



The
Foundation for
Farmworkers
2023 Impact Report

Letter from the President of The Foundation for Farmworkers

Dear Friends and Family of The Foundation for Farmworkers:

When I commenced my work at East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (ECMHSP) 23 years ago, we would pass around an envelope whenever an ECMHSP farmworker family was in financial distress. While our desire to help came from the heart, it soon became apparent our impact would be far greater if we created an emergency assistance fund and solicited donations to support this effort.

Our capacity to positively impact ECMHSP farmworker families has grown by leaps and bounds in the past 23 years. First, we established the Michael P. Murphy Family Emergency Assistance Fund, after Michael's family made an initial bequest of funds, expressing the desire for the funds to be used to help farmworker families in need. Then, in 2012, we launched our work in support of farmworkers seeking relief under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

Most recently, a few days after Thanksgiving Day 2018, we established The Foundation for Farmworkers. The mission of The Foundation for Farmworkers is to raise funds to support three key ECMHSP initiatives:

- Emergency financial assistance to ECMHSP families in need,
- Legal assistance to farmworker DREAMers and ECMHSP DREAMers, and
- Need-based education grants to ECMHSP parents.

The Foundation for Farmworkers enjoyed tremendous success in 2023. In this Impact Report, we celebrate those successes with you.

If you are able to join our cause and support our efforts, you can reach me via email at menditto@ecmhsp.org and at (703) 851-8114, and you can donate here:

<https://www.mightycause.com/donate/Foundation-For-Farmworkers>

Mil gracias,



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Volunteer Board President

Board of Directors



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Chief Legal Officer
East Coast Migrant
Head Start Project



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Heidrick & Struggles
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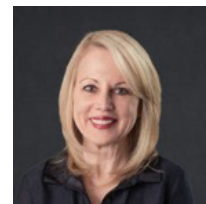
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Jean Allen
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Gabriella Procacci
Director of Community Outreach
Procacci Brothers



Rebecca Gildiner
Director of Strategic Partnerships
Leading Harvest

The Foundation for Farmworkers 2023 Year in Review

OUR MISSION

The Foundation for Farmworkers is generating funds to provide services and support for ECMHSP families to be free from the fear of family separation, to recover from disaster, and to pursue their educational goals.



24Educational
Grants
Awarded*Where
we invest*

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS



The Foundation for Farmworkers is committed to fostering educational opportunities for East Coast Migrant Head Start Project families. The 24 need-based education assistance grants awarded in 2023 are a catalyst for change, providing recipients with the means to break the cycle of limited access to education.

Nurturing Future Healthcare Professionals:

Several grant recipients are enrolled in programs related to healthcare, including nursing and surgical assistants. The Foundation for Farmworkers recognizes the critical role these individuals play in the well-being of our rural communities. By investing in their education, we are sowing the seeds for a future generation of skilled and compassionate health professionals. Grant recipients attend the Whiteville, North Carolina Educational Campus, and the Valdosta, Georgia Educational Campus.

Empowering Parents Through Language:

English as a second language is a powerful tool for empowerment, opening doors to improved communication, career opportunities, and community engagement. Our support for individuals pursuing language education underscores our commitment to breaking down linguistic barriers and fostering inclusivity. Grant recipients attend the Semmes, Alabama Educational Campus, and the Myakka, Florida Educational Campus.

Cultivating Individuality and Confidence:

Cosmetology is an avenue where creativity meets skill, and The Foundation for Farmworkers supports farmworkers venturing into this field. By investing in cosmetology education, we provide ECMHSP parents with an opportunity to enter an occupation which enhances an individual's ability to express themselves and build confidence. The grant recipient attends the Faison, North Carolina Educational Campus.

14
DREAMers
Protected

*Where
we invest*

PRO-BONO IMMIGRATION SERVICES FOR DREAMERS

The Foundation for Farmworkers is committed to protecting East Coast Migrant Head Start Project DREAMers from the fear of family separation. The fourteen DREAMers protected in 2023 means that each has the opportunity to work and pursue their American Dream.

