2019 in Review

FWAF had a difficult start in 2019, but the New Year finds us stronger and more committed than ever to our core principles, rooted in our mission and grounded in our guiding vision. With a smaller but competent and dedicated staff, we are collaborating at the grassroots levels to meet our goals and strengthen our communities.

In March of this year, the Florida Department of Education ended our 20 year contract providing Vocational Rehabilitation outreach services to farmworkers, which cost FWAF eight experienced staff members and an important funding stream. Grants that had supported our community gardens work ended, resulting in several staff lay-offs.

In response, FWAF formed a Community Advisory Committee and has since received funding for some of our key projects, including Census and Voter Registration. We are ready 2020, but we still need your support... Join us!

Our Work
FWAF continues to lead and support farmworkers as well as other low income workers in aspects of immigrants rights, worker protections and the promotion of food justice.

The Farmworker Association of Florida (FWAF) is leading the way in Florida to raise the voices of farmworkers and rural poor communities on the crucial issues of occupational health and safety, immigrants’ rights, fairness in the workplace, an end to sexual harassment and wage theft, and transformational work on agroecology, climate justice and a Just Transition.

Addressing Issues
FWAF is challenging the 2019 Florida Anti- Sanctuary City law, advocating for state Drivers Licenses for everyone, opposing mandatory E-Verify, promoting heat stress protections for outdoor workers. We seek a ban on the most toxic pesticides, and oppose the use of antibiotics as pesticides.

Leading Change
We join allies in positioning grassroots communities and farmworkers at the forefront of systemic change in agriculture to protect our people and the planet.

From the President:

Before I became a member of the Farmworker Association of Florida, my life was a closed circle. Now, after four years presiding over the Board of Directors, my world has widened and I have discovered, within myself a person I did not know. It has not been a simple path, every day I learn something new. It took time and dedication, but I am proud of where I am.

Our motivation as an organization, is that despite, or perhaps because of the diversity of our membership - independent of age, race, ethnicity, education or social status, we all seek a strong organization and aspire to a more just community.

As I become aware of my reality, I understand our work builds peoples’ confidence and moves them to act, because even undocumented humans have rights.

It is all of our responsibility - from a call to a legislator to request better living conditions for agricultural workers to the donation of funds that help us work. We are committed to equality and dignity in the world.
2019 BY THE NUMBERS

1,500 community gardens
- Pierson, Apopka, Homestead & Fellsmere

Over 1,500 individuals benefited from more than 4,000 pounds of fresh fruits & vegetables harvested last year.

8 Research Grants

Grants secured in 2019 in support of the efforts for justice and safety of low income workers.

10,000 members

FWAF’s organizing work reaches people in 15 counties, impacting 50,000 individuals annually.

36 years

Organizing and working with local communities.

4000 lbs

Health & Safety

FWAF’s Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project seeks to advocate for protections and regulations preventing workers from being exposed to pesticides and other toxic chemicals and ensuring safety measures for those working in conditions of excessive heat.

FWAF is also training farmworkers on safety and best practices to protect themselves physically as well as understand their rights as workers.

Immigrants Rights & Civic Participation

Programming builds leadership and power in immigrant and low-income, rural communities
- Providing “Know Your Rights” training,
- Hosting local candidate forums,
- Offering voter education and organizing get-out-the-vote efforts,
- Organizing to advocate for immigrant- and farmworker- friendly policies.
- Participating in marches and other actions at the local, state and national levels.

36 years

Research

For almost 20 years we have conducted community-based participatory research studies with partners like University of Florida, Emory University, University of South Florida, and Florida State University to help us educate the general public, policy makers, and our membership.

Current projects include Climate Change and Agroecology in Puerto Rico; Heat and Kidney Dysfunction; Pesticide Exposure, Hydration and Productivity; among others.

1500 individuals

Organizational Excellence Award

Coming Clean, July 2019

2019 Miami-Dade County Hispanic Affairs Community Champion

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Food Sovereignty

Our focus is on improving farmworker families’ health through increased access to and consumption of affordable, organic foods.

To do this we coordinate community gardens run by and for farmworker families, where they grow food without the use of pesticides or toxic chemicals. FWAF also facilitates educational opportunities for member families including the sharing of traditional, cultural knowledge in plant foods and remedies.

35 Foundation Grants

Marketing the mission to support low income workers.

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