

WARWICK AREA  
MIGRANT  
COMMITTEE

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



## CONTACT US

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# Dear Friends,

We have made it through 2020! As we all have had to make modifications to how our lives were, WAMC has had to make many changes. The good news is that we have made some discoveries. Some of the changes may be keepers. In this Annual Report, we will showcase what we have done in 2020. With your support, we have provided essential services to farmworkers and their families during this difficult year. Without your support, this would not have happened. We all look forward to a better 2021.

Our focus for over 60 years has been on the social determinants of health for farmworkers in the area. Those factors which impact how healthy individuals and their families are have been referred to as social determinants of health. They determine health status more than genetics.

- Housing
- Availability of Fresh Food
- Employment
- Community Connection and Resources
- Safe Environment
- Access to Services including Health Care

## Supporters

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 these organizations listed below:

Sun River Health	Pine Island Chamber of Commerce	Warwick Garden Club
Warwick Valley Central School System	OC Vegetable Growers Association	Church of St. Stephen the First Martyr
Farm East Credit	OC Farm Bureau	Sisters of the Divine Compassion
Orthmann Family	Migrant Education	Amity Therapeutic Horse Farm
Glenn and Susan Dicks	Community2gether	Warwick Rotary Club

Your support of this work is critical. Together we offer programs that support education and enrichment for the children and adults. Access to healthy food and a safe environment are some of the things we are working on.

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



### Update on WAMC:

WAMC was established in 1959 and formerly incorporated in 1971 as a Private Foundation. This provides a tax-exempt status but it the status as a Private Foundation has prevented us from seeking certain grant funding. This year an application was made to form a new organization which is now seeking 501c3 status. The organization will not dissolve or displace WAMC-both organizations will work in collaboration. The second organization is named the **Warwick Area Farmworker Organization**. We hope to notify you soon that our application to be a 501c3 has been approved.

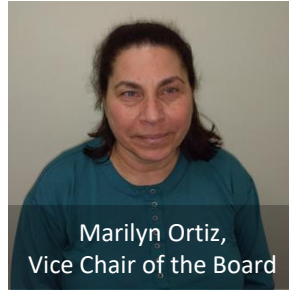
While it will not change any fundamental operation of our programming but will allow us to seek grants as well as qualify for some foundation gifts.

# 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



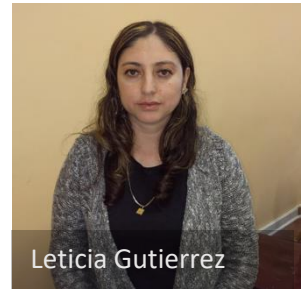
Marilyn Ortiz,  
Vice Chair of the Board



Chris Ashman



Elfege Rivera Cruz



Leticia Gutierrez



Raul Gutierrez



Jose Luis Morales



Christopher  
Pawelski



Candido Sierra



Sharline Barragan

# WAMC Board of Directors

Our organization has provided many important programs for farmworkers and their families over its sixty years history. Our Board has led those efforts and represents the people we serve. Over 60 percent of the BOD are active farmworkers. The other BOD members represent our community partners and stakeholders.

**Sharon Halper** has served as our BOD Chair for the last three years and represents volunteers in the community. She has been a tutor for the Homework Help club, teacher for the English program and helped to connect us with resources in the community. She has been

**Marilyn Ortiz** has served on our BOD as Vice Chairperson for the last three years and represents our partner, Sun River Health (formerly Hudson River HealthCare). She is active in the hot meals program, sewing club and the linkage to programs for Sun River Health.

**Chris Pawelski** has served on our BOD for the last two years and represents an important stakeholder group-the farmer. He is a fourth-generation farmer in the black dirt area. Farmworker BOD members nominated Chris as they have worked with him on workplace safety programs through Sun River Health. He also assists WAMC with linkages with legislative and other farm concerns.

