

## **BRAZO EN BRAZO ANNUAL REPORT - 2016**

*Brazo en Brazo* (Arm in Arm) is a Spanish language ministry in the Lima, Ohio, area in partnership with Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The supporting local congregations are First Mennonite (Bluffton), Grace Mennonite (Pandora), Lima Mennonite (Lima), Pike Mennonite (Elida), and Salem Mennonite (Elida). The Board of Directors is made up of a representative from each of the supporting congregations.

The board met six times during 2016 (January, March, May, June, August, and October) with Ivan Friesen serving as chairperson and Marti Mesa serving as recording secretary. The board's focus was on the social ministry of *Brazo en Brazo*. This included oversight of and reporting from Paul and Ann Conrad and Marti Meza. It also meant planning for and leading the *Fiesta Familiar* in September.

During 2016 the Conrads continued their ministry of staying in contact with many Hispanic people in the Lima area. This included sending bulletins to people in the community to keep them aware of *Brazo en Brazo* activities, sending calendars to Mexico and encouraging people to read Christian literature at home, maintaining and updating the *Brazo en Brazo* display board, and more. Marti provided legal help to Hispanic people in need of such help, helped an undocumented senior from Kenton apply to Bluffton University, assisted families doing tax returns, translated for people in numerous situations, helped with document translation, learned to know migrant workers, and provided transportation for people who needed it, among other things.

The worship ministry of *Brazo en Brazo* was led by the Conrads alongside of a *Pro-bienestar* (equivalent of a "ministry team") group until the Conrads' retirement in September. This ministry included Bible classes followed by worship each Sunday afternoon at Lima Mennonite Church.

The *Brazo en Brazo* ministry began in the fall of 2004 and is now, at the end of 2016, beginning its 13th year.

Ivan Friesen, board chairperson  
December 2016