



# 2014 - 2015 COMMUNITY REPORT



***BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE  
FOR THOSE WHO HARVEST AMERICA!***

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Few of us can imagine working only in seasonal jobs or seeing our jobs lost to extremes of weather, lacking medical care or losing a roof for our children. Almost 10,000 farm workers and their families live invisibly in these conditions in Palm Beach County. Yet it is their hard work that supports our county's thriving agricultural economy.

The Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. is the lifeline for these workers and their families. In the past year, the council and its staff of 18 provided assistance to almost 2,500 workers. We helped families find housing, feed their children with over 4,000 visits to our food pantry, access health care, and qualify for Medicaid and food stamps. Children of farm workers improve their reading and math skills and even take art classes in the classroom and computer room in the council's Lake Worth office. Families in need turn to us for help, knowing they will always be treated with dignity here. The Farmworker Coordinating Council makes a difference in people's lives every day.

All of this is possible because of our generous donors. We are grateful for our partners who provide essential funding: The U.S. Department of Labor; Palm Beach County; Town of Palm Beach United Way; United Way of Palm Beach County; Florida Blue Foundation; Quantum Foundation; The Jim Moran Foundation; and The Lost Tree Village Charitable Foundation. Our work is also underwritten by the many individuals whose donations create opportunity and hope for the most vulnerable members of our community.

We are committed to continue serving this deserving population and thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



**SERGIO M. PALACIO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**DEAN C. LUCE**  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS





## ABOUT US

### Our History:

The Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. traces its beginnings to a grassroots effort led by volunteers to meet the needs of farm workers who found themselves without work in the winter of 1977-1978 during a sudden freeze. From its humble beginnings in a borrowed warehouse, the Farmworker Coordinating Council has grown into a diverse social services agency that addresses the continuing barriers to basic needs faced by farm workers in Palm Beach County. The FWCC continues serving over 10,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families in Palm Beach County.

The agency now provides a range of social services with a staff of 17 full time and 1 part time professionals working from two offices: Lake Worth and Belle Glade.

### Our Mission:

The mission of the Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach, Inc is to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of migrant and seasonal farm workers through education, advocacy, and access to services.

The FWCC is a non-profit corporation, classified under section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and chartered by the State of Florida as a non-profit corporation since 1978. The FWCC was created for the purpose of assisting farm workers to access social and human services, who for a variety of reasons are unable to participate in eligible programs or services.

### Our Vision:

"Building a better future for those who harvest America"

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dean C. Luce - President**

**Jeannette Molina - Vice President**

**Lisa Gadsden - Treasurer**

**Gayle Zavala - Secretary**

**Freddy Asencio**

**Kirk Beerthuis**

**Ilsa Dickinson**

**David G. Eakin**

**Bernard M. Smith**

# PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**Family Preservation & Economic Stabilization (FPES):** Funded by Palm Beach County, Town of Palm Beach United Way & United Way of Palm Beach County, FPES provides services through a long-term intervention model that uses a case management, case worker framework. The program empowers clients to move from crisis to stability through ongoing support that fosters client independence. The program staff collaborates with other community organizations and service providers to ensure clients have access to services and other benefits such as social security, disability, unemployment, Medicaid, and food stamps. Program staff also helps parents navigate the public school system to ensure children are enrolled in school.

**Assistance for Housing Opportunities to Promote Employment (A-HOPE):** Funded by the Department of Labor, A-HOPE provides emergency housing assistance and referrals to vocational/educational employment programs. It promotes job stability and economic advancement by encouraging clients to improve their English language proficiency, life skills, and occupational competence. A-HOPE provides housing counseling to farm workers who are living in overcrowded conditions, substandard housing, or facing any other housing related issue. Participants receive case management services such as referrals to additional social/human services, assistance with unemployment application, and job referrals.

**Community Health Access Teams (CHAT):** Funded by the Florida Blue Foundation and Quantum Foundation, CHAT's purpose is to facilitate access to health care services among uninsured and under insured, low income farm worker families who because of barriers such as language, culture, ethnic background and economic situation are unable to access affordable health services. CHAT is accomplishing its goals by conducting outreach activities, health workshops and helping clients apply for Medicaid, Kid Care, Health Care District and other health care programs in our community.