**Leticia and Raul Guitterez** have served on our BOD for the last three years. They represent the parents of the Dulce Esperanza program. They have both worked as farmworkers for many years. They have three children and have been part of the hot meals program, Dulce Esperanza, sewing club and any program that is offered.

**Candido Sierra** has served on the BOD for the last three years. He represents the single men who are working in the black dirt area. He has participated in the English program and Hot Meal program.

**Chris Ashman** has served on the BOD for the last two years. He represents our connections with social service and mental health agencies. As a retired Commissioner of Mental Health in Orange County, he has been a long-term supporter of the WAMC programs.

**Jose Luis Morales** has served on the BOD for the last three years. He represents the single men who are working in the black dirt region. He has participated in the English program, Hot Meals and Sewing Club.

**Sharlin Barragan** (not pictured) has served on the BOD for a one year term as a Youth Advisor. She has represented the needs of the youth. She is a High School freshman in Minisink High School and the daughter of farmworkers. She has also participated in many programs of WAMC.





# Winter

Last winter we had organized the regular activities for families. Hot meals were offered each Sunday in the Pine Island School. Our regular activities promoting a connection during the winter months, were in full swing. In late February, our Valentine Day Dance was held. Claire Gabelman prepared a delicious table of desserts and music was provided by Miguel Cortez. Some of the other highlights were the English classes lead by Joyce Goodwin, John Mertens and Sharon Halper.



Our Winter Programs:  
Sewing Club  
Hot Meals  
Homework Club  
LYLAs and Yolos Outings



# Volunteer

Volunteers support all the programs of WAMC. This year, volunteers stepped forward to help in providing connection to the families. Food delivery to the camps was supported by a group of High School students and some adults. Tutors were able to provide connection through computer platforms and on the phone when needed.

During the summer, a handful of volunteers helped to offer activities, to small groups of students. These included: gardening; arts and cooking.

Another big focus was packing up all of the contents of our classrooms and bringing them to the storage POD at the Pine Island School.



*Charlotte, Cameron, Billie, Elizabeth worked with the LYLAs.*



*Art with Pat Quinn*



Above: Volunteers prepare to deliver a weekly summer providing 500 meals to children

Bottom Right: Claire Gabelman Teaching Cooking!



*Mary Berrigan caring for the garden with children*



*Volunteer teacher Bridget Dudzik visiting her students and their chickens!*





# Spring

As the COVID virus spread, our winter programs ended. Some of the photos on this page were the transition point. Many families depend on our hot meals and other programs. With the spread of COVID.

With the help of a solid team of volunteers, we were able to pivot to meet the needs of the families. We worked with the ALAMO Food Pantry (a program of Sun River Health) and supported delivery and distribution of additional foods.

We also worked on communicating resource availability to the families. Typically, around 250 families use the food pantry-during the Spring, that number increased to 650 households.





# Summer



Our summer started with a celebration of seven students who graduated high school. We have always made this an important event-to be witnessed by the younger children. We invite people who have supported the children from the Migrant Head Start, Sun River Health staff, Migrant Education, the nuns and the WAMC staff & volunteers. We were able to hold our celebration outside on the hill of the Pine Island School. It was a safe event and was enjoyed by all. Typically, there is a 25% drop out rate-so we want to do all that we can to highlight their success. Several of the graduates have gone on to College. Two of the students did not have a laptop and WAMC provided this important tool to them.

For the summer program-many changes were made but we were able to reach over 85 students. With the help of volunteers, our staff and all your support, we were able to provide a summer program. Our teachers visited the students each by hiring teachers and students to go to the homes of all the students this year. Twice a week, kits were prepared to send home with the students. We were able to provide books, art kits, activities, and a connection to the outside world. This was also a learning experience for the teachers as they got to see where the children lived, met pet goats and chickens as well! Once a week, meals were delivered to each of the families-including food for the children outside of the typical age for Dulce Esperanza. This was a much-appreciated gift to the families.

