

WARWICK AREA
MIGRANT
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



CONTACT US

WAMC
P.O. Box 607
Goshen, New York 10924
(845) 258- 1560
wafarmworkers.org



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present to you our Annual Report for WAMC. We wanted to share with you some of the program results and stories from this year. There are so many ways in which your support has made a difference in the lives of the families we serve. We hope that this report is a good way to share our story!

This year, WAMC celebrated our 60th Anniversary. A special documentary was produced. We held three celebration and screening events. The film is achieved in the Warwick Public Library.

This Report is organized by season since so much of our work unrolls at particular times of the year. You will learn about the various programs we offer to farmworkers and their families. We are working in partnership with organizations and volunteers. Without this collaboration, much of what we do would be limited. During the winter months we provide much-needed food, social connections, and activities to farmworkers and their families. The programs that we offer to the teenagers and preteens are done in conjunction with HRHCare. For example, Homework Help, which is vital to the support of children achieving success in their schools, would not be possible without the support of the volunteers and HRHCare. Our most important program is the Dulce Esperanza Summer Enrichment. We served eighty five children this past summer. The eight-hour day provided important activities and enrichment for these children. Their parents were so grateful to have this program; they contributed

financially, held fundraisers, and volunteered in the program itself.

The children were exposed to so many experiences that they would not have had otherwise: Writer's Workshop, field trips, and art workshops were among just a few of the programs they participated in. A detailed description of the field trips and activities follows in this report.

Another aspect of our program this year was the placement of Summer Interns in all aspects of the program. We hired six college interns as teachers. They were able to decorate their classrooms, and plan lessons and activities. This benefited both our children as well as the interns!

We are looking forward to the future with building on the activities for the children during the whole year. During this new year, we hope to secure grant/foundation funding to ensure the future of WAMC. Our program depends on your support -- be assured that YOU have made a difference in the lives of our children and families! In these uncertain times, the parents are so grateful to you for this helping to make this safe and loving environment a reality.

Best wishes for a healthy 2020. . . Kathy

Katherine Brieger, RD, CCE, CPHQ
Executive Director, WAMC



Partners:

Warwick Area Migrant Committee has been fortunate to have the support of many partners. Without the commitment of these partners, we would not have been able to offer our programs to as many people. Our gratitude to all of these organizations listed below:

- Sisters of the Divine Compassion -- Founders of the Mustard Seed Migrant Ministry
- HRHCare
- Warwick Valley Central School System
- Warwick Rotary Club
- Albert Wisner Public Library of Warwick
- Warwick Historical Society
- Pine Island Chamber of Commerce
- OC Vegetable Growers Association
- OC Farm Bureau
- Migrant Education
- Orange County Bank and Trust
- Hanah Foundation
- Church of St. Stephen the First Martyr
- Amity Therapeutic Horse Farm
- Hudson Highlands Nature Museum

Board of Directors

WAMC is proud to have an active board of directors. We have a majority of farmworkers serving on the board.



Sharon Halpern,
BOD Chair



Marilyn Ortiz,
Vice Chair of the Board



Chris Ashman



Raphael Crespo



Leticia Gutierrez



Raul Gutierrez



Jose Luis Morales



Christopher
Pawelski



Candido Sierra



Winter

For most of November and December, we were preparing for the Christmas Season. Churches, community groups, and at least 35 volunteers help to provide holiday meals and gifts for the Christmas Store. It was a very busy time of year, but the 135 families and more than 25 single men appreciated the outreach from the community. The holidays concluded following our special Three Kings celebration. We were able to give gifts as well as serve a traditional ROSCA bread. Our Hot Meals program begins with this holiday meal. The winter months can be very challenging for farmworkers and their families. The lack of work creates a financial hardship but the most difficult thing about winter may be the isolation. Some of the single men do not have people to talk to during the winter, or they are limited to contact within their small homes.

In order to provide connection during the cold winter months, the WAMC has been able to provide a Hot Meals program. This is a partnership between the WAMC and HRHCare-Alamo. In addition to the English Conversation classes, people are able to enjoy a meal together, watch a soccer game, or just enjoy each other's company. WAMC has been able to support additional activities during the winter, such as the sewing club, Valentine's Dance, and Winter Aerobics.

On December 30th, eight of the Young Outstanding Latina Organization (YOLOs) had a slumber party at the home of Kathy Brieger and Joe Maggio. They were supervised by one of the parents, Leticia Guitierrez. The girls enjoyed a dinner together, and had fun doing nail polish, and just hanging out and talking to each other.

We often do not appreciate how much a slumber party means to these teenagers. They did not get much sleep but enjoyed their night together!





Spring

As the weather grew warmer, we hosted BBQ for the hot meals program. We ended the Hot Meals on Easter as many of the farmworkers return to work at this time. Our Easter meal served over 85 people, with a basket of candies or other gifts! We were able to provide tamales and other special treats through the donations we received. We begin to prepare for the summer program with meetings for the parents and external partners. In 2020, we will be in our fourth year of offering the summer program.



