



# 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

FARMWORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES FACE  
SERIOUS CHALLENGES EVERY DAY. FARMWORKER JUSTICE IS A

# NATIONAL VOICE

IN THE FIGHT AGAINST FARMWORKER ABUSE, POVERTY & HEALTH RISKS.

WE LEAD PROGRAMS THAT BRING  
ETHICAL STANDARDS TO AMERICA'S FARMS—

# PROTECTING THE HANDS

THAT FEED US—AND CREATE POLICY CHANGES ON CAPITOL HILL.

FARMWORKER JUSTICE GIVES VOICE TO

# 2 MILLION

FARMWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE HEARD.

**OUR VISION** IS A NATION WHERE FARMWORKERS ARE  
ORGANIZED AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE EQUIPPED WITH THE TOOLS TO:

END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AGRICULTURAL WORKERS IN LABOR LAWS AND IMPROVE  
LABOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SO THAT FARMWORKERS ENJOY THE SAME WORKPLACE RIGHTS THAT  
PROTECT EMPLOYEES IN OTHER OCCUPATIONS AND EXERCISE THEIR RIGHTS WITHOUT RETALIATION.

PROMOTE HIGHER WAGES, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS, AND COMPREHENSIVE  
IMMIGRATION REFORM THAT WILL IMPROVE FARMWORKERS' LIVES AND STABILIZE THE  
AGRICULTURAL LABOR FORCE.

ACCESS HEALTH AND JOB SAFETY INFORMATION TO ADDRESS HIV/AIDS WITHIN  
FARMWORKER COMMUNITIES, LIMIT EXPOSURE TO TOXIC PESTICIDES, AND REDUCE  
PREVENTABLE WORKPLACE INJURIES.

# LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Your support provides farmworkers and their organizations throughout the country with highly valued assistance on critically important issues. We are working on some of the most creative, impactful solutions to empower farmworkers to control their own destinies and build brighter futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

The battle over reforming our broken immigration system continued throughout 2013 despite the Senate's passing of a bipartisan immigration bill that includes an agricultural stakeholder compromise. Farmworker organizations and their allies as well as policymakers rely on Farmworker Justice's policy analysis, public education and advocacy. We help groups around the country understand the complexities of immigration policy and how Congress works (or doesn't).

We are committed to a just immigration reform that helps overcome the fear, anguish and poverty that our broken immigration system inflicts on farmworker families. The refusal of the House to vote on immigration reform necessitated strong measures. I therefore joined 200 other immigration advocates in civil disobedience and was arrested outside the Capitol last October.



Other highlights that you will read about in this report include the following:

- We pressed the Obama Administration to reduce the abuses under the H-2A agricultural guest worker program and have seen evidence of increased enforcement of workers' rights. But abuses remain rampant.
- Our high-impact litigation – aided by publicity we obtain – sends a strong message to employers that they risk serious consequences for violating the law.
- We are working in coalition with other environmental and advocacy groups seeking stronger occupational safety standards and have made progress at the Environmental Protection Agency, but discrimination based on raw political power rather than science continues to deprive farmworkers of safe work places.
- Our health promotion team has been building the capacity of community-based groups to help farm workers and their families improve their health and access to health care.

We continue to build new collaborations to advance farmworkers' interests. I am pleased to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, an alliance of major Latino organizations that advocate in the nation's capital.

As the year ended, the Board of Directors said farewell to several devoted members and welcomed new members who bring great commitment and skills. Special thanks to our board chair, Ramon Ramirez, who is president of PCUN, Oregon's farmworker union.

We thank you for your support as Farmworker Justice carries out its mission to empower farmworkers to win a greater measure of justice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Goldstein".

Bruce Goldstein, President





**When shopping for food, most of us look for fruits and vegetables that are safe and healthy.** But how many of us think about human rights issues as we stroll the grocery store aisles?



Farmworkers perform **back-breaking work**, hand-picking fruits and vegetables we eat. Farm work is dangerous. Farmworkers **suffer illness and injuries**: heat stroke, mangled limbs, back injuries and **poisoning from pesticides** spread on the fields. Wages are low. Few farmworkers receive fringe benefits like paid sick leave or health insurance. Labor laws discriminatorily exclude farmworkers from protections other workers possess. The laws that do apply are not adequately enforced.



Farmworker Justice educates, advocates, litigates, and collaborates to help farmworkers overcome these injustices and improve their lives and working conditions. We are:

**HELPING FARMWORKERS HAVE A VOICE IN THE IMMIGRATION POLICY DEBATE** because the majority of farmworkers are undocumented and vulnerable.

**IMPROVING FARMWORKER WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS** because workers who help put food on our tables deserve the same workplace rights as others and should not suffer in poverty.

**STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF FARMWORKERS** because everyone deserves safe working conditions.

**BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR FARMWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES** because physical and emotional well-being are basic necessities and human rights.







