

NFWM Vigil at Grape Vineyard Remembers Farm Workers Who Have Died in California Fields

The board & staff of NFWM were in Los Angeles in July for our semi-annual board meeting. We traveled to the area around Arvin and met with farm workers and United Farm Worker (UFW) staff. We also met with UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta and held a prayer vigil alongside a grape vineyard. NFWM President Felix Garza later spoke at an immigration rally in Bakersfield, where we heard from several Giumarra workers during dinner.

All Photos by Alexandria Jones



Felix Garza speaks of solidarity with immigrant workers.



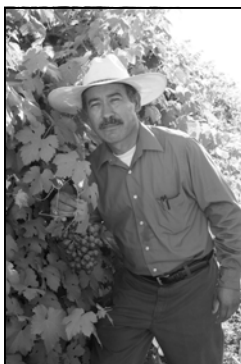
Dolores Huerta talks about the organizing work of the Dolores Huerta Foundation.



Hearing from workers who are grateful to learn of NFWM support around the country.



NFWM Board President Felix Garza (holding grapes), Maria Vidal, NFWM-CA Support Committee (holding cross), and NFWM board and staff declare "Presente" for the farm workers who have died in our fields.



Giumarra workers talked about conditions at the company where picking one bad grape can lead to forced time off.



NFWM staff Alex Jones & Christy Lafferty, Dolores Huerta, Olgha Sandman, NFWM staff Lucy Boutte & Virginia Nesmith. Jeanne Giordano, seated.



Over 60,000 farm workers labor in California's grape vineyards.

YAYAs Push AgJobs & Dream Act



On July 22nd, the Orlando YAYA (Youth & Young Adult) chapter of NFWM organized a rally in front of Florida Senator LeMieux's office in Orlando. Ninety people called on the senator to support the AgJobs bill and the Dream Act. Members of the Deland-YAYA chapter, as well as several other organizations including the Farmworker Association of Florida, joined the rally. YAYAs have been active throughout the spring and summer in supporting both pieces of legislation.

OFWM Supporting Ruby Ridge Workers

Photo by Arturo Sepulveda



Oregon Farm Worker Ministry Board member John Nichols says a blessing over the water cooler that he and others attempted to deliver to Ruby Ridge Dairy for the workers. The delegation was denied access to the

dairy and told to leave the water cooler at the entry to the property. For more than a year, workers have been fired and harassed for seeking UFW representation. OFWM and allies continue to provide supportive actions to the workers in their struggle for justice.

Photo by Dave Austin



NFWM-NC & a group from the **Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship** spent an afternoon developing relationships and building solidarity with a group of men living and working on a tobacco farm in Person County, NC.

Sodexo Signs...one more CIW Victory!

On August 23rd, the foodservice giant Sodexo signed an agreement to work with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) to improve wages and working conditions in the fields of its Florida tomato suppliers.

With this announcement, all three of the largest foodservice companies, Compass, Aramark, and Sodexo, have now signed Fair Food agreements and will be implementing those agreements in their supply chains this coming season. This victory marks the conclusion of the Student/Farmworker Alliance's successful "Dine with Dignity" campaign. **Congratulations to CIW and SFA!**

CIW is calling on the supermarket industry, particularly Publix, Ahold, Kroger and WalMart, to step up and bring their considerable purchasing power to bringing justice to the fields. NFWM supporters have been active in outreach to Publix in Florida. [For current actions in your locality, visit: http://www.ciw-online.org/tools.html](http://www.ciw-online.org/tools.html)

"Hit the Fields" Soccer Game in Florida

Photo by Nicole Godreau



NFWM-Florida partnered with the Alliance of Active Women (AMA) to organize a soccer game fundraiser to support their work with farm worker women in central Florida. A team comprised of 15 farm worker women from Volusia County played against a team of 15 NFWM YAYA supporters. The farm worker team won 3-2. The event was a success, raising \$2,300. And it was an opportunity for YAYAs and other supporters to share, play and laugh together with farm workers of the area.

Photo by Alexandria Jones



OCIC Annual Fundraiser for NFWM

Over 100 people attended the Orange County Interfaith Committee to Aid Farmworkers Annual Fundraiser dinner for NFWM

on August 1st. NFWM Board President Felix Garza and Director Virginia Nesmith were the featured speakers. Many NFWM staff, in LA for the board meeting, attended. Thank you to OCIC co-chairs Suzanne Darweesh & Andy Saavedra (pictured), among others, for a successful event that raised more than \$5,000.

Celebrating CA's New Support Committee



With leadership from NFWM's Lucy Boutte and Margarita Mota, NFWM has a new support committee in the San Gabriel region of Los Angeles made up of representatives of many of the area Hispanic churches. Committee members have held prayer vigils, met with

farm workers in the San Joaquin Valley and most recently conducted a raffle for former staffer Christy Lafferty's car, raising over \$7,000 for NFWM. ¡Si se Puede!

