

NFWM OPENS THREE NEW OFFICES Delano, California ~ Seattle, Washington ~ Miami, Florida



NFWM Joins UFW March on California State Capitol

5,000 Participate in Rally to Call on Gov. Davis to Sign Important Farm Worker Legislation

Sr. Francisca Olvera, OLVM got off to a quick start in her job as NFWM's new organizer in Delano, California. Her first day on the job was August 12th and on August 15th she began the 10 day, 150 mile United Farm Workers march from Merced to Sacramento. Sr. Francisca organized Mass to begin each day's march and assisted the UFW in making arrangements for the next day's stop.

The highly publicized "March for the Governor's Signature" and the August 25th rally put pressure on Gov. Gray Davis to sign into law legislation designed to require fair contract negotiations between farm workers and growers and end frequent stalemates. Gov. Davis has until Sept. 30th to act.

Sr. Francisca can be contacted at : P.O. Box 669, Delano, CA 93216 ~ 661-725-9730 ~ cell: 661-900-7404



Photo by Josephyn Sherman

Deacon Pascual Manalio Passarelli, O.P. from Phoenix, AZ volunteered the month of August in Delano for NFWM and made the entire 10 day march. He is pictured here at the Sacramento rally with NFWM Director Virginia Nesmith, NFWM Board Member Tom Miller, and Franciscan brothers, Ed Dunn and Keith Warner.



Photo by Cruz Phillips

Rev. Byron Nelson of the Sierra Mission Partnership, PCUSA, addresses the crowd at the press conference held Sept. 23rd to announce the support of California religious leaders for the farm worker-backed legislation. A collaboration between NFWM, the CA Council of Churches, CA Catholic Conference of Bishops, and the Lutheran Office of Public Policy delivered a letter to Gov. Davis and mobilized religious congregations throughout California to offer prayers for passage of the legislation.

Erin Balleine Opens NFWM Office in Miami



The state of Florida has the second largest number of farm workers in the United States. The United Farm Workers, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, and Farm Worker Association of Florida are all active in the state. While NFWM has a long history in Florida, we have not had an office in the Miami area since 1990.

NFWM's new organizer there, Erin Balleine, will be a big help to Bert Perry in activating support in south Florida. Bert says of Erin's coming, "We have always had such great support in Miami for farm workers issues. We're very pleased to be able to again have a full-time presence there rebuilding those partnerships; and we're grateful to the Coral Gables Congregational Church in making this happen."

Erin comes to the job experienced at organizing support for farm workers. She worked on both the Taco Bell and Mt. Olive Pickle campaigns last year as a UCC intern.

At press time, Erin was still looking for office space in Miami. If you can help, contact her at eballeine@yahoo.com or call Area Director Bert Perry at: PO Box 1589, Deland, FL 32721; 386-738-2269 or bperryfnfw@aol.com. Also, Ruth Dyer is Bert's new part-time Admin. Assistant.

Rebecca Saldaña in Seattle for Fair Trade Apple Campaign



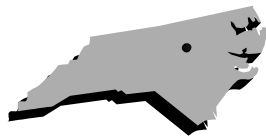
On September 3, Rebecca Saldaña started work for the National Farm Worker Ministry. Her job is to organize religious and consumer support for the UFW's burgeoning Fair Trade Apple Campaign in the state of Washington. NFWM friends may remember Rebecca from her work on behalf of PCUN's campaign with NORPAC.

The aim of the Fair Trade Apple Campaign is to create a joint effort between apple growers, the UFW, and consumers to pressure retailers and intermediaries to pay growers a greater percentage of their profit margin. In exchange for an agreement to abide by just labor standards, a grower's apples would receive a "fair trade apple" label, represented by the UFW's black eagle trademark, and the union and NFWM will promote those products.

Rebecca's focus will be to create consumer demand by educating and mobilizing in the communities where stores carry the apples. She is now securing endorsements for the campaign from religious, labor and community leaders and is assisting with the consumer research component of this unique labor-grower initiative.

