



Impact Report: 2023 In Review



52

Awareness
Raising
Opportunities for
the Farm Worker
Movement

125,000

Website Views &
2,600 Resource
Downloads

69,517

Combined Reach
on Facebook &
Instagram

43,193

Video Views on
YouTube &
TikTok

\$260,512

Raised from Grants,
Faith Communities,
Individual Donors, and
other groups for the
Work of NFWM



NFWM Highlights From 2023

When we look back on 2023, we do so with gratitude for the opportunity to continue our legacy of seeking justice with farm workers. In January, the board of directors met virtually while several key leaders flew to California to share in the celebration of the life of Rev. Chris Hartmire, the first leader of the National Farm Worker Ministry. Cesar Chavez chose Chris to work alongside the farm worker organizers, and he did this faithfully, continuing to support NFWM until his death in late 2022. To Chris Hartmire and so many other faithful supporters who have left us, we say PRESENTE!

In July, the board of directors met with Migrant Justice in Burlington, VT, the location of their central office. Migrant Justice is working with and for dairy workers to improve their living and working conditions through the Milk with Dignity Program, a dairy certification program patterned after the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Program. Support of farm worker-led food certification programs protects farm worker rights and supports farm worker organizing by using consumer power.

NFWM's role in educating about the impact of racism on farm workers this year helped shine a light on our country's shameful history of excluding farm workers from the same rights and protections other workers have. Our resources showcase farm workers giving voice to their own issues and their own solutions and how we can help. Supporters can exercise their rights as citizens to change this country's labor law exclusions of farm workers if we all continue to work together.

NFWM continues to show up where farm workers are protesting - Palm Beach, FL for a march with the CIW to support the Wendy's boycott; public witness in Seattle, WA with mushroom workers who are getting support for their organizing efforts in the southern part of the state; Brownsville, TX to expose detention center deaths for immigrants; Burlington, VT where dairy workers are seeking the right to monitor the industry in which they work and in multiple communities around the country where people of faith and conscience pause to pray, sign petitions, make calls, visit their legislators - wherever farm workers are organizing.



NFWM Board In Action

by Rev. Joy Warren, Treasurer/Board Representative of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church

Migrant Justice hosted our NFWM summer board for a day of education and a rally action outside of Hannaford Supermarkets in Burlington, Vermont. Hannaford has been asked to do the right thing for farm workers and join Milk With Dignity, but they refuse. Standing with people who are advocating for themselves is at once both humbling and empowering. After marching, we gathered to hear about intolerable conditions first-hand from impacted dairy workers. NFWM president, Rev. Dr. Nathan Hosler, provided a theological rationale for our involvement and solidarity. Clergy then accompanied dairy workers as we all marched over to the security guards in front of the Hannaford's, asked them to deliver our letters to management, and told them we came from all over the country to Burlington because we had not yet received a response to our previous letters!

The following day, Rev. Hosler invited us to reflect upon what we'd experienced at the rally in light of NFWM's core values. I chose "Sí, se puede" as my value. My husband and I traveled with a dairy worker and her two-year-old child, singing, laughing, and napping in the car. At the rally, she ran freely among the participants, arms outstretched, smiling and causing everyone who saw her to smile. She personified the cycle of joy, rest, and joy needed to be what Migrant Justice calls "champions" of human rights. Watching her, I thought, "Yes, we can do this!"



Farm Workers Deserve Recognition and Protection

A reflection by Payton Price, NFWM's school year intern from Duke Divinity School

On October 10, I visited a few farm workers at labor camps as they were finishing their tobacco harvesting season. I was surprised by the transience of migrant farm worker realities and the isolation of their contexts. Through conversations, I learned farm workers want recognition. They are here because we citizens don't do the work—and we won't do the work. But it is a necessary job to sustain our food system. It is also a dangerous job away from their families.



Farm workers need their labor protected, and consumers need to help them fight for fair wages, better living conditions, and safety in their work. We who benefit from their labor but who contribute none of our own must be willing to devote time and attention to farm worker advocacy. At the end of the visit, the farm workers asked me to pray for them. They want rights and protection but also want people of faith to join them in their struggle.

Our 2024 Goals & Strategies



Educate

Harvest of Justice 2024 will focus on farm workers and immigration. We will frequently publish resources on our website about farm worker issues so people can continue to learn more about the movement. We hope to raise more awareness by leading presentations throughout the country so please reach out if you know of a faith community or event where an NFWM representative can speak.



Equip

We will continue to provide our supporters with videos, downloadable information sheets, social media toolkits, and presentation materials to promote farm worker issues and campaign actions/opportunities in their communities. We will offer training and experiential opportunities, both in-person and virtually, to build knowledge and engender commitment to the farm worker movement.



Mobilize

By expanding our staff this year, we can build stronger relationships with our farm worker and faith partners for organizing efforts. We will grow our social media channels to better promote farm worker campaigns and actions. Tell your community to follow NFWM online.

Stay Connected @nfwministry

With Us Online:    