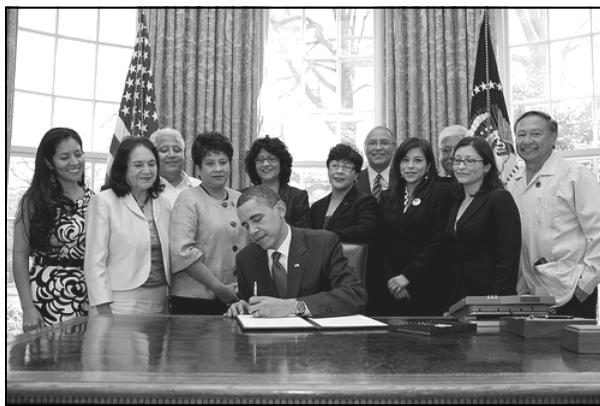


NFWM News & Views

SPRING 2010

The National Farm Worker Ministry ~ *together with farm workers harvesting justice.*

President Obama Issues Proclamation Honoring César Chávez



White House Photo by Pete Souza

On the anniversary of César Chávez birthday, March 31, President Barack Obama met with United Farm Worker President Arturo S. Rodriguez, UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, and members of the Chávez family in the White House Oval office.

President Obama signed a proclamation honoring César Chávez. Following the meeting, Arturo Rodriguez said, "We thank President Obama for honoring César Chávez on this important day for millions of Americans. We thank the President for his concern for the farm workers who feed our nation every day, and for his strong support of immigration reform. No other change is more urgently needed, and would be more lasting."

NFWM Marches for Immigration Reform in Washington D.C.

On March 20th, National Farm Worker Ministry regional staff from North Carolina, California and Florida traveled to Washington, DC and joined 200,000 others for an Immigration Reform March & Rally. The NFWM contingent included seventeen members from our Youth and Young Adult Network (YAYA) and supporters from Orlando, Florida.

The majority of farm workers are immigrants who are adversely affected by our broken immigration system. NFWM was honored to join hundreds of farm workers at this historic event and to raise our voices with faith leaders and others calling for just reform.



Photo by Alexandria Jones

1,000 Join in Farmworker Freedom March in Florida



NFWM YAYAs started the day with a picnic lunch, where YAYA members from different areas shared about the projects they are working on and new and old members got to know each other. And they made great signs for the march. Said Dominique Aulisio, "Thank you to NFWM. Your support allows us to continue mobilizing young people to bring their energy to farmworker campaigns."

Forty-five Youth & Young Adult Network members, staffers Bert Perry and Lariza Garzon and supporters joined the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) and over 1,000 allies for the Farmworker Freedom March in Lakeland, FL on Sunday, April 18th. The march was to support the CIW in their demands for dignity, better wages, and an end to modern-day slavery in the fields and to hold Publix Supermarkets accountable for the conditions of tomato pickers.



The drizzling rain did not bring down the energy of the YAYAs, who kept up the chant throughout, "Down, down with the exploitation...Up, up with the fair food nation!" and "Publix, shame on you! Farmworkers are people too!"

Honoring the Legacy of César Chávez & the Farm Worker Movement during Farmworker Awareness Week

NFWM, our Youth & Young Adult Network and farm worker supporters around the country organized and participated in many activities during Farmworker Awareness Week (FAW) to honor the legacy of César Chávez and raise awareness about farm worker issues. This year, FAW took place between March 28th through April 3rd.

From the Proclamation of César E. Chávez Day by the City of Portland, OR; to a student immersion trip to historic farm worker sites in California's Central Valley; to the 15 mile march through the heart of North Carolina tobacco country and many more places in between... NFWM is keeping alive the values of César Chávez embodied by "Si Se Puede!" Here are some highlights.

15 mile March in North Carolina Honors Farm Workers & Calls for Justice in Tobacco Fields

On the morning of March 31st, farm worker supporters gathered outside of a Reynolds tobacco processing plant in Tobaccoville, NC. There they began the 15 mile



Photos by Alexandria Jones

Pilgrimage for Peace & Justice March, heading for the company's headquarters in downtown Winston-Salem. Reynolds Tobacco continues to refuse to talk to the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) about working together to improve conditions for farm workers in the tobacco fields.



