

GOT FOOD?

THANK A FARM WORKER!

NFWM News & Actions

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NFWM BOARD MEETS IN TAMPA, FL

National Farm Worker Ministry held its winter board meeting in Tampa, Florida on January 31-February 1, with 17 of our member

organizations represented. The board approved the 2020 operations budget and welcomed a new member, the Catholic Labor Network, which will be represented by Clayton Sinyai, their Executive Director (see below). A new representative for the United Church of Christ, Sekinah Hamlin, was in attendance at this meeting as well. NFWM's intern from Duke, Hanna Stamey attended and made a presentation on "Heat Stress" as a focus for the 2020 Harvest of Justice season. Emily Miller, Director of Communications led an exercise on elevator speeches, and Kate Hamman, Administrative Assistant provided necessary logistics for the meeting.

The board heard from Antonio Tovar, the new leader of the Farmworker Association of Florida who shared about their organizing in Apopka and around the state. He gave updates on citrus harvesting issues. He also shared how the Farmworker Association is working with Emory University on a study and legislation around heat stress. Piece rate harvesting is a factor in heat stress. The incentive is to pick as much as possible as fast as you can, so piece rate wages are literally killing farm workers. What they need is rest, hydration, and fair wages.



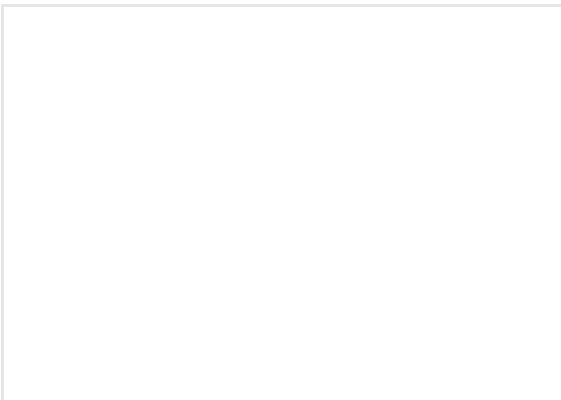
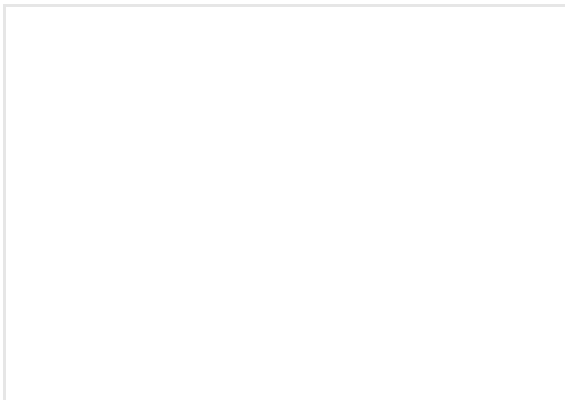
CIW Visit

NFWM's board also traveled to Immokalee to meet with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. Lucas Benitez, co-founder of CIW, shared the history of the Fair Food Program. In one story a grower he was working with initially referred to his workers as his "hands"-- short for "field hands." He negotiated until the terminology changed and the grower called the workers "employees." It was then he knew that he had succeeded in moving the man's understanding from farm workers as just "hands" to people and people with rights.

Today's efforts at CIW are rooted in keeping farm workers at the center of the Fair Food Program and focusing on the Fair Food Program as the core of farm worker protection. The board toured their headquarters including the radio station they run for the community and Nely Rodriguez, a long time member of the Coalition, told us about her role in providing Sunday programming for women. She and the faith organizer from the Fair Food Alliance, Uriel Perez, then gave the board a tour of the facilities, including a mural of a tractor signed by farm workers. At one point, a grower made a comment about farm workers having a voice in their work and treatment saying, "A farmer does not let the tractor tell him what to do." The implication that farm workers were like machines was insulting and the mural was created in response to that with messages from farm workers written on it, including "I'm not a tractor, I'm a human being."

In the afternoon, Judge Laura Safer Espinosa, who leads the monitoring of the Fair Food Program, gave the board a breakdown of the work she does for CIW. One of the strengths of Fair Food she presented is that there are no subcontractors-- all the farm workers are direct hires. This, in itself, is a helpful improvement because it eliminates the level of management used to buffer the responsibility of the growers for their workers. Judge Laura told us that complaints have gone down with training and enforcement but that the severity of them continues.

The day ended in a circle of blessing as our board surrounded CIW and their families in appreciation and care.





Uriel Perez and Nely Rodriguez



"We are not tractors!" Photos by Carol Barton

Welcome to our Newest Member Organization, the Catholic Labor Network!

NFWM is pleased to welcome the Catholic Labor Network to the faith based groups who are a part of our Ministry. They join denominations, religious orders and regional organizing groups who are committed to standing with farm workers.

