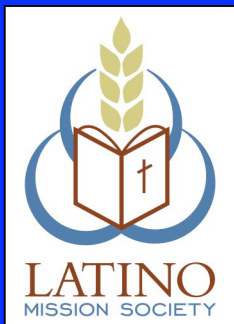


LATINO MISSION SOCIETY

Lutheran Action Team Improving Native (Hispanic/Latino) Outreach

NEWS
RELEASE

08/08/2007



Mission Statement

Bringing the message of Eternal Life in Jesus Christ to Hispanics/Latinos in Michigan



God Grants Success to LATINO/ St. Stephen VBS

The LATINO Mission Society partnered with St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Southwest Detroit for the 2007 Vacation Bible School. The Lord blessed the event with a record number of participants and volunteers. Each of the five days attendance soared from between 100 and 120 students—double the usual attendance with 90% of children being Hispanic! Children from age three to eighth grade were included. There were two classes for the youngest children—one in Spanish and one in English. The other age groups were taught in English with Spanish language support and translation available. The event culminated on Friday with a closing worship service followed by an ice cream reception. One of the highlights was a drawing for 15 donated and repaired bicycles.

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, looking forward to his third term as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod said he wants to ensure that "we as a church understand that our focus is mission, our focus is communicating the one message: *Christ*." In line with that desire, LATINO seeks to "*Bring the message of eternal life in Jesus Christ to Hispanics in Michigan.*"

LATINO was founded in 2002 as a tax-exempt corporation. LATINO seeks to build relationships with *Colaboradores en Misión* (Mission Partners). LATINO does this in two ways:

- ❖ First, LATINO comes alongside congregations that wish to begin or improve outreach to their Hispanic neighbors. Deaconess Teresita Rodriguez has more than twenty years of experience in Hispanic ministry in the LCMS. Rev. Gregory Lorenz has ten years of experience on the foreign mission field in Guatemala and seven years of service in Hispanic ministry in the United States. They have teamed up to provide consultation, training, and expertise for congregations desiring to be involved in or support Hispanic ministry.
- ❖ Second, Congregations, Groups, and Individuals come alongside LATINO partnering to provide the necessary resources and funding to make this ministry possible.

We invite you to visit LATINOMission.org for more information and VBS photos.