**Bringing Resources and Information to Develop Gains in Education (BRIDGE):** Funded by The Jim Moran Foundation and The Hazel B. Bundy Memorial Fund, BRIDGE is designed to provide quality education to farm worker families with the purpose of building self sufficiency and improving their quality of life. Our education program has two components: 1) **Student Academic Assistance** which is designed to create a pathway for children of farm workers, their parents, and educators to mitigate low educational achievement levels and reduce the dropout rate and educational gap that exists between farm-worker children and the rest of the student population. 2) **Adult Assistance & Involvement** is designed to help parents be more involved in their children's education. In addition, adults will learn new skills that may help them find better employment or make better financial decisions that could lead to family economic stability.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Food Distribution
- Distribution of Clothing and Household Items
- Toiletries Distribution
- Diaper Distribution
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- Scholarships
- School Supplies Distribution
- Micro Loans
- Toys Distribution During Holidays
- Discounted Bus Passes
- Transportation
- Translation & Interpretation
- Support Groups
- Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

<b>Families served</b>	<b>845</b>
<b>Total individuals served</b>	<b>2,452</b>
<b>Families that received emergency assistance</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Total amount spent on emergency assistance</b>	<b>\$108,749.01</b>
<b>Number of clients referred to other services</b>	<b>722</b>
<b>Number of duplicated families that received food from our pantry</b>	<b>4,118</b>
<b>Duplicated families that received clothing / household items</b>	<b>1,743</b>
<b>Number of duplicated families that received toiletries and diapers</b>	<b>1,351</b>
<b>Total individuals that attended the Financial Literacy Workshops</b>	<b>277</b>
<b>Non-clients who received USDA food</b>	<b>1,553</b>
<b>Students who received school supplies</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Clients that received transportation and/or bus passes</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Children who received toys during the Holidays</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Total services provided this year</b>	<b>18,094</b>

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Feeding South Florida
- Palm Beach County Food Bank
- Department of Children and Families
- Healthcare District of Palm Beach County
- Junior League of Boca Raton
- Hispanic Chamber of Palm Beach County
- The Pines of Delray
- Oxbridge Academy of the Palm Beaches
- Motion Point
- Lake Worth Kiwanis Club
- Extraordinary Charities
- Gray Mockingbird Community Garden
- Walgreens
- Cirone Chiropractic
- Non-Profits First
- Payless Shoes
- Saint John Paul II Academy
- Caridad Center
- J&R Printing and Graphics, Inc.
- Miss Heart of the USA Pageant
- St. Patrick Catholic Church
- Ft. Dix Bar & Club
- Community Friends, Inc.
- Macy's



# THE DAVIS FAMILY



On Friday morning, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Imogene Davis, a retired farm worker, lost everything and almost lost her life when fire destroyed her home. Her husband, Jimmy, was home cooking when he received a phone call that he had been recalled to work. He had been laid off since January, and as a 64- year-old seasonal farm worker, he could not pass up the chance to return to work. In his excitement, he dropped everything to rush to the job site. In his haste, he forgot to turn off the stove and did not waken his sleeping wife, Imogene. Within an hour of his departure, neighbors saw smoke and called the fire department. At the scene, neighbors told rescue workers that Imogene was probably inside the burning house. Imogene had not realized her home was on fire until she heard emergency responders knocking on her bedroom window. They shouted to her that the house was on fire and asked if she could get out. When she opened her bedroom door, she became engulfed in black smoke. Imogene says that she does not know how she found her way to the front door, but she is grateful to be alive. In the fire, Imogene and Jimmy along with their grandchildren and great grandchild lost all that they had owned.

This is not the first time that the Davis family has experienced tragedy. In 2002, their daughter Pauline, age 28, died leaving behind two children. The Davises decided immediately to make sure their deceased daughter's children, Samantha and Rolanda, then ages 7 and 1 month, would grow up together with their family. In 2007, despite the financial hardship, the Davises took in another child, a 2-month-old named Donald. His mother had asked Imogene if she could watch her son until she returned. Donald's mother never came back.

Imogene and Jimmy's household today consists of their two grandchildren, Samantha and Rolanda, who are now 22 and 13; Samantha's son Andrew, age 1; and Donald, age 8, of whom they are legal guardians. To support their family, Imogene and Jimmy had both worked as migrant seasonal farm workers, planting and harvesting sugar cane and corn. When the harvest season ended in May, they used to migrate to Georgia each summer to harvest corn. Imogene, age 65, had to retire from doing farm work in 2005 because of ongoing health issues. Despite his age, Jimmy, 64, continues to do farm work because his income is essential for the family.