Pilgrimage marchers saying grace before lunch at El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church. Also at El Buen Pastor, area ministers held a press conference in support of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee's campaign for justice for the workers who pick Reynolds tobacco.

Along the way, marchers were given respite at churches and joined together in a litany for farm workers; picketed at Reynolds; and ended the long day with a foot washing ceremony and dinner at Green Street United Methodist Church. Event co-organizer, NFWM's Alexandria Jones thanks the many congregations and individuals who helped with the day.

In California: Presentations, Marches & a Student Immersion Trip

NFWM California staff, Lucy Boutte and Christy Lafferty, joined thousands in César Chávez marches in the San Fernando Valley and in Delano. They also participated in a César E. Chávez Breakfast with the Interfaith Committee of Baldwin Park, CA, helped raise a UFW flag outside of Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Palm Sunday, and shared about César Chávez with a group of the Community Development Ministry of Norwalk United Methodist Church.

From March 26-28, Christy hosted 20 students and campus ministers for the iViva La Causa! Student Immersion trip to California's Central Valley. Part of the trip was a one-on-one conversation with Giumarra worker, Hector Carbajal, who shared what a day of a Giumarra farm worker is like. Farm workers are organizing with the UFW to gain representation at the company, which has a long history of intimidating workers and violating their rights.



Immersion trip participants traveled to César's grave site and toured the National Chávez Center at La Paz, CA and visited the UFW's historic 40 Acres offices in Delano. And they joined the annual César E. Chávez March & Festival in Delano and met Dolores Huerta.



Christy Lafferty said, "It's wonderful that, when young people are given a chance to go out of their comfort zones, how much their potential as leaders in their communities is demonstrated. The students left energized and eager to keep exploring how to best support farm workers."

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." César E. Chávez



YAYAs Honor César Chávez's Call to Service

At the very heart of any celebration of César Chávez is the call to serve one's community. The petition to declare César E. Chávez Day a national holiday states that it be a day of service, not merely a paid day off from work.

Photo by Ana Bolanos



Nicole Godreau helped during the Alliance of Active Women's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Bert Perry discussed the history of the movement in Florida and the influence of César Chávez's inspirational advocacy there. Antonio Franco, Orlando YAYA, spoke about the ways people can get involved.

In that spirit, NFWM's Orlando and Deland Youth & Young Adult (YAYA) members spent much of March volunteering around central Florida providing child care to free up farm worker women to attend important events and trainings.

Also, YAYA was featured on Front Porch Radio with Julie Norris on March 31st for a special about Farm Worker Awareness Week. NFWM's

Oregon's Farmworker Awareness Week

On March 30th, over 175 people attended a panel discussion at Evergreen State College, hosted by Jenny Lee, Oregon Farm Worker Ministry intern & YAYA Chapter President.

The event raised campus awareness about farm worker justice, immigration reform, and the rights of workers.



The panel included Arturo Sepulveda, UFW organizer, Rumaldo Latino, who was fired from Ruby Ridge Dairy for his efforts to organize fellow workers, and Jesús Miranda, a current Ruby Ridge worker. The response from students wanting to support these workers was overwhelming.



Also in March, the mayors of Portland and Newberg, Oregon signed proclamations declaring Farmworker Awareness Week and César E. Chávez Day be celebrated in their cities. The Portland proclamation was presented to OFWM board member Helen Quirino and OFWM Director John Munson.

Get your NFWM - "Thank a Farm Worker" re-useable Shopping Bag



Be the first on your block to get an environmentally friendly, made in the USA, natural cotton NFWM shopping bag.

This high quality reusable bag is strong & roomy. **And best of all, 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.

- 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.

Graphic is representative.

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

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ email _____
(Please Print)

Have you remembered to put NFWM in your will?

Perhaps you would like to help strengthen the long-term viability of the National Farm Worker Ministry but feel you cannot afford to make such a gift today. A bequest to the National Farm Worker Ministry in your will, trust, insurance policy or estate plan is an important way you can ensure that NFWM will have the resources to continue our work for justice for farm workers.

If you are considering such a gift, please contact our national office to ensure that the information you are including in your provision is accurate. If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift, please let us know.

*Your contributions mean a great deal to us,
and to the farm workers who rely on NFWM
to support them in their efforts to gain justice in the fields.*

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.

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