The Foundation for Farmworkers is proud to support our DREAMers. In 2023, our unwavering commitment to justice and equity reached new heights, as we provided pro bono legal representation to 14 beneficiaries under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. In addition, we paid the DACA renewal fee for each beneficiary.



Empowering DREAMers:

On August 15, 2012, the DACA program was created. A few days later, 19-year-old, Maria Sanchez, sat down with an ECMHSP attorney and together, over the course of three months, they compiled the information and the documents needed to prove Maria was eligible for DACA protection. Later that year, a few days before her twentieth birthday, Maria obtained DACA protection. Maria Sanchez's life was forever transformed through the support of ECMHSP and The Foundation For Farmworkers. As Maria observes:

"Since I've obtained my DACA approval my life has changed in different ways. I now have the freedom of not being under the shadows. In 2012, I went from making \$22,000, in the fields to making \$35,000, with a nonprofit helping farmworker families. I seized the opportunity to obtain my GED, and then took courses to make me a more valuable employee. Farmwork has taught me my greatest strengths, but being able to obtain my DACA has motivated me to become a better person in life.

I would love to see others in the East Coast Migrant Head Start Project family be able to obtain the same help I received through The Foundation For Farmworkers."

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DREAMers
Protected

*Where
we invest*

PRO-BONO IMMIGRATION SERVICES FOR DREAMers

Twenty-three additional DREAMers have had their lives transformed in similar ways through the work of The Foundation for Farmworkers and ECMHSP. These DREAMers come from the following rural communities:

- Robertsdale, Alabama
- Steele, Alabama
- Haines City, Florida
- Immokalee, Florida
- Jennings, Florida
- Lake Wales, Florida
- Okeechobee, Florida
- Wauchula, Florida
- Statenville, Georgia
- Valdosta, Georgia
- Bridgeton, New Jersey
- East Bend, North Carolina
- Hendersonville, North Carolina
- Rocky Point, North Carolina
- Siler City, North Carolina
- Spring Hope, North Carolina
- Whiteville, North Carolina
- Cape Charles, Virginia



85Family
Emergency
Financial
Assistance
Grants Awarded*Where
we invest*

EMERGENCY GRANTS

The Michael P. Murphy Family Emergency Assistance Program helps ECMHSP families recover from unexpected financial hardships.

In 2023, The Foundation for Farmworkers provided emergency financial assistance to 85 East Coast Migrant Head Start Project families.

In addition, we created a new, enhanced level of assistance – the Andrés Award – in memory of Andrés Martinez, a nine-year-old boy and former East Coast Migrant Head Start Project student, who was tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident, while riding his bicycle in Fort Meade, Florida. The Andrés Award will be provided to families whose emergency need is based upon particularly tragic circumstances.

The ECMHSP families who have benefitted from The Foundation for Farmworkers' emergency financial assistance have endured many difficult circumstances, including the following:

- Loss of possessions and damage to property in a family's mobile home fire (Semmes, Alabama)
- Father detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and scheduled for deportation (Dundee, Florida)
- Family lacked resources to purchase needed medicine for children (Okeechobee, Florida)
- Family, on verge of homelessness, received rental assistance. (Palmetto, Florida)
- Family members killed in vehicle accident resulting in financial and emotional distress (Palmetto, Florida; Myakka, Florida; and Bowling Green, Florida)
- Financial assistance provided to father hospitalized after workplace accident (Valdosta, Georgia)
- Homeless farmworker family needed financial support to find housing and bedding (Boonville, North Carolina)
- Farmworker family endured hardship as a result of extended period without work. (Lodge, South Carolina)

The Children Served by EAST COAST MIGRANT HEAD START PROJECT



Our Mission AT WORK



Our Sponsors



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The
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Farmworkers

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