We Bid Farewell to Christy Lafferty

Photo by Alexandria Jones



Christy Lafferty joined NFWM in January 2009 as a United Methodist Mission Intern. During her 18 months in California, Christy helped organize many actions on behalf of the United Farm Workers' campaign with

Giumarra Vineyards, with a focus on re-energizing the support of Los Angeles area faith communities and young people. Twice during her internship, Christy worked briefly with UFW field teams in the San Joaquin Valley helping to organize grape workers. This fall, Christy will return to Nicaragua, where she did her UM Mission internship prior to coming to NFWM.

Christy says, "Throughout the year and a half with NFWM, I met an incredible number of inspiring people amongst the staff and board of NFWM, the farm worker organizations, farm worker supporters, and of course, the farm workers themselves. I have had a life-changing experience that I will never forget."



Coming Soon Spanish language version of NFWM's resource, Blessing the Hands: A Curriculum on Farm Workers for Faith Communities. This resource will be

available as a free download from our website or as a hard copy for \$5.00. Check our website in November.

NFWM counts on the financial support of individuals to continue our work to support farm workers in their efforts to gain justice. Please use the enclosed envelope and make as generous a donation as you are able. Thank you.

Farm Worker Monument Dedicated



Astronaut Jose Hernandez, who grew up in a family of farm workers, and NFWM Director Virginia Nesmith were among the speakers at the dedication of a monument in Santa Paula, CA honoring the nation's farm workers.

The monument, which is the first of its kind in the country, was the inspiration of Albino Pineda who worked in the fields as a young man. Pineda left farm labor and served at one time as director of Latino Ministries for the United Methodist Church in Southern

California. He never forgot how hard farm labor is and believes farm workers deserve recognition.

Hernandez spoke of the importance of education in his journey from farm worker to astronaut, and his experience in space, including a view of North America that showed no boundaries between countries. "I wish



Alicia Romero, a leader of the CA Support Committee, Fr. Charles Lueras, and NFWM staff Margarita Mota & Lucy Boutte celebrate the dedication of the farm worker monument.



Photo by Mary Jean Friel

Astronaut Jose Hernandez poses with an NFWM shopping bag given to him by NFWM Director Virginia Nesmith, and California organizer Lucy Boutte.

our politicians could all go up to see the world from this perspective", said Hernandez.

For more news about NFWM activities and farm worker campaigns, regularly visit www.nfwm.org. And while there, sign up for our monthly E-news.

Celebrando Comité de Apoyo



Con el liderazgo de Lucy Boutte y Margarita Mota de NFWM se ha creado un nuevo comité de apoyo en la Región de San Gabriel de Los Angeles compuesto por muchas parroquias hispanas. Si Puede! En la Rifa del auto de Christy recaudaron mas de \$7,000.

Tuvieron vigiliass y viajes al Valle de San Joaquín a visitar a los trabajadores.

Adios, Christy Lafferty



Christy Lafferty llego a NFWM en enero de 2009 como un pasante de Misión Metodista Unida. Durante sus 18 meses en California, Christy ayudó a organizar muchas acciones con la Unión de Campesinos (UFW) en la campana de Giumarra Vineyards, con un enfoque de revitalizar el apoyo de las comunidades de fe y jóvenes en la área de Los Angeles. Dos veces durante su pasantía, Christy trabajó brevemente con equipos de campo de UFW en el valle de San Joaquín ayudando a organizar a los trabajadores de la uva. Este otoño, Christy regresa a Nicaragua, donde participó en la de Misión Metodista Unida antes de venir a NFWM.

Christy, dice, "durante todo el año y medio con NFWM, me reuní con un número cuantificable de personas inspiradoras entre el personal y la Mesa Directiva de NFWM, las organizaciones de trabajadores agrícolas, apoyadores del trabajador agrícola y por supuesto, los propios trabajadores agrícolas. He tenido una experiencia de cambio de vida que nunca olvidará."



Por llegar **Recurso de NFWM en Español, Bendiciendo las Manos: A Currículo sobre Trabajadores Agrícolas para comunidades de fe.** Este recurso estar disponible

bajándolo en nuestra pagina web gratis o puede orden copia imprimida por \$5.00. Favor de ver nuestra pagina web en Noviembre.

NFWM cuenta con la ayuda financiera de individuos para continuar el trabajo de apoyo para los trabajadores agrícolas en la lucha para ganar justicia. Favor de usar el sobre incluido y que su donación sea generosa y a su alcance. Gracias

Monumento dedicado a los Trabajadores Agrícolas



El Astronauta José Hernández, creció en una familia de trabajadores agrícolas y la directora de NFWM, Virginia Nesmith fueron unos de los oradores en la dedicación de un monumento en honor a los trabajadores agrícolas de la nación en Santa Paula, CA. El monumento, que es el primero de su tipo en el país, fue la inspiración de Albino Pineda, quien de joven trabajó en los campos. El Señor. Pineda dejó el trabajo del campo y sirvió por una temporada como director de ministerios latinos en la Iglesia Metodista Unida en el sur de California. Nunca olvido lo duro que fue el trabajo y cree que estos trabajadores merecen este reconocimiento.

Hernández habló de la importancia de la educación en su caminar como trabajador agrícola a astronauta y su experiencia en el espacio, incluyendo una vista de América del Norte que no muestra fronteras entre países. "Me gustaría que nuestros políticos pudieran ver el mundo desde esta perspectiva," dijo Hernández.



