

WARWICK AREA  
FARMWORKER  
ORGANIZATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



## CONTACT US

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



Affiliate of  
**Sun River Health**



# Dear Friends,

Looking back on 2022, we had quite a bit of activity! We were able to purchase a new van in December, which was a great way to end the year.

What matters most to me is that we have impacted the lives of over 1,000 farm-workers and their families. We have done this through the dedication of the Board of Directors, the volunteers and our partnering agencies. Without this united effort, we would not have been successful. Our local and targeted work has had impacts on the lives of many people, I will share just a couple of stories with you.

- A young girl was feeling lost and without a future. Even though she had excellent grades in school and volunteered in many activities, she lacked the documents needed to apply for grants to college. We were able to support her with linkages to programs that will help her to go to college next year.
- A woman who is here without her children and lives in a single room in Middletown, was given important information about her health by Community Health Workers. Instead of feeling all alone in this country, she found people who cared and was linked to health services.
- A child who attended Dulce Esperanza for the first time had been afraid to come, she was bullied in her school and the camp was new. Instead of being bullied, she found students who looked like her and welcomed her with open arms. When she returns in 2023- you will recognize her as the one with the big smile.

The measure of our success are these stories. We offer hope to individuals and families- making a big difference in the lives of the people we touch! With best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling 2023!



Kathy Brieger  
Executive Director

## Board of Directors 2022



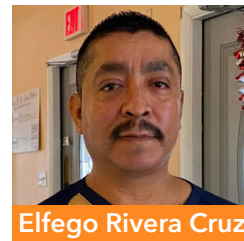
Patricia Claiborne



Chris Ashman



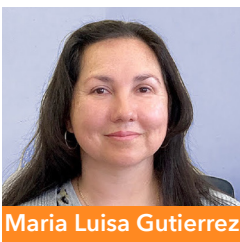
Eileen McManus



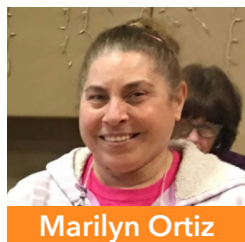
Elfego Rivera Cruz



Chris Pawelski



Maria Luisa Gutierrez



Marilyn Ortiz



Johanna Zacarias



Leticia Gutierrez



Raul Gutierrez

# Special Grants

This year, WAFO received five grants which were important to the work we are doing. Below is a summary of each:

## **Sun River Health: \$150,000 (2022 - 2023)**

This grant funded the work of our Community Health Workers in both accessing health care and education of the farmworkers. The grant also supported the purchase of the new 2023 Ford van which helps us to transport the people we serve. Support for some of the summer teacher salaries was included in this grant.

## **The National Center for Children's Agricultural Health and Safety: \$9,900**

This national grant was funded by the CDC-NIOSH programs. The program supported our project to convene a Stakeholder meeting, develop educational tools for Community Health Workers and then deliver the program to 800 farmworker families. This grant was important in that it was the first national grant we received.

## **Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan: \$20,000**

The Community Foundation provided the funding to reach families in a larger geographic area with the education program on child safety. The sessions we were able to offer parents extended to several counties through virtual learning. Migrant Education and the ABCD Head Start program were all active partners as part of this grant. Together with the NCCAHS grant, over 800 individuals were reached with this information, focusing on women and children.

## **Dyson Foundation: \$15,000**

This is the second year of funding from the Dyson Foundation to support a portion of the salaries for the summer teachers. This is our most expensive program and this support is important. The Program staff made a site visit to Dulce Esperanza this summer and were impressed with what they observed.

## **Dollar Store Literacy Grant: \$3,000**

This grant allowed us to purchase chrome books and books to be used in our summer program and then later in our Homework Club.

## **Special Thank you to our Benefactors:**

Without the contribution of the following Benefactors, we would not be able to do all of the programs we do!