## GABRIELA

*We spoke with Gabriela about her life and work as a farmworker. She shared the following story.*

Gabriela lives in Oregon with her four children and husband. Originally from Mexico, she has been working in agriculture for 26 years. Her husband also works in the fields, managing the irrigation work of a nursery.

Every morning Gabriela takes her children to the babysitter before she starts work at 7 am. Although her shift usually ends around 5 pm, several times she had to work until seven, arriving home around 8 pm or 9 pm. Yet, Gabriela is only paid the minimum wage without overtime pay.

Gabriela has seen many occupational and safety hazards while working in the fields. She remembers that on a very hot day, a woman who never worked in the fields and did not receive any training started feeling heat sick. The employer merely placed a soaked shirt on her head as she worked and did not allow her to rest.

On another day, she recalls how a fifteen-year-old coworker's foot got jammed in a machine as he picked garlic with the rest of the crew. When asked how he felt, the teen lied and continued working because he was nervous that he would be scolded and fired by the foreman. When the crew saw how swollen and painful the teen's foot had become, they informed the crew leader, who administered Tylenol and sent the teen to rest in a car, but did not report the incident to the supervisor because the teen was underage. After work, the teen did not go to the hospital because he was undocumented.

Gabriela also spoke about how both her and her husband's lack of legal status has caused many problems for the family both in and off the field. Two years ago, the police stopped Gabriela's husband during a car drive with the family. Because he was undocumented and presented a false ID, he was placed in a detention center with no opportunity to see a lawyer or his family and then deported to Mexico. Gabriela says that her husband's deportation traumatized her American children. Her youngest daughter, scared of the police, asked Gabriela, "Mommy, you do have your license? You do have it because the police are coming!" and would start wailing "They are going to take my mom, they are going to take my mom!"

While her husband was separated from the family, Gabriela had to take care of her children on her own. Throughout that difficult time she thought, "Hopefully God takes care of me because I don't know what will happen because if they detain me ... who are my children going to stay with? Where I live, I have no family! I know no one that has papers who my children could stay with."

Gabriela hopes that immigration reform will give her a path to citizenship rather than only a legal status. As a farmworker, she believes she has contributed to America. She invites any congressional member to see her community's hard work in the fields, especially in the 100-degree weather.

# Helping Farmworkers Have a Voice IN THE IMMIGRATION POLICY DEBATE



This nation's immigration system is broken and among the victims are the majority of the nation's 2 to 2.5 million undocumented farmworkers. We help farmworkers and their organizations, allies, the public and policymakers ***understand the policy debate on immigration by providing information and analysis.***

In 2013 we saw momentous developments on immigration policy. The Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill with an agricultural stakeholder agreement negotiated by four Senators, major agribusiness groups and the United Farm Workers. The compromise provides a path to immigration status and citizenship for most undocumented farmworkers and their family members. The House Judiciary Committee approved a harsh alternative, but the year ended with no action in the House amid a highly contentious policy debate.

Farmworker Justice played a significant role in the immigrant debate by providing:

**POLICY MONITORING AND ANALYSIS.** Our knowledgeable staff monitored the policy debate, reading every major legislative proposal that would affect farmworkers, keeping tabs on the major players in and out of government and their positions, and analyzing proposals for their impact on farmworkers. Several hundred organizations around the country rely on our analyses of legislative language and our insightful reports on the inner workings of the White House, federal agencies and Congress.

Coordinating with the United Farm Workers, we helped send the House a sign-on letter with over 200 organizations opposing Rep. Goodlatte's anti-labor, anti-immigrant bill. We are pleased that no further action occurred on that bill in the House but disappointed in the failure of Congress to pass meaningful immigration reform.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION.** Our communications team produced valuable information about the importance of immigration reform to the agricultural sector, highlighting the common interests among farmworkers and employers. Our website, social media, newsletter, news coverage and opinion pieces educated the public and policymakers. We accepted invitations to speak about immigration policy developments at numerous and diverse conferences and meetings. In addition to fact sheets, memos and other documents, we released the report, *Who Works*



*the Fields: The Stories of Americans Who Feed Us*, giving voice to farmworkers and their concerns about the immigration system. See Delia's story on page 13.

We participated in more than 140 meetings to educate Congressional staff about farmworkers and the need for immigration reform, H-2A guest worker program issues and legislative solutions.

**CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.** In October, Bruce Goldstein, and our board chair Ramon Ramirez, joined 200 other leaders of organizations and eight members of Congress in a protest followed by arrest for blocking the street outside the U.S. Capitol, bringing national attention to the quest for a just immigration system.

**COALITION BUILDING.** Through meetings, conference calls and written materials, Farmworker Justice helped the United Farm Workers reach out to organizations to obtain their views and seek common understanding about immigration policy proposals and their consequences.