The YOLOs and LYLAHs will be planning a special trip this Spring. They will be able to go on a day trip into New York City to visit a museum or art center. The Boys' group will be able to have a trip as well sometime during the Spring. During their breaks, WAMC has been able to fund movie night or bowling sessions. Homework club continues with up to 27 students. High School students receive assistance as needed.





Summer

The largest project of WAMC is the Dulce Esperanza program. For two months, our focused work is on getting the summer program up and running. Staff is hired and complete their orientation. Classrooms are set up and the children are registered. This past summer we registered 85 students, ages 6-13. We started during the first week in July and ran through mid-August. There were two student teachers per class.

This internship worked well as these future teachers were able to learn about classroom management.

The student interns were also able to use their creative skills in developing lesson plans and activities for children. The Interns had experience in working with Volunteers in the classroom, another valuable opportunity.



Facts about Dulce Esperanza:

- 86 children registered
- Ages 6-13
- From five School Districts: Florida, Goshen, Warwick, Minisink, and Chester
- Program ran from July 1st through August 16th 9-5 pm
- Parents contribute \$20 per week but if they could not pay, scholarships were available
- 9,400 meals and snacks were served



Field Trips:

- Amity Therapeutic Horse farm
- Alfred Wisner Public Library, Warwick
- Warwick Historical Society
- Hudson Highlands Nature Museum
- Movies
- Hudson Valley Renegades baseball game
- Nature Preserve in Pine Island



Themes for the Summer:

Nutrition

- Beverages
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Grains
- Proteins
- Milk and Dairy
- Snacks

Themes for the Summer:

Peace

- Appreciation of Others
- Talk it Out
- Empathy Connection
- Walk in My Shoes
- Community Involvement
- If You Could See The World Through My Eyes
- Find Your Voice



Volunteers

Over 1,000 volunteer hours were completed over the summer. The ages of the volunteers ranged from 8 to 86. The volunteers made much of the special programming possible. They assisted in the garden, kitchen, classrooms, and with special activities. Programs last summer included: Skill Development programming included:

- Writer's Workshop
- Reading Programs

Other activities:

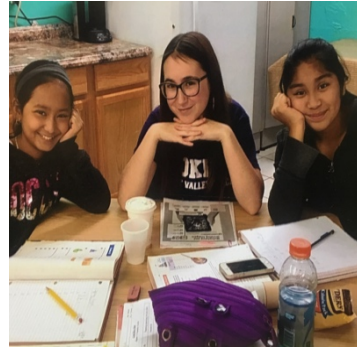
- Gardening
- Hand-sewing
- Tie Dye
- Soccer
- Nutrition
- Bird Identification
- Slime Making
- Piñata Making
- Dancing
- Knitting
- Legos
- Story Telling





Fall

The Fall is a busy time for farmworker families as the harvest is in progress. The children go back to school and that is when we begin our Homework Help Club. The dedicated volunteers who come each week assist about 27 children with homework and special projects. Each week the children bring their homework or reading projects and have the assistance they need. This is one of the most important projects of WAMC. St. Stephen's Church has provided our students with backpacks and school supplies. So the Homework Club is the next support we provide.



There is a high dropout rate with children of farmworker families. It is due in part by the nature of their lives. Moving from place to place, even if it is in the same county, schools may change. The difficulty in feeling part of the community may be made more difficult because their families do not speak English. The tutors are retired teachers and other adults who are able to help. The students may read a book or play a game with their tutors. This year, we had a violin concert-impromptu as two of the girls brought their violins. Many of our tutors have been doing this for several years. It is a wonderful feeling to have helped a child succeed in school. The program runs each week from September through June. The ages of these children are six through 12.

For the older students, tutoring is available as needed. Regents assistance or tutoring in specific subjects is also done. The children of all ages know that they have help available.

Late in the Fall we begin the holiday preparations. Thanksgiving is hectic as we work with area churches and other groups to identify families who will receive the Thanksgiving baskets. Grace Community Church, Warwick Campus, has provided Thanksgiving Bags of food for over 130 families in the last several years.





Parent Involvement

The parents are so grateful for our summer program, Dulce Esperanza. They have held a fundraiser this year. They used a traditional style of community fundraising in which the families prepared and sold traditional Mexican foods. It was wonderful to see the parents work together to help raise funds for the summer program.

Parents have been able to volunteer for the summer. Some of the parents volunteered during the day for gardening as well as for other activities. Additionally, parents have volunteered to prepare meals on occasion. The children love traditional foods!

In the middle of the summer, we held a parent meeting during which all parents were able to learn more about what their children were doing, as well as participate in a learning activity. This summer, Patty Boltin Heltlue Pediatric Nurse Practitioner session with the parents. Parents learned what were the 10 steps they could take to promote health for their children





Please Support or Donate

Your generous donation can help change the lives of farmworkers and their families. We are a non-profit organization and your donation will be tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