Imogene initially became a client of the Farmworker Coordinating Council in 2012. At her initial assessment, it was determined that she was disabled and could no longer do farm work. At the time, she received emergency assistance to prevent her family's eviction. After the fire destroyed her home, she returned to our agency and was referred to the Salvation Army for household items. Her family has been helped by our agency with food, clothing, household items, transportation, referrals and other case management services. Most recently, the family was nominated by the Farmworker Coordinating Council for the Palm Beach Post's Season to Share program. Out of the hundreds of stories submitted to Season to Share, the Davis family was selected to receive help from the community.



# THE BALTAZAR FAMILY



For mothers, being a farm worker means juggling long exhausting hours in the fields or warehouses while trying to care for their children. When these mothers come to the Farmworker Coordinating Council offices, they often come for help for their children, whether it is emergency food or tutoring or a secure roof to house their young family. For Maria Baltazar, though, the help she needed for 8-year-old America was even more serious. Her daughter needed urgent medical care and a liver transplant. An organ transplant is a daunting operation for anyone. For a mother who does not speak English and is navigating a complex foreign medical system, the obstacles to getting her daughter the surgery seemed impossible. Then she met with case worker Vilma Troche and Executive Director Sergio Palacio at the council's Lake Worth office.

Maria Baltazar has spent years as a farm worker, following the harvest seasons back and forth from North Carolina to Florida. Although she is from Guatemala and speaks no English, her daughter America, as her name announces, was born in the United States and is a U.S. citizen. Both the mother and daughter's difficult lives are further complicated by asthma. Maria Baltazar is under medication, and America has been hospitalized to treat her asthmatic condition. During the family's early visits to the Farmworker Coordinating Council office, Ms. Troche helped the family qualify for food stamps and Medicaid for herself and her four children as well as receive emergency food and donated clothing from the council.

In July, Ms. Baltazar brought America in and shared with her case worker how sick her daughter was. Despite America's critical liver condition, her parents could not comprehend fully the seriousness of the situation and kept postponing the transplant surgery. Doctors, however, had warned that America needed a transplant right away or she might die. Mr. Palacio and Ms. Troche helped the mother understand that not only could America receive the medical treatment she needed – but that parents had to act in their child's best interest under our nation's child welfare laws.

With the Farmworker Coordinating Council acting as an intermediary with the hospital, America underwent liver transplant surgery in November in Miami. Ms. Troche, the family's case worker, has also helped America qualify for disability, which will help the family care for her chronic health issues. Today, instead of being a gravely ill 8-year-old, America is back in school and doing well. She is in the second grade at South Grade Elementary School where her favorite classroom projects are painting and drawing. Now that she has recovered from her surgery, she is even able to play her favorite hobby – baseball. "Without help from the Farmworker Coordinating Council, Maria would have had no one to turn to as she sought help and tried to make the right decision about care for her daughter," said Sergio M. Palacio, Executive Director. "Now America has a life and a future."

# 2014 - 2015 HIGHLIGHTS



## Summer Sizzler

July 17th, 2014

More than 50 supporters came to this fundraising event held at Pampas Grille in West Palm Beach.



## Community Back to School Bash

August 9th, 2014

Over 400 of our clients' children received school supplies during this community event.



## Love Bomb - The Movie

September 11th, 2014

Friends and supporters of the Farmworker Council came to the City Place Muvico Parisian to watch the Love Bomb Movie.



## International Wine Tasting

September 12th, 2014

Fundraising event held at Padron Flooring and Design Center. Food was donated by Havana Restaurant and wine was donated by PRP Wines



## Dance for Food

November 23rd, 2014

This performance by Artists for A Cause helped the Farmworker Council collect hundreds of pounds of food to distribute to our clients.

## Season to Share

November 27th, 2014

FWCC client was selected for 2014 Palm Beach Post's Season to Share.



## Sixth Annual Holiday Luncheon

December 11th, 2014

Over 150 supporters attended our biggest fundraising event of the year. The presenting sponsor was PNC Bank.



## Holiday Gifts Distribution

December 24th, 2014

Thanks to all the support from our community partners and private donors, we were able to provide toys to more than 700 children during the Holidays.



## Comedy Night

February 20th, 2015

Fundraising event held at the Palm Beach IMPROV.



## Great Give

May 5th-6th, 2015

Countywide online event to raise funds for all charities.

