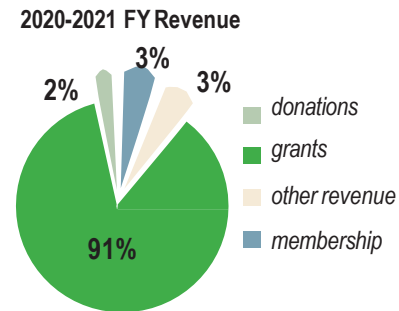
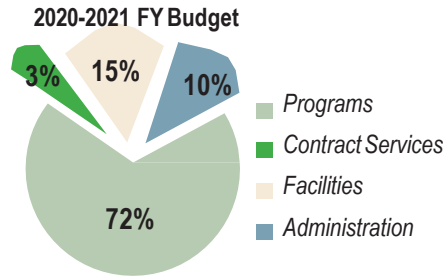


2020-21 in Action



FWAF's COVID 19 response pivoted in 2020 - 2021 to meet the critical needs of our communities. We prioritized clear and consistent communications in language and culturally appropriate perspectives to assure accurate information was being shared.

- To date we have created 44 informational videos about COVID19 testing and vaccination, receiving over 20,000 views.
- We received recognition for our work from the *National Institutes of Health Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) Against COVID-19 Disparities*.
- We distributed over 40,000 face masks, 53,723 boxes of fresh and non-perishable food as well as hot meals to local community members. From our community gardens distributed 3,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, benefitting 177 families (500 individuals).
- We collaborated with local health departments and clinics as host sites, providing COVID tests and vaccine distribution, at no cost, from each of our 5 office locations in Apopka, Fellsmere, Homestead, Immokalee, and Pierson.
- Through grants and donations we provided \$227, 804 indirect rent and utilities assistance to 633 families.



From the Desk of the General Coordinator



General Coordinator
Nezahualcoyotl (Neza) Xiuhtecutli

The past two years have been challenging for all of us as we continue to face the effects of the global pandemic, food and goods shortages and strains on labor forces nationwide.

The pandemic brought to light the inequities in our food system, and our work at FWF has continued to center on changing this system's structure, while addressing the inequities responsible for those disparities. Stepping into my role as the General Coordinator at the end of last year, it was clear that we need to continue to bring attention to these inequities and address the needs of the community by exploring solutions that come from their own experiences and that build on their empowerment. FWF's commitment remains steadfast, to continue to work on mitigating the effects of climate change on farmworkers and towards real solutions that take their own needs and concerns into consideration.

Thank you once again for your support. From all of us at the Farmworker Association of Florida, we wish you and yours a happy and healthy holiday season,

General Coordinator, Nezahualcoyotl (Neza) Xiuhtecutli

Focus on Climate: Toward a Just Transition

2021 highlighted the growing climate crisis. From the heart-breaking COVID surges to the unprecedented summer heat waves that scorched the country, farmworkers, were among the most vulnerable to the impacts and with the least resources to protect themselves.

Centering agroecology and regenerative agriculture in advocacy and in practice, members of FWF's community gardens program share their traditional knowledge and ancestral practices for growing plants, incorporating cultural and land-based wisdom that has been passed down through generations. Added to this are science-informed practices for natural soil enrichment, non-chemical pest control, fertilizing, and growing food that is healthy, without the use of



chemicals. Building our communities' climate resilience and committed to climate justice, FWF is part of a growing global food sovereignty movement that challenges the dominant ideology of extraction and exploitation, and that centers transformational agriculture to mitigate the effects of global warming, especially for the most vulnerable.



The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.



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Asociación Campesina de Florida

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2020-21 Annual Report



The Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.

3 Community Gardens

Fellsmere, Apopka & Pierson

Over **500 individuals** benefited from more than **3,000 pounds** of fresh fruits & vegetables harvested last year. Unfortunately, we lost our garden plot in Homestead this year, but we are actively looking for new opportunities to create a bigger, better garden for our South Florida communities.

In October 2021 we hosted our **3rd Agroecology Encuentro** with participation of organizations from across the United States, Mexico, and Canada, for an exchange of agroecological practices. With **over 100 participants**, the meetings also served as a space to share ideas about continuing to be part of and support farmworker communities.



40,000

FWAF distributed over **40,000 face masks** and contributed to partnerships with the Orange County Health Dept. and local clinics to distribute vaccines at each of our **5 office locations!**

38 years

of building grassroots power in our farmworker communities.

Health and Safety

Pesticide exposure is a dangerous risk to farmworkers and their families. In 2021, FWAF and allies won a court victory to ban all food uses of the neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos, while participating in legal action against the herbicide paraquat and the use of the antibiotic streptomycin as a pesticide on citrus crops. FWAF also filed complaints for violations of the worker protection standard on behalf of workers who experienced symptoms of pesticide exposure in the workplace. Health and safety trainings on heat and pesticide exposure have been slow because of the pandemic, but we are resuming them in earnest in 2022, as we also advocate for OSHA regulations to protect workers from heat exposure.



Immigrants' Rights



This year FWAF, one of several plaintiffs, won a lawsuit against the state of Florida's S.B. 168. – dubbed the “anti-sanctuary cities law.” A federal judge deemed it unconstitutional and “tinged with discriminatory motives.” FWAF’s Neza Xiuhtecutli and Antonio Tovar spoke on behalf of our community members, expressing the “chilling effect” of the law and the fear it created for immigrant families. FWAF continues to work with allies for federal protections for farmworkers, Dreamers, and a pathway to citizenship for the nation’s 11 million undocumented immigrants.

Environmental Justice

Disproportionate exposure to unhealthy and even toxic environments by people of color and the most vulnerable communities is an injustice that affects their health and every aspect of their lives. FWAF farmworker staff and community members gave personal testimony at the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the new White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council. Our advocacy work in this area demands action and results to protect farmworkers. Attending and participating in these meetings and committees is a step in the right direction.

Food Justice

This year FWAF was instrumental in the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and the Alachua County School Board, in North



Central Florida, voting to adopt the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) to support a sustainable and just food system for farmers, consumers, farm animals and farmworkers! As a member of the Food Chain Workers Alliance, a co-creator of the GFPP, FWAF has supported the principles of “increasing access to and demand for high-quality jobs and healthy, sustainably-produced food by using the purchasing power of major institutions.” The GFPP has been successful in other cities, counties, and schools around the country as a step toward more conscious sourcing of food that considers sustainability and worker justice, and now Florida has joined the ranks of entities prioritizing local, sustainable and just food.

PROGRAM AREAS



For over 25 years, FWAF has conducted community-based participatory research studies with academic partners, including University of Florida, Emory University, University of South Florida, Florida International University, and Florida State University around issues of farmworkers' health, safety, heat stress, and pesticide exposure.