



Harvesting Hope

“We can choose to use our lives for others to bring about a better and more just world for our children” Cesar Chavez

SPRING 2009

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Family Preservation Program
- CHAT Program
- A-HOPE Program
- Kindness is...
- The Year in Review

DID YOU KNOW?

- **The health status of migrant farmworkers is at the same standard of most Third World Nations.**
- **Agriculture is consistently ranked one of the three most dangerous occupations in the nation.**
- **The EPA estimates that 300,000 farmworkers are poisoned by pesticides each year.**

30 Years Later...

Last year, the Farmworker Coordinating Council celebrated its 30th anniversary. What began as a humble effort led by Ernesto Gonzalez in 1978 has become a multi-program agency that helps hundreds of farmworker families with food, clothing, and social services every year. In this newsletter, we want to highlight some of the work the agency has done and the difference we have made in the lives of farmworkers living in Palm Beach County. Today, more than ever, farmworkers are facing monumental challenges. With the economy at its worse, many of the families we serve are on the

brink of becoming homeless. Migrant farmworkers face a shortage of job opportunities here and in other states. The harvesting seasons are becoming shorter and shorter. In addition, there may be major changes in the agricultural industry in Belle Glade. The Everglades Restoration Project has the potential of eliminating thousands of agriculture related jobs, and many farmworkers don't have the employability skills necessary to work in other fields.

Our agency has already begun working on a 5 year strategic plan, which will allow

us to be ready for those challenges and at the same time continue providing vital services to farmworker families. We continue to seek new funding opportunities to expand our resources and develop new programs to help farmworkers become more self-sufficient.

There is much work to be done, but with our donors' support we will overcome these challenges and together we will continue making a difference in the lives of those who harvest America .

CHAT PROGRAM

With a grant from the Allegheny Franciscan Ministry, FWCC began a new program called CHAT (Community Health Access Teams)

CHAT uses the “Promotoras” approach as a framework for the program. Promotoras is a nationally recognized health program that has been very successful in States with large concentration of farmwork-

ers , such as Arizona and California. The program uses peer community health educators to reach out to uninsured farmworker families.

The goal is to provide farmworker families with access to health services that are available in the community.

CHAT's main components are outreach and education. Health educators visit nurser-

ies, farms, health fairs and other places where farmworkers congregate with the idea of targeting uninsured adults and children.

After the initial contact is established, outreach workers assist the individual to apply for Medicaid, Kid Care, Health Care District and /or other health services.

(Continues in page 3)