We played a central role in the International Labor Recruitment Working Group (ILRWG). Foreign citizens recruited to work legally in the U.S. under the H-2A and other guest worker programs often suffer high recruitment fees, wage theft and usurious loans for which employers often blame recruiters in the foreign country. We helped produce a report, *The American Dream Up for Sale: A Blueprint for Ending International Labor Recruitment Abuse* and launched the ILRWG website. Farmworker Justice and allies won important protections in the Senate immigration bill, addressing human trafficking as well as international labor recruitment abuses under guest worker programs.

**ADVOCACY IN THE ADMINISTRATION.** We met with key staff in the White House, the Department of Labor and other agencies to explain farmworkers' interests in immigration reform and advocate for meaningful solutions.

**ADVOCACY IN CONGRESS.** We met with members of Congress and their staffs to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform that included a path to citizenship and for special attention to agricultural workers. We assisted the United Farm Workers in its negotiations with agribusiness and U.S. Senators to reach the agricultural stakeholder agreement in the Senate bill and joined with the UFW and agribusiness representatives to promote the compromise. Collaborating with many groups, we opposed the agricultural guest worker bill, sponsored by Rep. Goodlatte, chair of the House Judiciary Committee. The bill would remove most labor protections from the guest worker program and not provide a path to citizenship for the undocumented.

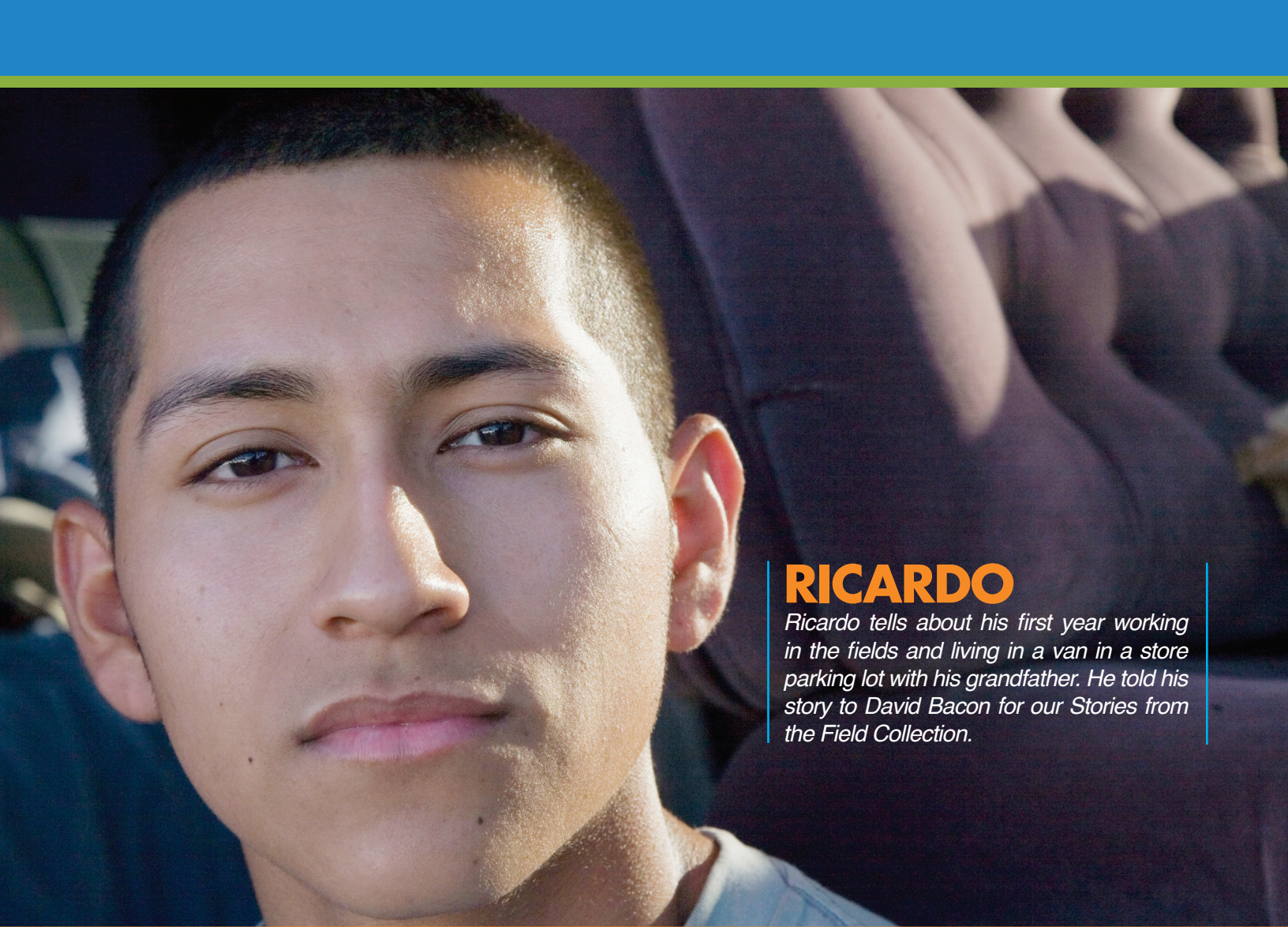
"Marches and calls to action are necessary to send a strong message to members of Congress that their inaction on immigration reform has dire consequences. Thousands of undocumented farmworkers live and work in fear each day, unable to secure immigration status and subject to discrimination. Those of us who marched and risked arrest are speaking out for millions who can't. While thousands live in the shadows, we need to show Congress and the public that immigration reform matters."