Rebecca can be contacted at the NFWM office in Seattle: c/o UFW, 6512 23rd Ave NW, Ste. 329, Seattle, WA 98117 ~206-789-1947 ~ cell:206-255-7654

***Sister Communities
in North Carolina Connects
Congregations and Farm Workers***



Lori Khamala, NFWM organizer in North Carolina, initiated and organized a very successful program this summer called *Sister Communities*, co-sponsored by the Episcopal Migrant Ministry. The program paired six NC congregations with farm workers in six farm labor camps. More than twenty-five visits throughout the summer harvesting season were conducted. The program built relationships, reduced farm worker isolation, and helped congregational members better understand farm worker conditions.

Photo by Lori F. Khamala



Participants in the July 7 *Sister Communities* Celebration make a "Human Knot".

"Mostly, I liked the communication between the Hispanics and the Americans-all the people that help us and motivate us to continue forward in our daily working lives...Now, I know that through unity with others, we can move forward, move forward with our problems."

- Jose Reyes Hernández Medina, Campo de los Gueros

**Duke University
Reneges on Endorsement
of Mt. Olive Boycott**

As the Fall semester began, Duke University President Nan Keohane announced a reversal of Duke's March decision to honor the Mt. Olive Boycott. In a three page press release, Keohane described a summer of talks and personal farm tours with Mt. Olive Pickle Company CEO Bill Bryan.

Her new partnership with the company is based on Bryan's assurance that his suppliers will pledge to not break state or federal laws. Last summer, Duke representatives declined three invitations from the Farm Labor Organizing Committee to meet with farm workers.

"Duke Students Against Sweatshops is outraged about how President Keohane has secretly struck a deal with the Mt. Olive Pickle Company without input from students, faculty, and most importantly the farm workers themselves," said Duke Student Natalie Lamela. "As far as we're concerned the Duke community still honors the boycott."

***** ACTION NEEDED *****

Contact Duke's President Nan Keohane expressing your disappointment/outrage at her reversal of support for the boycott.

Email: president@duke.edu ~ Phone: 919-684-2424 ~
Fax: 919-684-3050 ~ Duke University, 207 Holling Building, Box 90001, Durham, NC 27708

*Lori can be contacted at :
c/o ERUUF, 4907 Garret Rd., Durham, NC 27707; 919-489-0039 or lkhamalanfwm@aol.com*



**Union-Label, Organic Blueberries
in Oregon ~ OFWM Sales
Spread Word that Union is Better**

"This has been a phenomenal year for blueberries in the Willamette valley," says OFWM organizer Steve Witte. As of early September, the PCUN/OFWM marketing program had sold 845 flats of berries for Nature's Fountain Farm.

While acting as salespersons, OFWM supporters are also spreading the word around Oregon that union label is better. In fact, according to PCUN's Larry Kleinman, the success of this year's marketing program has captured the attention of other growers in the state who have now expressed interest in talking with the union concerning future contracts. As Larry said, "OFWM and its allies have proven beyond a doubt that the joint PCUN/OFWM marketing plan really does work ...people have sat up and taken notice of this work."



Steve can be contacted at: OFWM, PO Box 1059, Woodburn, OR 97071; 503-990-0611 or ofwm@earthlink.net

**Accompaniment Program
Brings Community in
Contact with Farm Workers**

In Oregon, an accompaniment program organized by PCUN, OFWM, and the Farmworker Justice Coalition brings community members supportive of farm workers into contact with farm workers where they live or work.

The accompaniment program fundamentally supports PCUN's union organizing efforts by demonstrating to farmworkers that they are not alone in their struggle for justice and dignity and that there are many people and organizations who understand and support their cause...Workers say over and over again how great it is to see regular Americans supporting farmworkers; it gives them hope and inspiration to continue in the struggle.

*Josh Kellerman, PCUN Organizer
excerpted from OFWM's Newsletter,
"The Advocate", fall 2002*

For more information about how you can get involved in the work of the National Farm Worker Ministry, contact the NFWM office in your state or our national office in St. Louis.