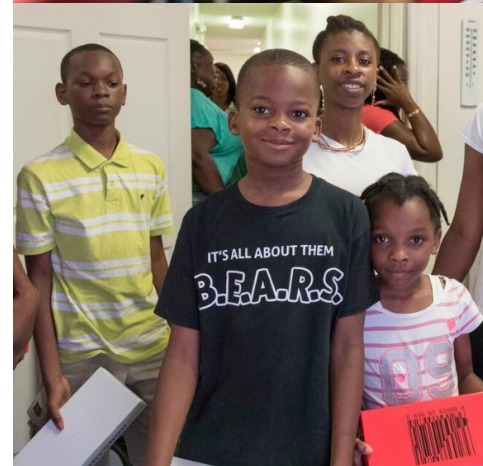




# FUNDERS

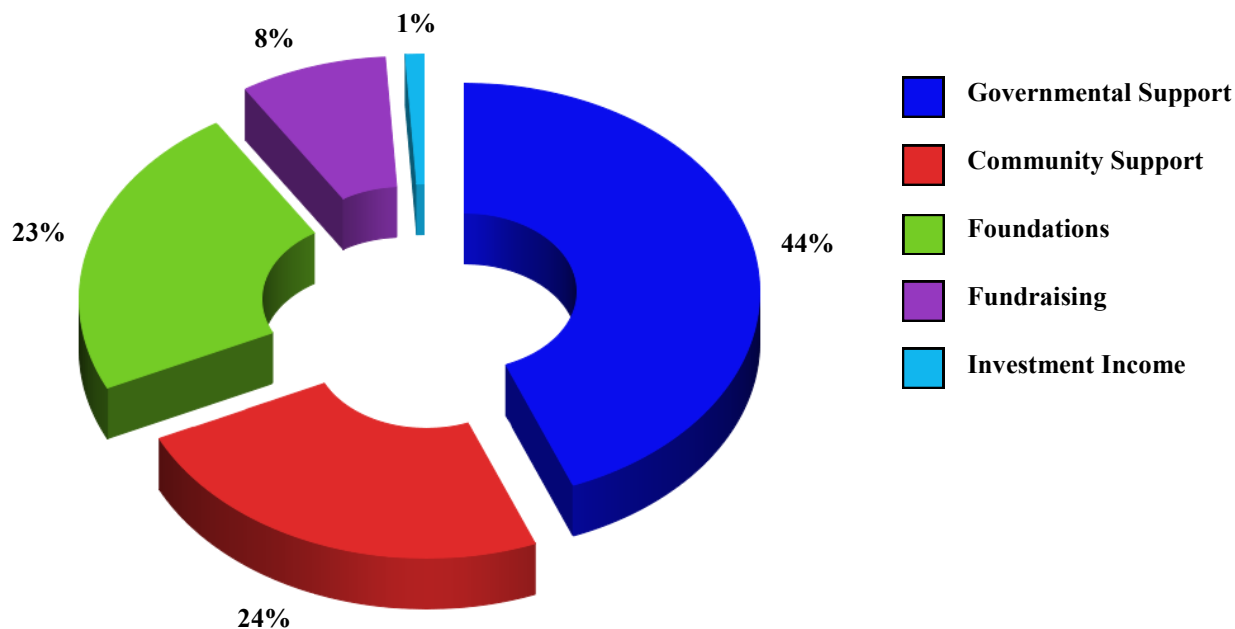
The Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. is extremely grateful to all our Funders. Without their commitment and financial support, it would have been impossible for the agency to operate and to provide services to those who harvest America. On behalf of our Board of Directors, Staff and Clients, we would like to thank all our funders for their continued support to our mission.

- **U.S. Department of Labor**
- **Palm Beach County FAA**
- **Town of Palm Beach United Way**
- **Florida Blue Foundation**
- **Quantum Foundation**
- **United Way of Palm Beach County**
- **Jim Moran Foundation**
- **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)**
- **Mary Alice Fortin Foundation**
- **Lost Tree Village Charitable Foundation**
- **PNC Foundation**
- **Howard E. Hill Foundation**
- **Lawrence Sanders Foundation**
- **Hazel B. Bundy Foundation**
- **Leslie L. Alexander Foundation**
- **Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth Foundation**
- **Bank United Foundation**
- **Extraordinary Charities**
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)**
- **Andrew J. & Christina C. Hall Foundation**
- **And other private foundations**