- Bruce Goldstein



Chair of our Board of Directors, Ramon Ramirez, arrested at October rally.





## RICARDO

*Ricardo tells about his first year working in the fields and living in a van in a store parking lot with his grandfather. He told his story to David Bacon for our Stories from the Field Collection.*

I'm seventeen years old, and this is my first year working here. Well, it's all right. It was hard at first, but I'm used to it now. Being from Arizona, I'm used to the heat, at least somewhat. I've only been working in the grapes for two days. My grandfather is teaching me a lot about work. He's a very hardworking individual. He teaches me and gives me advice. At work I can't work as fast as he does. I fall behind since he has so much more experience. I admire him because he has accomplished so much. We lived in Mexico, and he arranged for all the required documentation to get us here. Life is better here.

This experience is pretty much how I envisioned it would be, working here with my grandpa and sleeping in the van. But it would be better if they put up apartments for us to live in. It's hot at night, and hard to sleep. There are a lot of mosquitoes, and the big lights are on all night. In the van we can grill meat on the stove, so we eat ok. But there are very few services here, and the bathrooms are very dirty. The showers are always full, but we all eventually get our turn. At night there are a lot of people here, with a lot of movement, coming and going. You never know what can happen – it's a bit dangerous. But my grandfather has a lot of experience and knows how to handle himself.

With the money I earn I'm going to help my mother and save the rest. I want to have a good job, a career. I look at how hard my grandfather has worked. He tells me to get an education, so I won't be in the situation he's in. I don't want to do field work for the rest of my life because it is very hard work and the pay is low. The work isn't steady.

Both of my parents also work in the fields. They work about seven or eight months every year. I always had a good life. They worked very hard and gave us what they could. They sacrificed a lot for us. Now I'm going to help them out when I work.



# Improving Farmworker Wages AND WORKING CONDITIONS



Workers who help put food on our tables deserve the same workplace rights as others. We advocate for more effective policies and enforcement of farmworker rights at the U.S. Department of Labor and other federal agencies, sue employers who mistreat workers, and educate farmworkers and their advocates on their rights and remedies under employment laws. We:

## **WON SETTLEMENTS FOR FARMWORKERS IN TWO LAWSUITS THAT WE CO-COUNSELED.**

In both cases, the workers who stepped forward sent a strong message to employers that they will be held accountable for systemic labor abuses that are widespread in agriculture.

- In *Ruiz vs. Fernandez and Western Range Association*, the settlement on behalf of sheepherders sent a strong message to employer associations that supply guest workers to farms about their responsibility to prevent abuses. See accompanying story about Francisco.
- In *Smith v Bulls-Hit Farm*, a Florida potato grower and a farm labor contractor employed destitute, drug-dependent workers recruited from inner-city homeless shelters and made them work under conditions of forced labor. The settlement required both the grower and labor contractor to pay the workers their lost wages as joint employers of the workers, to reform their employment practices and allow monitoring to prevent abuses.

**ANALYZED FARMWORKERS' LABOR RIGHTS AND RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS** in the law, regulations and enforcement. We monitor the Department of Labor's enforcement efforts using the Freedom of Information Act and meetings with DOL officials. We have seen some improvements in the quantity and quality of wage-hour enforcement, which caused a backlash by some agricultural employer groups, but there is much more to be done to improve compliance with the law.

Farmworker Justice coordinates training and sharing of information among approximately 70 legal aid programs that serve farmworkers around the country and other law firms.

Launched *Stories from the Field*, an online art gallery to display in-depth stories and photos of farmworkers that show the face of the people behind the immigration debate.



### **RELEASED UNFINISHED HARVEST: THE AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION ACT AT 30.**

Early in our history, we were instrumental in winning passage of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act of 1983, known as AWP. After 30 years, we thought it fitting to examine the effectiveness of AWP, the principal federal employment law for farmworkers, and recommended improvements to remedy the continued violations.

### **HELD A CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING TO RELEASE UNFINISHED HARVEST.**

Speakers at our briefing on December 12 included Rep. Juan Vargas and Rep. Tony Cardenas, both children of California farmworkers; Mary Bauer of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia; and Hector Sanchez, chair of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. The next day we presented the report and findings to officials at the Department of Labor, who agreed to work on improving their enforcement of AWP.

