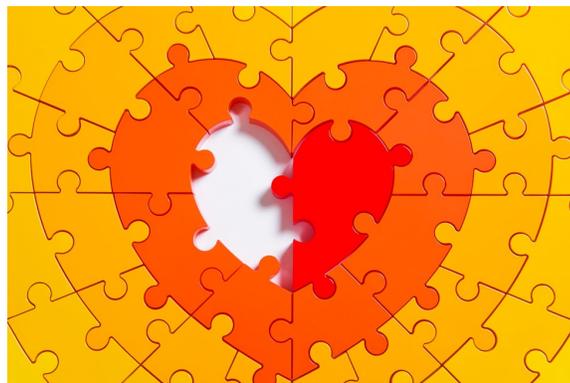
Wabank Witness

Spring 2022

PIECES OF A PUZZLE

In the great puzzle of life, God puts the pieces together.

The United States is a land of opportunity where many dreams come true. It is also a land where God brings together people of different nationalities, languages, colors, education, skills, and experiences to help build a great nation. A great nation needs to set clear social goals, it needs clear rules, and it needs people who are willing to do their part to contribute their gifts and abilities on behalf of their community and their families.



When I was a child, I loved putting puzzles together. This often took hours and involved many failed attempts to join pieces that did not seem to fit, until I was finally able to complete the entire puzzle.

We live in a city of about 60,000 inhabitants where people from at least 85 countries live. I marvel at the way in which we live together in a respectful manner, each contributing our part to achieve individual and common dreams for our lives and for our families.



At Alpha and Omega Community Center staff and volunteers from Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, the United States, and other countries have come together providentially, united by the vision and purpose of the Center. Through unity and coordination, we complete a good puzzle that brings well-being in the areas where we concentrate our efforts.

Our purpose is to share the love of God by providing social and educational services to equip and empower our immigrant community to enjoy a better lifestyle that brings them closer to achieving their dreams. This puzzle is not complete if we don't invest in our spiritual relationship with Jesus. We thank God for the ministry of Alpha and Omega Church of the Brethren which gave birth to the AOCC. With more than 310 years of existence, the Church of the Brethren denomination places high emphasis on service and community.

—Joel Peña, Director

SHARING CHRIST BY SERVING

Several persons from Afghanistan, fleeing the Taliban take-over in their country, have been resettled in the Lancaster area. In January, Computers for Refugees received requests from five Afghan families, four of whom attend the group English classes offered Monday and Thursday evenings by Global Impact for Christ in the Alpha & Omega Community Center building.

One of the families attending these classes is sponsored by Lancaster Church of the Brethren. Both husband and wife worked in the medical field and are connected to the medical English classes that are offered through the Center. Danny was able to provide them with a computer, a surface tablet, and a printer. What a blessing to connect to these families and to supply them with necessary computers!

Jen Eby, who works in Community Action Partnership's nutrition education program, set up a table to



distribute information and samples at a recent Food Bank. While speaking with her, Danny learned that she and her husband are part of a Refugee Welcoming Team at their church. He also shared about the Community Center's services. On January 22, Jen requested a computer for an Afghan family that had recently arrived in the neighborhood, and Danny was able to have one ready for pick-up the next

day. This family had begun to attend the English for Muslims class, and a laptop would be a valuable learning tool. What a blessing to be part of a team working together to serve newcomers in our community!

Another refugee family near the Center has four children. The father worked as a physician and the mother as a nurse midwife. Danny was able to give this family both a desktop and a laptop, which the Center received the day he needed it. He personally dropped off the computers and was excited to meet both the family and part of their Welcoming Team. What a blessing to connect personally with those we serve!

Connecting, educating, sharing life, and being always ready to give an answer (1 Peter 3:16) and a computer are vital and effective elements of evangelism and the ministry of the Alpha & Omega Community Center.

MEET MARISOR

An Interview of AOCC Administrative Assistant Marisor Diaz by Ever Sandoval

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am from the Dominican Republic, born in the province La Romana. I was raised by my parents along with my brothers and sisters in the fear of the Lord. I was guided by them to live in integrity, which my parents gave witness to with words and deeds. Even though I grew up in the midst of many people, I always tended to have my own space.

I was married in 1980 to Domingo Diaz, with whom I had my two children, Teualdys and Madorim, and from whom I am now divorced. God has blessed me with two precious granddaughters, Stella and Camila, and with a precious grandson, Dylan. They are my joy.

I achieved a degree in Business Administration at the Federico Henriquez y Carvajal University, Romana

campus, in July 1994. I worked in the executive area of various businesses over the course of 30 years, reaching the position of Human Resources Manager and Financial Manager in the last company where I worked from 2005 until 2008.

How did you arrive at Alpha & Omega?

In April 2009 I came to Lancaster to help my daughter register for one of the universities here, and I stayed with friends who were members of Alpha & Omega Church. We eventually decided to stay in Lancaster and joined our friends as members at Alpha & Omega.