The Catholic Labor Network is a place for Catholics — lay, religious and clergy — who find inspiration in Catholic Social Teaching on labor and work, and wish to share it with the world. They come together to exchange information about the Church and social justice and to support working people in their struggles. They promote the cause of workers and Catholic social teaching in our labor unions, parishes and other organizations.

Learn more here:

<http://catholiclabor.org/>

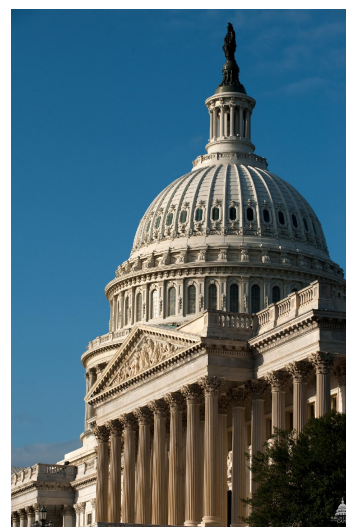
Find a full list of NFWM Member and Partner Organizations here:

<http://nfwm.org/member-organizations-2/>

UFW/UFW FOUNDATION CONTINUES THE FIGHT AGAINST CHLORPYRIFOS

National Farm Worker Ministry has supported efforts to ban chlorpyrifos for a number of years (see <http://nfwm.org/action-alerts/sign-onto-epa-petition-to-ban-pesticide-that-harms-childrens-brains/>.) By the end of the last administration, chlorpyrifos was banned from both agricultural as well as household use. The current administration, despite a petition to the EPA, has released it for agricultural use. While this is discouraging, the work continues.

Recently, the UFW announced that a major manufacturer of chlorpyrifos will stop producing this chemical for agriculture. Farm worker organizing partners and allies are celebrating this announcement. Teresa Romero, president of United Farm Workers, said, "Chlorpyrifos is a poison that damages children's brains. The move by chlorpyrifos' biggest



manufacturer to stop its production is a significant victory, but the fight to ban this chemical that poisons farm workers and all consumers from the food we eat is not finished. The wide use of pesticides on our food is a public health concern and we must continue working to protect our families from its dangers."

Reyna Lopez, Executive Director of PCUN shares that they have proposed a bill in Oregon that creates a phase-out of this pesticide. Farmworker Justice reports that a similar bill was proposed in Washington State. While it exempts some crops, it creates requirements for some to inform neighbors before administering and to give them warnings about exposure harm. Maryland has proposed bills in both the House and Senate that will go to committee this month. Farmworker Justice has also filed a suit against the EPA for not banning chlorpyrifos. All these efforts, in states, in courts, with manufacturers are important in the ongoing fight to keep farm workers and their families from being exposed to this neurotoxin. We are continuing to follow these actions and look for opportunities to support keeping farm workers safe, especially their children.



From March 10-12, farm workers from Immokalee, their families, and consumer allies will flood the Big Apple for the 3-day "Follow the Money March" through New York City's bustling boroughs, taking the fight for farm workers' fundamental human rights directly to the doorstep of those with the power to ensure that the women and men picking Wendy's tomatoes can labor with dignity, safety, and respect on the job.

If you're not able to march with farm workers all three days, please make your plans to join for the culminating grand finale march on Thursday, March 12!

More about why we're marching:

<http://www.boycott-wendys.org/why-we-are-marching>

Can't come to the march?

Consider delivering a Wendy's store manager's letter on March 12th.

Download a sample letter [here](#).

Harvest of Justice Season: Sept. 2-Oct. 16 2020

Harvest of Justice 2020:



Farm Workers and the Environment

Harvest of Justice is an opportunity to raise consciousness, commitment, and contributions for farm workers! The season falls between Labor Day (September 2) and World Food Day (October 16). The

Harvest of Justice program is a way to educate your faith community, family, and peers about farm worker issues and to take action.

Our discussion this season: Farm workers are being exposed to dangerous working conditions as the climate continues to change. We will explore how environmental changes are impacting farm workers through forced migration, natural and human-caused disasters, pesticides, heat stress, water insecurity. We will also explore how all of these intersect in vulnerable populations like women and children. *Photo by [Brad Smith](#)*

Smile!

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To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Login using your Amazon credentials or create an Amazon account
3. Go to "Your account"
4. Scroll down to "Other programs." The first item on the list should be Amazon Smile.
5. Under the heading "Or pick your own charitable organization," type in NFWM and click "search."
6. On the results page, click "Select" next to "National Farm Worker Ministry."

You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

DONATE to NFWM TODAY!

NFWM Supports These Boycotts led by our Farm Worker Partners.
We hope you will, too!



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