



WARWICK AREA FARMWORKER ORGANIZATION YOUTH PROGRAMS



Programs focusing on farmworker youth are critically important for their future. Farmworker parents are often not able to bring their children to special events or programs due to lack of transportation or their work schedule. The clubs offer a safe place for children to have their own space. WAFO has created some opportunities to strengthen academic progress, as well as offer enrichment programming.

Homework Club: During the academic year, students and volunteer tutors meet weekly to support homework and reading improvement. The volunteers range in age from high school students to senior citizens. Several volunteers have worked with their students for many years and have developed lasting relationships. One of the tutors volunteered when he was 13, continuing through high school and college. After graduating from college, Vishnu Sharma returned to work for the summer. These long-term relationships are so important for both the volunteer and the student. It adds to our understanding of each other's culture and enriches our lives in a meaningful way.

Boys and Girls Groups: Engaging in healthy behaviors becomes a central theme of all the programs and offers a sense of belonging. Artists from the community and speakers from various agencies are invited to work with students and to share their talents or informational topics. Cornell Cooperative Extension has provided important programming as has Safe Homes. Students have been taken on field trips to enrich their lives to places like the Roosevelt Mansion and the Poughkeepsie Walkway across the Hudson. Photographer, Diane Pell, took a small group of boys to the Appalachian Trail to learn about taking photographs. On a second session, she showed them how to modify their photographs to enhance them.



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