### **MONITORED DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S REVIEW OF EMPLOYERS' APPLICATIONS FOR GUEST WORKERS UNDER THE H-2A PROGRAM.**

We brought attention to applications that contained unlawful job terms or failed to comply with regulatory requirements. Our efforts have resulted in DOL increasingly rejecting applications from H-2A employers that contain unlawful job terms.

### **ADVANCED CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FOOD SYSTEM.**

We are a co-founder and Steering Committee member of the Equitable Food Initiative (EFI). The program engages workers, growers, retailers and food service companies to participate in a system that certifies that the food produced for the consumer meets standards regarding workers' wages and working conditions, environmental safety and food safety. Farmworkers are central to the goal of yielding economic benefits for all parties in the food system and providing consumers with fruits and vegetables that are produced responsibly. As the year ended, the workers and managers at two large agricultural businesses had undergone training and were preparing for initial audits and the first EFI certifications.





## FRANCISCO

*We spoke with Francisco after his case with the Western Range Association was settled. He shared details about his harsh experiences on the ranch.*

Francisco, born in a small village in rural Chile, received little formal education. He grew up learning to tend and raise sheep, goats, cows and horses. At age twenty, working on a big sheep ranch, he learned that a man named Victor was looking for people who wanted to work on sheep ranches in the United States. Francisco, excited about the possibility, approached Victor, a representative of the Western Range Association, an organization of over 500 U.S. sheep ranchers. Francisco signed some papers and received a visa through the H-2A temporary agricultural worker visa program. Western Range assigned Francisco to work for a sheep rancher in Goldendale, Washington.

Upon his arrival at the ranch, Francisco and the other Chilean workers were isolated from the community by the rancher, who held their passports, forbade them to talk to outsiders, and did not provide them with sufficient food. The rancher routinely threatened the workers, saying that if they ever left the ranch, he would call the authorities and have them deported. Francisco and his fellow workers were paid the special sub-minimum wage of \$750 per month applicable to range sheepherders, but the rancher employed them primarily as general ranch hands and not as sheepherders, entitling them to a much higher hourly wage.

Finally, Francisco and his fellow workers could not take the abuse any longer and fled the ranch in the middle of the night. Francisco met a fellow Chilean worker who had suffered similar labor abuses and was encouraged to demand basic labor rights.

With the help of Farmworker Justice and the Northwest Justice Project, Francisco sued the rancher and Western Range in federal court, charging them with labor trafficking and with failing to pay the proper wage rate. In an important decision, the federal judge found that Western Range was jointly responsible, as a joint employer with the rancher, for any minimum wage abuses that occurred on the ranch. The judge also ruled that the workers had presented enough evidence of labor trafficking for a jury to decide their claims. Shortly after that decision, the parties settled the case.

Francisco is now married and still lives in eastern Washington State. The settlement money has helped him to start a new life. He says, “I hope that my experience will be of some benefit to others who find themselves in an abusive work situation, so they know they can demand their rights.”



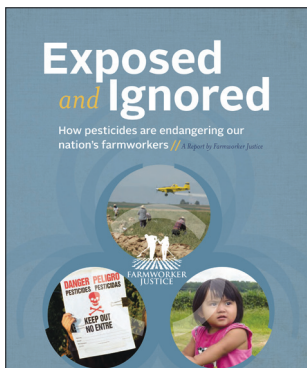
# Strengthening the Safety AND HEALTH OF FARMWORKERS



Everyone deserves safe working conditions. *We advocate in federal agencies and build public support for improved occupational safety* policies to limit farmworkers' exposure to toxic pesticides and protect them from preventable work-related injuries and deaths. We:

**EMBARKED ON A PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO DEMAND BETTER PROTECTION AGAINST PESTICIDE POISONING** for farmworkers, their families and their communities. With the release of *Exposed and Ignored: How Pesticides are Endangering Our Nation's Farmworkers*, we helped build a coalition of farmworkers and allies who demanded improvements in the Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard and other mechanisms to prevent pesticide poisonings. In mid-July, a delegation of twenty farmworkers arrived in Washington, DC, and met with over twenty Congressional offices and staff from the EPA, USDA and the White House. The EPA drafted revisions to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) in the form of a proposed regulatory change published for public comment in early 2014. We continue to work with organizations and individuals to strengthen and submit comments on the standards.

The report was dedicated to Shelley Davis, our late Deputy Director, for her tireless work to protect farmworkers from pesticides.



In this battle, we're fighting for the health and safety of the farmworkers and their children – and for their dignity, humanity and equity. Working in hazardous conditions should not be the price farmworkers have to pay to feed their families – Shelley Davis, 2006.



