



Warwick Area Farmworker Organization

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

An affiliate of Sun River Health 

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Summer News!

Hello Friends!

This summer is coming to a close soon and we wanted to provide a snapshot into some of our activities. We have added links in this newsletter to allow friends to read a more detailed account of the stories they are especially interested in.

As the Dulce Esperanza program ended this year, I was especially grateful to all of the supporters, volunteers and parents who have made this program possible. We know that it has been a great success when the kids don't think it was long enough!

Along with the Dulce Esperanza program, you will read about the other celebrations and special events we had during the summer.

Thank you for supporting the Warwick Area Farmworker Programs! Without your help, these programs would not be possible.

-Kathy Brieger, Executive Director



DULCE ESPERANZA 2023



Our program opened on July 5th and ended on August 18th. We had 80 students register with over ten teen leaders helping to support the program. This year, a special grant from the Orange County Youth Bureau funded workshops on safety for children. Five of the teens presented topics on safety to children. They were able to practice their teaching skills during the summer and spring.

Reading Scores

The morning focus on academics has paid off- children's reading scores improved by:

- **Letter Sounds:** On average, there was a **43% improvement** for 23 students
- **Word Reading:** On average, there was a **26% improvement** for 34 students
- **Letter Names:** On average, there was a **21% improvement** for 10 students
- **Passage:** On average, there was a **23% improvement** for 50 students

DULCE ESPERANZA 2023



Teen helpers visit Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers (top) and Crocheting with Barbara (bottom)



Making art with the help of Wickham Works, dancing with D'Antono Academy (bottom), and staying cool with water squirters (bottom)



Drum circle with Daniel Vega from Wickham Works (top) and teen helpers teaching children about safety (bottom)



Cooking classes with Claire



A visit from the Sun River Health dental team (top), nature walk with the Audubon Society (top), gardening with Mary Berigan (top) and reading with Colby, accompanied by Cathy Heimbach (bottom)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE PICTURES](#)

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CELEBRATION JULY 12TH

This year, we had a record number of students graduating. We held a special recognition with representatives of some of the organizations serving farmworkers and their families. The Sun River Health Clinical Team members joined the Migrant Education staff as well. Gifts were presented by the WAFO Board member, Eileen McManus and Sun River Health's-Jeanette Figueroa, PA and Patricia Bolton, PNP. There were ten graduates who have diverse plans for their future.

GRADUATES



Mauricio Rivera Cruz

Plans to attend OCCC

Yasmin Cruz

Attending Mount Saint Mary's College in Nursing

Vanessa Ortiz Aguilar

Attending Oneonta State University in Political Science-
Immigration Law

Leslie Leal Castillo

Plans to attend OCCC to major in Social Work



Brisa Gonzalez

Plans to attend OCCC to major in business

Luis Andrade

Junior Barragan

Alex Leon Bautista

Axel Fierros

Jesus Mendez



PARENT MEETING JULY 19TH

Approximately 60 parents attended the Parent meeting held in the Pine Island School. Parents were able to visit the classrooms to see what their children were doing during the day. They spoke with the teachers and later attended short presentations on Mental Health by the Community Health Workers. During the full parent meeting, dinner was served while all of the teachers were introduced. The summer upcoming events, including the KERMES, were announced.

WARWICK VALLEY POLICE JUNIOR ACADEMY GRADUATE: ANGEL GUALAN

Angel attended a two week program with the Warwick Valley Police Junior Academy. They completed physical challenges, learned about police procedures, safety procedures and criminal justice. They had talks by a Judge, Criminal Science Investigator and Police Officers. It was a wonderful experience!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BBQ JULY 28

The Warwick Knights of Columbus held their seventh Annual BBQ with the students. It was an extremely hot day but the Knights bravely cooked and served a complete BBQ for the children. The children say this is one of their favorite things about Dulce Esperanza and look forward to this event each year.



FAIRY DAY



For the second year, Fairy Day was held. Diane Russo Beck, Food Service Manager prepared a wonderful lunch including specially cut out watermelon, and other fruits and vegetables, special flower cupcakes and other amazing foods! This was followed by reading of the Dulce Esperanza Fairy Book and a special visit by the artist who painted the images in the book, Barbara Lanza. The students spent the rest of the afternoon working on five different fairy crafts.

BRONX ZOO FIELD TRIP AUGUST 1

Students enjoyed a trip to the Bronx Zoo this year. It was great fun for all-students were able to participate in the monorail, butterfly garden, nature trail, Congo, and see so many animals. The trip was in part funded by executives from Sun River Health and lunch was provided by the St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Warwick.





ICE CREAM SOCIAL

AUGUST 8

For the second year, WAFO sponsored an Ice Cream Social which allowed supporters to come and see what happens in the program. It also served to honor the health care staff of Sun River Health- during National Health Center Week.



KERMES AUGUST 13

The Parent's Fundraiser, KERMES, was a great success! All of the parents participated in this event. There was a record-breaking amount of money raised-\$7,000. This event was coordinated by Patricia Sanchez and fellow parents. Julia Fierros and Guadalupe Contreras also coordinated the raffles. Many foods were sold out during the event with an estimated 400 participants.

Wickham Works displayed the artwork done by the children during the summer. The students enjoyed helping during the event.



OLYMPIC DAY

AUGUST 17

Students participated in the second year with flags from over 100 countries, a special BBQ cook out with the Warwick Police Department and lots of games. The children enjoyed old fashioned games like water balloons and the potato sack race. The Tug of War game was made special with the officers from the Warwick Police Department joining in! The Warwick Police Department had special Olympic Cookies made for the occasion.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Continue to provide valuable support and information to families about mental health. They have included suggestions on social media and restricting exposure for children. Their work extends to migrant camps with adults delivering these important messages.

We celebrated National Community Health Worker week on August 28th-September 1st.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New changes to the Board of Directors include the transition of Marilyn Ortiz to the WAMC Advisory Committee and Patricia Claiborne has left after fulfilling her term as Treasurer of the Board. New members of the Board are: Elba Bizoni, of Sun River Health and Mayra Palma of the House on the Hill ABCD program. Elba has worked in migrant health and supported the Bienestar program. Mayra has been a participant as a child in the migrant education program and the Mustard Seed Migrant Ministry youth program. She is now an administrator in the House on the Hill Agri-Business Child Development program. They begin their terms in October 2023.

CORE VALUES

This summer development of WAFO Core Values was initiated. The groups which have met to date include the Community Health Workers, the BOARD, the Teens from the summer program. Their suggestions are now being used to develop the WAFO Core Values statement.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Youth Programs
- Thanksgiving Dinners
- Christmas Store
- Winter Programs (ESL, Sewing Club)

VOLUNTEER



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