Astronauta Jose Hernandez recibe una bolsa de NFWM regalada por la Directora de NFWM, Virginia Nesmith, y Lucy Boutte, Organizadora de California



Alicia Romero, NFWM líder del grupo de apoyo, Fr. Charles Lueras y NFWM Staff, Margarita Mota & Lucy Boutte celebrando la dedicación del monumento a los trabajadores agrícolas.

Estas gran mujeres repartieron NFWM material y vendieron treinta bolsas de NFWM!

Para mas noticias de actividades de NFWM y de campañas de trabajadores agrícolas regularmente visite www.nfwm.org. Y ya que esta allí, inscribese para recibir E-news.

NFWM Joins Global Farm Workers Meeting in California



Virginia Nesmith, NFWM's Executive Director, was among the participants at the **First International Global**

Agricultural Industry and Waged Agricultural Workers Conference in California sponsored by the UFW, Oxfam America and Oxfam Nobib. Representatives of farm worker organizations from the U.S., South Africa, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, as well as Oxfam colleagues from Morocco, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands attended.

During the three day meeting, participants shared information about farm worker conditions and the work they are doing in their respective countries. The similarity in oppressive conditions and challenges from continent to continent is remarkable.

Everyone left convinced that just as agribusiness and the food retail industry are global in scope, it is critical that farm worker representatives begin to communicate and collaborate on a global level. The conference planted the seeds for that work, as they opened the door to the future with new knowledge, energy and hope.



TAKE ACTION to Support Tobacco Farm Workers

JOIN FLOC's JP Morgan Chase Bank Divestment Campaign

JP Morgan Chase is one of the lead banks in a consortium of lenders that provides \$498 million dollars in credit to Reynolds American, one of the largest tobacco companies in the US. While Reynolds American and JP Morgan Chase make billions, tobacco farm workers continue to suffer serious human rights abuses in the fields.

As a major lender to Reynolds, Chase has the stature and resources to convince the tobacco giant to address exploitation of tobacco farm workers, but Chase has so far failed to do so. On September 8th, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), as part of its campaign with Reynolds, launched a divestment campaign with Chase to convince them to act on behalf of farm workers.

- Make a pledge to close your Chase Bank accounts and/or Chase credit cards until Reynolds agrees to work with FLOC to find a solution to the abuses or until Chase severs financial ties with Reynolds.
- Organize a leafleting / bank manager action at your local Chase Bank branch. For a complete toolkit, visit www.nfwm.org for the link from our home page; or call 314-726-6470.

In 2009, Reynolds American CEO Susan Ivey earned \$7,905 per hour. That's about the same as a tobacco farm worker earns in an entire season.



Visit www.supportfloc.org, to send an E-Fax of your divestment pledge directly to Chase Bank. If you are not on the web, call NFWM's national office at 314-726-6470 to make the pledge.

"Thank a Farm Worker" Shopping Bags Make Great Holiday Gifts!

Every time you shop, other shoppers get the message - "Did You Eat Today - Thank a Farmworker!" And your donation of \$10 or more, supports NFWM's work for justice for farm workers.



- environmentally friendly, made in the USA
- natural cotton, 18"w x 15"h, with 7" gussets and 25" handles
- eliminates an average of 1,000 plastic bags over its lifetime.

To order by credit card, visit www.nfwm.org.

To order by check, fill out the order form and mail to us with your check, payable to NFWM.

Send me _____ NFWM Shopping Bag (s) for a \$10.00 donation each. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

(Please Print)

Can you make an extra gift this year?

Your support is vital to NFWM's work and to the farm workers who rely on us to support them in their efforts to gain justice.



Please use the enclosed envelope to send in an extra, and much needed, gift today.

Have you remembered to put NFWM in your will, trust, insurance policy or estate plan?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NFWM, a nonprofit 501(c) 3, is supported primarily by donations from individuals and religious organizations. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent permissible by law.

If you would like to get this semi-annual newsletter as an emailed PDF instead of a bulk-mailed hard-copy, email salan@nfwm.org, with "pdf newsletter preferred" in the subject line and your name and zip code in the body of the message.

Farm workers are the mostly immigrant men, women and children who work in our fields, orchards, nurseries, dairies and feedlots. Their labor fills our supermarkets, restaurants & dining tables.

The National Farm Worker Ministry believes that farm workers deserve adequate pay, safe working conditions and the right to address problems without fear of firing.

For nearly 40 years, NFWM has supported farm workers as they organize for justice, empowerment & equality. We educate consumers and mobilize the public in support of farm worker campaigns.

JOIN US !

NFWM has state offices in Florida, North Carolina, Oregon & California.

Visit our web site for state contact information or contact our national office: NFWM, 438 N. Skinker Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63130 Office: 314-726-6470 nfwm@nfwm.org

Exec. Director: Virginia Nesmith
News & Views Editor: Susan Alan

Return Service Requested

National Farm Worker Ministry
438 N. Skinker Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63130

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. LOUIS MO
PERMIT NO. 4865