## FILED A LAWSUIT TO HELP PROTECT CHILDREN FROM PESTICIDE DRIFT.

The lawsuit is based on EPA's failure to respond to a 2009 petition asking the EPA to evaluate pesticide drift exposure for children and implement protective safeguards, including buffer zones near homes, schools, parks and daycare centers, or wherever children congregate. Farmworker Justice and Earthjustice filed a lawsuit to compel the EPA to protect children from pesticide drift.



Daycare located beside orchards that are frequently sprayed with pesticides.

**SUPPORTED ALIANZA NACIONAL DE CAMPESINAS**, the first national farmworker women's organization. We helped plan and organize the first national conference in April. Fifty members came to DC and met with staff of 48 elected officials and 10 federal agencies to discuss pressing issues for farmworker women, including occupational safety, access to health care and immigration reform.

**PROMOTED FARMWORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY USING PROMOTORES DE SALUD.** We helped farmworkers through a train-the-trainer program as well as developed and distributed tools. We worked with local partners to educate farmworker communities on pesticide safety, heat stress, field sanitation and workers' rights using the *promotores de salud* model, which is based on peer education, leadership development and community outreach.

Prepared ten issue briefs and conducted six webinars on occupational safety and health issues: pesticide safety issues; the Affordable Care Act; health insurance requirements, marketplaces and Medicaid; farmworker housing; and, a Medical-legal partnership resource guide. Many of the resources were prepared in both Spanish and English for farmworker advocates, health center staff, legal services advocates and federal officials.



Trained 39 *promotores de salud* and more than 6,000 farmworkers on pesticide safety, field sanitation, heat stress and workplace rights in 2013. We heard many comments from the *promotores* about what they have learned. Here are a few:

- I learned that you can't tell how dangerous a chemical is by the smell and that the pesticide label has information about medical treatment in case of exposure.
- It was useful to learn about the different types of pesticides, chronic diseases and how to protect yourself and family.
- I loved that I was doing this work out in the community and not shut in an office. I would go up, down and practically everywhere with this information, information that could really help people.

Over the last four years, *promotores de salud* have reached over 22,000 farmworkers in Florida, Arizona and California with information on pesticide safety, field sanitation, heat stress and workers' rights



## DELIA

*We interviewed Delia as we collected the stories of farmworkers for our report, **Who Works the Fields: The Stories of Americans Who Feed Us.***

Delia, 42, is a mother of five from Volusia County, FL. Having worked in the fields most of her life, Delia is no stranger to the occupational health and safety concerns that face farmworkers.

For the last ten years, Delia has been employed as a fernery worker for various growers and farm labor contractors in Florida. Fernery workers labor in an enclosed environment where the lack of ventilation exposes them to high concentrations of pesticides. Delia suffers from horrible migraines, blisters and allergies. During hot and humid Florida summers, the conditions are exacerbated. Delia says that it gets so hot in the fernery she feels like she will faint.

Delia believes that better protections from occupational safety and health hazards are necessary. Of particular concern for Delia is the exposure of young children to pesticides. She has seen children as young as 8 and 10 years old work in ferneries. Because parents do not have the resources to place their children in childcare, Delia explained that many parents have little choice but to bring their children to work. Delia said that before she knew about the risks of pesticides, she also brought her children to the fernery. Now that she knows about the health risks, she does not bring her children.



# Building Healthy Communities for FARMWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Physical and emotional well-being are basic necessities and human rights. We collaborate with local organizations to learn from them and **provide farmworkers and their families with the resources** necessary to create and sustain healthy communities. We:

## PROVIDED INFORMATION ON HOW THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) WILL AFFECT FARMWORKERS' ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE.

We helped raise awareness on farmworker eligibility for health insurance and barriers to enrollment by providing information to farmworkers, farmworker advocates, health professionals and the general public through printed materials, webinars and community forums around the country. As a result, health centers and others were able to tailor their education, outreach and enrollment to the unique needs of farmworker families.



Rural Latinos, in particular children, have disproportionately lower rates of health insurance coverage than other populations. Almost one-third of rural Latino children lack health insurance as compared to 18 percent of non-Hispanic white children or 15 percent of African American children. Arizona, California and Florida are amongst the states with the greatest number of uninsured Latinos in the United States.

Through **Conexiones**, an estimated 14,400 individuals will be informed on Medicaid and CHIP by the promotores' outreach efforts by the end of 2015.

