Celebrating Presence: 10 YEARS OF RELATIONSHIPS AND HOPE

Over the past 10 years, Latinos in the Fredericksburg area have increasingly experienced life changes through God’s presence in LUCHA ministries (translated, the acronym means Latinos United through Christ in Solidarity and Support). Responding to the question, “What is your struggle?” in 2004, LUCHA has focused its efforts on improving the lives and easing the transitions of Latinos who leave their homelands to seek a better life for themselves and their families. LUCHA helps with needs that the government, local churches, and social service organizations find challenging. After-school tutoring, access to community resources and programs, ESOL classes, and training in marketable skills are just a few of the tangible ways LUCHA is offering help and hope to families who want to work and participate in their children’s education.

In 10 years of ministry, LUCHA has celebrated many milestones with Latino families—births, deaths, graduations, marriages, quinceañeras, and holidays—all of which are opportunities to provide care. While parents may still struggle with English, work at low-paying jobs that provide few options for advancement, and deal with the loneliness and isolation that comes from being separated from their extended families, LUCHA provides a place where they are reminded of God’s love.

**Ministries like this one are made possible by the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions and Cooperative Missions gifts of Virginia Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia.**

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October 14-21, 2014

OFFERING GOAL $1,167,500
Living Presence: REACHING THE UNCHURCHED

Each year, part of the Alma Hunt Offering is sent to support new church plants. Research shows that newly started churches reach 10 new believers for every 100 church members per year. This year, one of the new churches receiving one of these grants is Portico Church in Bloomington, Illinois, a daughter church of Portico Church Charlottesville. About half the population of Bloomington (roughly 40,000 out of 80,000) is made up of students at Indiana University, and nearly half of those are international students. Portico Church sees a unique opportunity to take the gospel to the nations by focusing on the international students and community at the university. They are committed to extending mercy to those in need, focusing much of their time and resources on meeting the known needs of their city such as ministering to the poor in their diverse population. Portico Church is also eager to reinvest in the work of church planting, so they pledge to give 10% of their income to the care and starting of new churches.

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www.AlmaHunt.org

#LivingThruPresence