Orthmann Family  
Glenn P. Dickes and Susan D. Dickes  
Ernie and Polly VanderKruik  
Sisters of the Divine Compassion  
Inge and Geoff Brieger  
Joe Maggio and Kathy Brieger



# Dulce Esperanza

Ninety children were enrolled in the program this summer. The children enjoyed many activities during the summer including art, water squirting, and dance. Two of their favorite activities are working with Mary in the garden and learning to cook with Claire. We had a special concert with e'Lissa Jones and the Hudson Valley String Orchestra. Cathy Heimbach returned to have the children read to the dogs. A donation by Inge and Geoff Brieger supported a field trip to the Liberty Science Center. The mornings were focused on reading comprehension. The students had been tested prior to the start of the summer. Following our seven-week program: 22% of the children showed improvement in their reading scores. The remaining children had not demonstrated any summer loss in their reading skills.



In December, we held a special program for children who were considering careers. We invited students who were attending college to meet with a group of students who were considering their futures. We had not done this before and plan to do this during the year. We plan to have other meetings like this throughout the year.





# Academic Year-Youth Activities

Each Wednesday, during the school year, we meet with one of three groups. The groups include: the BOYZ club; LYLAS; and YOLOS.

## LYLAS

### (Love You Like A Sister)

Girls ages 9-12 come together to learn about health, art and staying connected and safe. The programs are strength-based and focus on culture and family values. Orange County Cooperative Extension is our partner in delivering these youth activities. Our partner Wickham Works conducted a series of art programs earlier in the year. The children's art programs were on display during a fair sponsored by Wickham Works and the children were able to see their work in public. This was followed by an early dinner at the Country Dream Restaurant.



## BOYZ Club

Boys ages 9-13 come together to learn about health, art, life skills and staying healthy. The programs are also based in pride in culture and safety. The lead partners are Wickham Works and Orange County Cooperative Extension Service.

During the first session back, the boys were so happy they could not stop laughing.



Yolos with New Van

## YOLOS

### (Young Outstanding Latina Organization)

Offers programs for girls ages 13-18. The programs are strength-based skills. They have had programs from Planned Parenthood, Art and healthy living by Cornell Cooperative Extension Service.

Dinner at Kathy's house resumed after a pause related to COVID. A special guest is invited each month and a dinner is prepared for them by the YOLOS. The dinner is about connection and conversation. The first guest in 2022 was Johanna Zacarias, our BOARD member.



## Homework Club

Now in its tenth year, Homework Club matches volunteers with children needing support with homework. It includes a focus on reading and at the end of the one-hour session, children can play a game with their tutor and pick up a book to take home.





## Special Holiday Programs

Christmas Store and other holiday activities were a big success this year. St. Peter's Lutheran Church has offered a beautiful location with great hospitality to WAFO and the farmworker families. The President of the church has started Christmas shopping for 2023 already! Over 100 families were served by WAFO and the volunteers. Volunteers included staff of Sun River Health; the Warwick Police Officers including their Chief; volunteers from all of our programs as well as Vernon Township Woman's Club. It was successful in raising \$2,200, but also offered a dignified way for families to purchase their gifts.

Easter Outreach includes information about health programs and Dulce Esperanza along with a basket of candy and sometimes tamales. Christ Church in Warwick provided over 140 baskets for the WAFO team of staff and volunteers to deliver. Additional welcome bags were given out from the Orthmann Family.



## Special Programs

Food As Medicine was launched this year. It is a video series featuring local Chefs with regional produce. They are shown on our YouTube program. Take a look at these through our website.

## Community Health Workers

This year eight Community Health Workers were recruited for various projects. Over 100 hours of training were completed by the Community Health Workers.

The training this year included:

Mental Health

Diabetes

Safety on the Farm

Medication Management

Role of the Community Health Worker

Confidentiality







Youth Bureau Dinner



Chris Ashman presents to the CHWs



Thanksgiving Delivery of 90 Meals Warwick Church of the Nazaren



Pace Law School Visit with John Nolon



St. Stephen's Book Store



Health Center Week Celebrated in Dulce Esperanza



Dancing with Judy Batista



Pacem Terris Field Trip



Olympic Day Celebrated



Climbing in Warwick Park





# 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.

We are a 501c3 Public Charity and your donation will be tax-deductible.