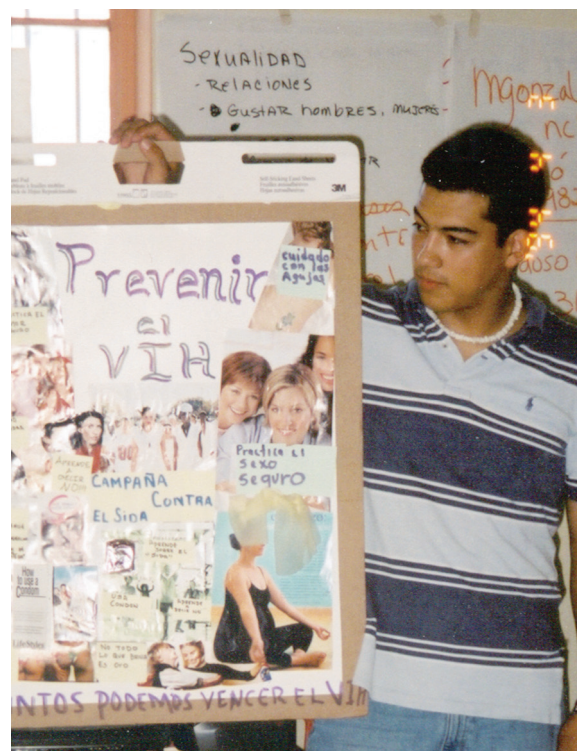
## LAUNCHED A NEW INITIATIVE: CONEXIONES – CONNECTING RURAL LATINO FAMILIES TO MEDICAID AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP).

The project helps rural Latino communities understand and gain access to health care by encouraging enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP. Initially, our partners include three community-based organizations in California, Florida and Arizona, where we will provide capacity-building assistance as well as tailored trainings and materials to implement *promotores de salud* (community health worker) programs.



**COMPLETED AN INNOVATIVE HIV/AIDS PREVENTION OUTREACH PROJECT: PODER SANO.** We provided free capacity-building assistance and community mobilization tools to hundreds of rural Latino-serving organizations around the country. We released our final curriculum: ***Training Promotores de Salud in HIV Prevention in Rural Latino Communities*** in both English and Spanish as well as promoted and distributed two Spanish-language radio PSAs, innovative *fotonovelas* and our directory of rural Latino-serving organizations.

**PROMOTED AWARENESS TO REDUCE STIGMA SURROUNDING HIV AND AIDS.** As part of the *Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative (AAALI)* we provide resources on HIV prevention to strengthen awareness and action in Latino communities. For example, on National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, we linked HIV risk with sexual violence in the fields and highlighted a true story of harassment in the fields (see Luisa's story). We organized activities for World AIDS Day because farmworkers come from a variety of countries. For the fourth year in a row, we participated in AIDS.gov's Facing AIDS initiative.



**Poder Sano's** outreach efforts touched more than 1,000 people, community-based organizations, clinics, health departments and academic institutions, increasing the capacity of rural Latino-serving organizations to develop media strategies and build awareness of culturally appropriate means to increase knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention. We:

- Conducted five webinars under the Poder Sano project with a national audience of more than 500 participants.
- Released a new Spanish-language public service announcement about HIV prevention on radio stations to an estimated 500,000 people in Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Washington. For example, *Cascade AIDS Project (CAP)*, based in Oregon, arranged for the PSA to air 28 times over two weeks with 80,000 – 90,000 listeners per week. The PSA resulted in a record number of calls to the hotline.

Through our ***Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative (AAALI)*** we:

- Helped organize two congressional briefings, sponsored by Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA), on *HIV/AIDS and Latinos and Prevention*.
- Worked with 9 *Ventanillas de Salud* programs (a project of the Mexican Embassy and consulates) to host events around the country for National HIV Testing Day.

Conducted four health center site visits to talk about issues related to farmworker access to health care in the community: Clinic Ole (CA); Azalea Health (FL); Borrego Community Health (CA) and Vista Community Clinic (CA).





## LUISA

*Lideres Campesinas shared the following story with us. Many women are scared to report the abuse, but Luisa (name changed to protect identity) wishes to have her voice heard.*

Luisa was hired by a labor contractor to pack grapes, and right from the start, the crew leader she was assigned to became too personal, asking questions about her marital status, whether she had a boyfriend, and other inappropriate questions. Although she tried to ignore him, he was persistent and found ways for Luisa to be alone with him. He told her he would improve her working conditions if she met up with him outside of work. No matter how many times she said no, he never left her alone. At the time, her boyfriend was harvesting grapes for the same company, and he would try to be near her, but the crew leader would make sure he was sent to harvest grapes far away.

One day the crew leader sent everyone to harvest grapes in the field, and then he approached Luisa and started groping her. Luisa was in shock and couldn't believe what was happening. When her boyfriend returned, she said she wanted to go home and that she didn't want to return. She didn't want to tell her boyfriend because she was afraid of his reaction.

She eventually got the courage to report the incident to the labor contractor, but he wasn't very helpful and kept asking if there were witnesses, someone who could corroborate her story. Luisa then went to her supervisor, who was a woman and moved Luisa to another crew. However, this didn't completely stop the harassment. Since she still worked for the same company, she crossed paths with the old crew leader, and he continued to say inappropriate things and try to convince her to meet up with him.