At the end of the summer and into the fall, WAMC was able to continue with food delivery through a Hunger New York grant. Our partners in Cornell Cooperative Extension provided us with this important connection. Vegetables, eggs, and fresh milk were delivered to 40 households through the fall.



# Dulce Esperanza



Artist Pat Quinn works with small group of students at the Pine Island School



Allan worked on his reading this summer with his teachers



Left: Daniel and his teacher Asher doing the weekly fitness activity

Right: (Name ) is showing off her project for Being an Upstander (not a Bystander) from Peace Institute



Volunteers from Warwick Highschool helped prepare the supplies brought to the students



Teacher Maya Henderson worked on art projects with the students as well as reading and math.

# Fall

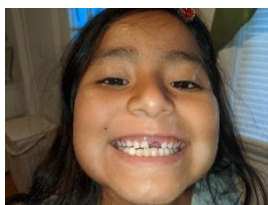
The school year started with our programs moving to remote support. While we were able to continue tutoring some of the children who normally come to the program, not all children have been enrolled. We have been able to provide support for the families when there were difficulties with getting supplies from schools. We have also moved to provide support when resources were needed. WAMC was part of Hunger New York this fall and were able to provide milk and vegetables to 40 households through the early part of December. This program is part of feeding New York and the connection was made by Cornell Cooperative Extension.

## Fairy Project

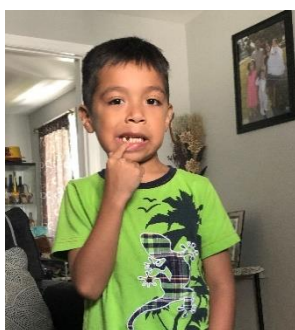
We also completed work on our Fairy project. Barbara Lanza, a local artist, is illustrating a book about fairies for WAMC. She is featuring 8 of our children. This book will be about how fairies help to save a village using special powers! Released this Spring, it will help to raise funds for our programs.



*Hunger New York provided food during the fall to 40 Households*



*Life goes on-children growing up with new teeth as evidence!*



# Budget

Our fundraising efforts have been limited this year due to the pandemic. We have focused on our immediate needs and now must look for alternate funding. Some of the plans for 2021 include:

- Return Raffle in the Spring
- Applying for Grants
- Continuing to request donations from the community
- Parent fundraiser in the late summer

## Special Recognition of WAMC

This year WAMC received two special recognitions.

**The Warwick Democratic Committee** recognized WAMC for our work in the community.

The **Pine Island Chamber of Commerce** recognized WAMC as the outstanding organization of the year for our work in the community.

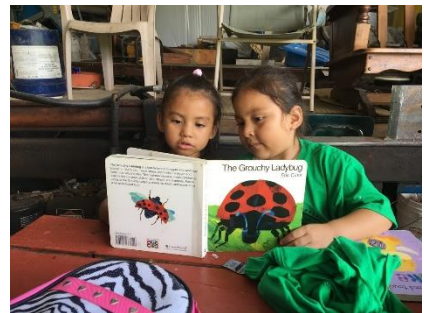
Kathy Brieger was recognized by the **National Association of Community Health Centers** with a *Lifetime Achievement Award for Migrant Health*. This recognition is presented to a recipient who has worked in migrant health and made significant contribution to the health of farmworkers. The recipient is selected from Community Health Centers serving farmworkers.

## Income

Donations: \$52,475  
Foundation: \$5,000  
Total: \$57,475

## Expenses

Salaries: \$30,000  
Supplies: \$3,000  
Insurance: \$4,000  
Program Costs: \$2,000  
Food: \$8,000  
Accounting and professional fees: \$5,000  
Rent and Utilities: \$2,000  
Transportation: \$17,000\*  
\*\*Busing cost \$16,000-2019 expense  
Total=\$54,000 (minus the busing cost)







# 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 is tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. Donations go directly to program costs and may be made on-line or sent to the P.O. Box office. All checks should be made to WAMC.

