

# CHAT Program (continuation)

In addition, CHAT workers conduct monthly health education and information workshops, where farmworkers can learn about

healthy habits, health services and other health related information.

Since the program began in December of last year, health educa-

tors have been able to assist 40 farmworker families with applications to Health Care District and Medicaid. In addition 6 health workshops have been conducted in the Belle Glade and Lake Worth office.

Two new part time community health educators have been hired for this program, one for each office. Rosalinda Mendez, one of the new staff members hired to work in CHAT comes from a farmworker family.

She knows first hand what it is like to grow up in the fields, and not being able to have access to adequate health services.

The Alleghany Franciscan Ministry funded CHAT to operate for two consecutive years, and the program is available in both Lake Worth and Belle Glade area.

## Family Preservation Program (Continuation)

In 2008 alone, FPP served over 460 families, representing 1,746 individuals.

Some of the services we provided in 2008 were:

- Bus passes
- Food
- Food vouchers
- Clothes and household items
- Rental assistances

In addition, over 600 children received backpacks filled with school supplies during our Back to School Bash and toys during our Christmas Toys Distribution Event.

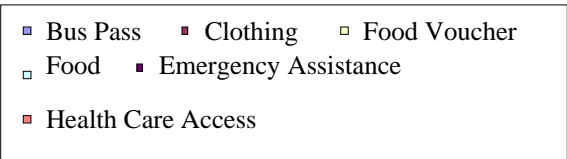
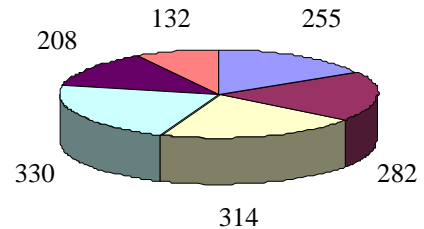
Many of the clients who participate in the FPP, also take advantage of our Financial Literacy Workshops. These work-

shops teach them among other things, how to develop and follow a family budget, how to open bank accounts and several tips to save money when shopping for everyday items.

The Financial Literacy Workshops are required for all clients requesting rental and/or utility payment assistance.

In many cases, clients who participate in the FPP, also participate in other programs such as the USDA food distribution and the Back to School Bash. This holistic approach to family services, has helped many develop a sense of empowerment and direct them towards the road of becoming self-sufficient.

Families and Services 2008



## The Year in Review

In 2008, food insecurity was a major issue for farmworkers living in Palm Beach County. 42% of the services the agency provided was directed to helping farmworkers avoid hunger. These services were given in the form of food vouchers or direct food distribution under the USDA food program. Food insecurity has been a long running issue among low income families in the county. In 2004, United Way of Palm Beach County issued a report showing that 1 in 3 families with income under \$35,000 a year ran out of food before they had money to buy more.

The other recurrent problem farmworkers faced during 2008 was the risk of becoming homeless. FWCC distributed \$89,273.07 in direct assistance to help clients with emergency rental and/or utility payment assistance. Without this aid, many farmworker families would have become homeless.

## Friends of the Council (Business Advisory Committee)

The recently established **Friends of the Council** provides an opportunity for the business community to support our mission and share their insight to better serve our clients.

### A special thanks to our members:

Giovanna Aniero, State Farm; Paul Ceresa Boca Fire Rescue; James L. Cruz, Morgan Keegan; Laurence Davenport, Business Loan Fund, Jill Elisofon, Consultant; Allison LaBossiere, TD Bank; Daniel Lustig, Esq., Lesser, Lesser, Landy & Smith; Susy Martinez-White, PBCC; Jose G. Rodriguez, Esq.; Marcela Roggenburg, Northwestern Mutual; Sam Roman, Applied Advertising Solutions/P.R. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Judith Skuya, BankUnited; Marie Teperino, Affordable Title Agency.