Her last option was to report the crew leader to the company that hired the labor contractor. The company would question her in front of the other workers, and soon everyone knew what had happened. Even when Luisa found a new labor contractor and switched jobs, people at the new job had already heard about what had happened. Luisa felt like she couldn't escape. She wanted to file a claim against the crew leader so that no one else had to suffer what she did, but she was scared because she was undocumented and had a daughter who was undocumented as well. They were both afraid of being deported.

Eventually, Luisa sought help from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and is seeking to bring a lawsuit against the company. Luisa knows she wasn't the only woman this crew leader harassed. Until he's stopped, many other women will suffer in silence.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

We held three special events to bring awareness of farmworker issues and recognition to individuals who seek justice in the fields.

Our **ANNUAL AWARD RECEPTION** is held each spring. This year, we again presented awards to two people who have made important contributions in the quest for farmworker justice:

**Rep. Raul Grijalva**, who represents Arizona's 3rd Congressional District, an important agricultural area, has been a strong supporter of farmworkers, workers' rights, environmental justice and immigration reform.

**Nelson Carrasquillo** received **The Shelley Davis Memorial Award**. As the General Coordinator of *Comité de Apoyo para los Trabajadores Agrícolas* (Farmworker Support Committee), known as CATA, Nelson has helped farmworkers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Puerto Rico improve their lives. We collaborated on a range of issues, including the H-2A guestworker program, immigrants' rights, and occupational safety and health.



Bruce with Dolores Huerta at our Awards Reception

Our **WINE TASTING** has been held every fall and offers socially responsible wines produced in vineyards where farmworkers have a voice, receive fair wages and work under safe conditions. This year we added Latin Jazz performed by The Duende Quartet.

Our **LOS ANGELES RECEPTION** was new this year. Tony Salazar, a member of our Board of Directors and Alfred Fraijo Jr., partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP, sponsored a reception and helped us present awards to:

**Honorable Cruz Reynoso**, former Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court and Vice Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, is a strong supporter of the farmworker cause and served on the Board of Directors of the Rosenberg Foundation, a longtime funder.

**William Tamayo**, Regional Counsel of the EEOC, based in San Francisco, is a nationally-recognized litigator against discrimination in the fields, particularly his successful cases on behalf of victims of sexual harassment.



Barbara Somson and Ross Eisenbrey chat with James Leonard at Wine Tasting.



## AUDITOR'S STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2013 and 2012

ASSETS		2013	2012
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		\$1,325,007	\$1,277,708
Investments		-	-
Grants receivable		657,574	546,225
Other receivables		45,925	3,539
Pledges receivable		184	918
Prepaid expenses		11,407	29,758
Total current assets		2,040,097	1,858,148
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
		138,102	138,102
Less accumulated depreciation & amortization		(126,034)	(117,911)
Net fixed assets		12,068	20,191
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>			
Deposits/grants receivable, net of current maturities		14,794	64,794
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$2,066,959</b>	<b>\$1,943,133</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Total current liabilities		209,187	174,521
<b>LONG-TERM LIABILITIES</b>			
Deferred rent		0	0
Total liabilities		174,521	174,271
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted		1,344,686	1,379,474
Temporarily restricted		513,086	389,138
Total net assets		1,857,772	1,768,612
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$2,066,959</b>	<b>\$1,943,133</b>

## AUDITOR'S STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012

	2013 Total	2012 Total
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Federal grant revenue	\$1,213,759	\$1,097,772
Contributions and support	1,245,283	702,750
Contracts	0	18,750
Investment income	2,523	4,412
Other revenue	4,570	11,199
In-kind contribution	124,105	6,646
Litigation fees	26,913	64,076
Total revenue	2,617,153	1,905,605
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	2,100,474	1,980,609
Fundraising	187,329	183,135
Core operations and administrative	427,519	351,879
Total expenses	2,527,993	2,515,623
Change in net assets	(89,160)	(610,018)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,768,612	2,378,630
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,857,772</b>	<b>\$1,768,612</b>



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## **FARMWORKER JUSTICE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN 2013**

### **Government Grants and Contracts**

Department of Health and Human Services:

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Prevention Communication Branch

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Capacity Building Branch

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Special Populations Health

National Institutes of Health, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Susan Harwood Training Grant Program

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We are grateful to AARP and Pew Charitable Trust for providing matching funds for contributions from their employees.

We express our gratitude to the Campaign Committee for the Shelley Davis Memorial Fund for its support of our efforts to carry on the work of Shelley Davis, especially our assistance to farmworker women and advocacy for pesticide safety.

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FJC, a Foundation of Philanthropic Funds  
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Frank Fernandez and Carmen Flores Fund  
IATSE  
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Katz, Marshall & Banks, LLP  
Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons,  
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and the many individuals who wish to remain anonymous, including those who contributed through the Combined Federal Campaign

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