What is your job at the Community Center?



WITH APPRECIATION: CENTER BIDS FAREWELL TO THREE

We express appreciation for three people who have served and advanced the mission of the Community Center.

Angela T. Arce-Galindo came to the United States from Peru at the invitation of the Church of the Brethren to open the department of Christian Counseling at Alpha & Omega, beginning her duties in June 1991. During her tenure, she offered individual and family counseling, organized workshops to strengthen family values, and taught patterns of Christian living to children, adolescents, and adults. She wrote and taught courses about the development of personality and about specialized counseling for human growth and development. When needed, Angela worked with Spanish language needs at George Washington Elementary School and was a supervisor of students seeking a Master's Degree in Spanish at Lancaster Bible College.



Who's Who recognized Angela's contribution to the Spanish-speaking community of Lancaster. The Center was blessed to have Angela on staff and recognizes and appreciates the high quality and professionalism of her work among us, which concluded in December 2021.

Pastor Alberto Hernández joined the staff of the Center in 2009 as the producer of the Center's radio program, *Hablemos en claro (Let's Speak Clearly)*, which airs on Radio Centro WLCH 91.3 each Monday at 10:00 a.m. For 12 years, he addressed topics regarding values, family, and self-esteem, such as developing character,



improving relationships among family members, and prioritizing family time. Twice a month, Pastor Alberto interviewed guests about topics important to the community. He served the Center in this way until August 2021 and is currently Director of Asociación Misión Bautista (Baptist Mission Association), where he oversees 18 churches in Pennsylvania. The Center was blessed to have Pastor Alberto on staff and recognizes and appreciates the care, consistency, professionalism, and excellence with which he prepared the content of each radio program.

Jill Nuñez, a member of Alpha & Omega Church of the Brethren, served on the Board of Directors from 2013 until January 2022. She is a teacher at Washington Elementary School, a Sunday School teacher, and a former youth leader. She served the Board as interim secretary until two years ago and as interim treasurer for years. The Center was blessed to have Jill on the Board and recognizes and appreciates her pragmatic approach, her focus on our mission and goals, her reliability as treasurer, and her passion for the community.



Pastor Joel Peña, who is the director of the Alpha & Omega Community Center, offered me the role of administrative assistant, with a modest monthly stipend. I began in August 2017.

My job at the Community Center covers many areas. I am in charge of everything having to do with managing an office. I am always looking for the best deals to supply what is necessary in terms of office supplies, building cleaning, and the Computers for Refugees program. It is my responsibility to request funds to pay providers to make payment before the due dates to avoid late fees and additional charges. I keep inventory of the supplies and report broken down equipment for repair. I answer the phone and forward incoming messages. I help out with the food bank, and I inform and orient people who call or come in person seeking help. Sometimes, I even clean the office.

What does the Community Center mean to you?

To me, the Alpha & Omega Community Center means my Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria (Acts 1:8) in that I serve the community of Lancaster in the name of the Lord Jesus, and I do so with responsibility and joy.

In spite of coming from a low-income family, with the help of the Lord, I have prospered greatly intellectually and in ministry because He has seen fit to bless me with perseverance to meet my goals. Two of those goals are having written my first book, *El Cincel del Maestro* (The Master's Chisel), which is sold on Amazon, and the launch of my YouTube channel "Mi Cristo Guarida" (My Christ Den) through which I share the word of the Lord via short devotionals that are edifying and blessing lives around the world. As always, this is all so the name of the Lord is glorified.

Address Service Requested

STAFF

Joel Peña
Director
Marisor Diaz
Administrative Assistant
Danny Gingrich
ESL Teacher/Computers
Ever Sandoval
Radio Producer
Petra Castro
Food Bank Coordinator
Daniel Gonzalez
Music Coordinator

BOARD MEMBERS

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DRIVE THRU PORK BBQ DINNER TO BENEFIT CENTER

The Community Center is sponsoring its second drive thru pork BBQ meal fundraiser on Saturday, May 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The church is located at 1601 Sunset Ave. (near the Lancaster Shopping Center).

Catered by Peters' Barbecue, the meal will include a pulled pork sandwich with barbecue sauce, a homemade roll (made by Amish), baked potato, and applesauce (drink not included). The cost is \$10 per meal. Please have exact change to pay at pick-up by cash or check made out to AOCC. Extra donations are welcome! Last year's dinner generated a profit of \$2,440 to support the work of the Center.

Pre-orders are strongly encouraged, but a limited number of meals will be



available for purchase the day of the event. Pre-ordered meals not picked up by 12:30 may be sold to someone else. The only way to guarantee that you won't miss out is to pre-order and pick up by the deadline.

To pre-order, contact Board member Carolyn Fitzkee no later than May 18 at dcfitzkee@gmail.com or 717-682-1762.