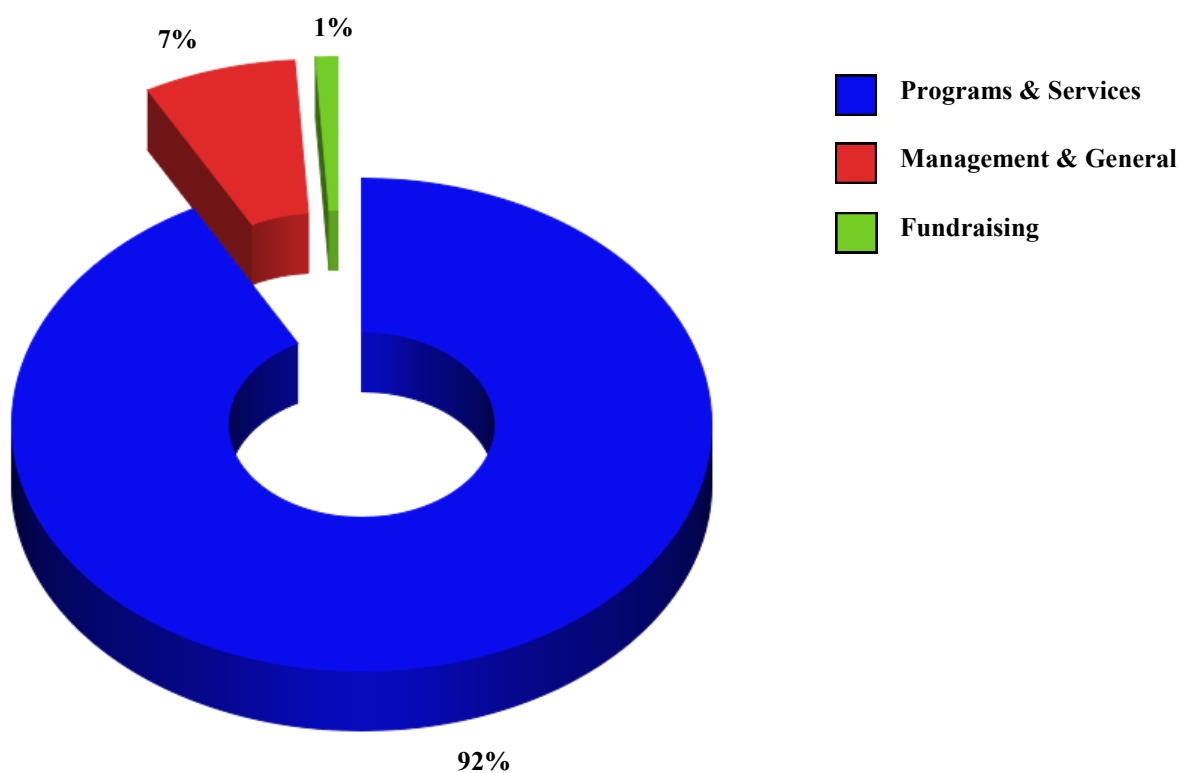


# AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUES - \$1,041,083



## EXPENSES - \$1,018,536



Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. is a charitable organization registered in the State of Florida and operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our Financial Statements are audited by the independent CPA firm Holyfield & Thomas, LLC (i.e. "clean") opinion for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Our independent audit report and IRS Form 990 tax return are available for public inspection.

# CONTRIBUTORS

## INDIVIDUALS

### PLATINUM

Mr. David W. Baker &  
Mr. Carlos A. Perez  
Ms. Barbara Forsythe  
Mr. Sergio Palacio  
Mrs. Martha Reyes  
Mrs. Maria Teresa Schaeffer  
Mr. Bernie Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. David Stevens  
Mr. Peter Wronsky &  
Mr. Roy Bartolomei

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Mr & Mrs Michael Gottlieb  
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Ms. Connie Williams

Mr. Jerry Yeager  
Mr. & Mrs. Florencio Zavala

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Mr. Steven Vann  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Wakshul  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Wallace  
Mrs. Erica Whitfield  
Ms. Sandra Wissinger

### Levels:

**Platinum (Over \$1,000)   Gold (\$500-\$999)   Silver (\$100-\$499)   Bronze (Up to \$100)**

## ORGANIZATIONS

ABC Electrical Services  
Don Ramon Restaurant  
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
Padron Flooring & Design Center  
PBC Human Rights Council  
BankUnited  
PNC  
Law Offices of Greenstein & Associates

Holyfield & Thomas LLC  
FPL  
Frankl & Kominski  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative  
Florida Crystals  
Goodsearch  
United States Sugar Corporation  
InterNatural Marketing  
Extraordinary Charities

Burrowes Insurance Group, Inc.  
MotionPoint Corporation  
Rich Moore Roofing, LLC  
St Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Injury Treatment Center of South Florida  
Jewish Federation of South PBC  
Lydian Preferred Capital Corp.  
US Sugar Corporation  
Kiwanis Club of Lake Worth





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