

2015-2016 Community Report



**Building A Better Future For
Those Who Harvest America!**

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Normally, we keep the spotlight at the Farmworker Coordinating Council on our clients, but for once I want to turn that spotlight on our donors whose generosity makes it possible for us to help hundreds of farm workers and their children here in the Palm Beaches. We feel such gratitude and appreciation for all of you who donate money, food, gift cards, clothing and household items for our families.

It is a sad truth that farm workers who harvest our fresh vegetables often suffer malnutrition and obesity themselves because they cannot afford the healthier vegetables and fruit they put on our tables. So when a donor comes into the office with a packet of gift cards for Publix or Wal Mart, we are grateful. Those cards allow us to help a family in crisis buy meat or fresh food or other necessities such as diapers. Those cards handed out carefully throughout the year give us the flexibility and the immediate funds to help those in greatest need.

Your support has helped in so many ways in this past year. Thanks to you 2,389 men, women and children received a variety of services as you can see on page 5 of this report. From all of us a heartfelt THANK YOU!

You, our donors, make the Palm Beaches a better place by providing a caring hand to a deserving population who live in need in a land of plenty.



Sergio M. Palacio
Executive Director



Dean C. Luce
President, Board of Directors

Board of Directors

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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

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 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”

Our Values:

Treat everyone with patience, kindness, and respect.

Sometimes agree to disagree.

Ensure the safety and confidentiality of those we serve.

Maintain realistic expectations and handle all business transactions with honesty and integrity.



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.

Education Programs

Funded by The Jim Moran Foundation, the Education Programs are 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.

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 Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Quantum Foundation, and Florida Blue 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. Our case managers are accomplishing the program's goals by conducting weekly outreach activities, monthly health workshops and helping clients apply for Medicaid, Kid Care, Health Care District and other health care programs in our community.

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

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Families Served	831
Total Individuals Served	2,389
Families that received emergency assistance	218
Total amount spent on emergency assistance	\$139,229.22
Number of clients referred to other services	501
Number of duplicated families that received food from our pantry	3,602
Duplicated families that received clothing / household items	1,498
Number of duplicated families that received toiletries and diapers	938
Total Individuals that attended the Financial Literacy Workshops	248
Non-clients who received USDA food	2,181
Students who received school supplies	400
Clients that received transportation and/or bus passes	705
Children who received toys during the Holidays	700
Total Services provided this year	16,949

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
- Community Friends, Inc.
- BJ's Wholesale
- Fort Dix Bar
- Callaro's Steak House
- Havana Restaurant
- All Saints Catholic School
- The Jewish Federation of South PBC

- Walgreens
- Payless Shoes
- St. John Paul II Academy
- Caridad Center
- J&R Printing and Graphics, Inc.
- Channel 5 Food For Families
- Azteca America 48
- Motion Point
- Shuzz Foundation
- Puerto Rican / Hispanic Chamber of PBC
- St. Patrick Catholic Church
- Don Ramon Restaurant
- OneHope Wines
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

THE ESCOBEDO FAMILY - Belle Glade Client



She was the love of his life, the mother of his children, the young woman he met on a visit to his Mexican hometown two decades ago and brought to Belle Glade to start a new life. Three years ago, she gave him a baby daughter, their fourth child, and a few days later she died of complications from the birth.

Since her death, Jose Escobedo and his children have been trapped in a life of poverty and squalor. As an agricultural worker, he spends long days in the fields outside Belle Glade, harvesting spinach six days a week, leaving before dawn and returning home after dusk.

It was his wife, Juana, who maintained the home and took care of the family while he worked the fields. In her absence, his trailer, in a mobile home park on the outskirts of Belle Glade, has fallen into severe disrepair. Each day after school, his three sons return to an empty home, while a relative looks after his young daughter.

With little free time and less money, Escobedo, 50, has watched his home fall apart. Water leaks in through holes in the roof, filling the trailer with a pungent smell of mold. The toilet leaks, light fixtures dangle from wires, the window A/C units blow warm. Gaps in the laminate flooring expose buckling plywood.

The four children, who range in age from 3 to 16, suffer from learning disabilities and respiratory ailments. One child suffers asthma, another persistent nose bleeds. One has seizures, for reasons yet to be diagnosed. Escobedo, meanwhile, has his own health problems – high blood pressure that often leaves him unable to work. The children were deeply traumatized by the death of their mother, who they remember as warm and protective, quick to stick up for them when they were bullied at school. Since her death, two of the children suffer sporadic crying fits and now receive counseling.

Due to the misfortune surrounding this family and the conditions they were living in, the family's case manager elected to submit their story to the Palm Beach Post's Season to Share campaign. Because of this nomination they were able to raise \$31,195.99 which will allow this family to make a significant transformational change in their lives and living conditions. The money they receive will provide the necessary funding for a new trailer complete with furnishings and appliances.

Mr. Escobedo is working to improve his family's lot. He became a U.S. citizen this year and is studying English. He is working on obtaining a commercial driver's license, which would allow him to earn more than his seasonal job offers.

THE MALDONADO FAMILY - Lake Worth Client



The desperation that a family can feel when raising a special needs child is multiplied when the parents do not speak English and cannot navigate the maze of government programs. For Fabiana Andres-Lopez, the Farmworker Coordinating Council was the pathway to help for her 2-year-old son who could not walk or talk. Thanks to the Council's staff, their youngest child is now learning basic skills, while his older brother and sister thrive in the council's after-school programs. Even Ms. Andres-Lopez, a petite, shy woman, is enrolled in classes – studying English at the council's Lake Worth office.

Like so many farm-worker families, Ms. Andres-Lopez and her husband, Luis Maldonado, first came to the Farmworker Coordinating Council for urgent needs – food, clothing and help with translation. Their case manager, Vilma Troche, was able to provide them much more through the variety and depth of services provided by the Coordinating Council and its network of local and state agencies.

The Maldonados had emigrated from Guatemala to Florida where Mr. Maldonado works in landscaping. Although the Maldonados' initial difficulties were similar to those of other immigrant families, their greatest challenge came with the birth of Sakeiro four years ago. When the parents realized 2-year-old Sakeiro was not developing normally and neither walked nor talked nor showed emotion, Ms. Andres-Lopez turned to her case manager for help. Most families transition from the Coordinating Council's caseload in less than a year, however, a family with a special needs child faces extraordinary challenges.

For Sakeiro's parents, the complex paper work of filing for disability for their child and of finding specialized child care would have been impossible without the determined and compassionate work of the FCC staff. Ms. Troche connected them with a local agency which provides early childhood education for special needs children. Sakeiro's life has shown a dramatic improvement.

Now when the Maldonados come to the Coordinating Council for a meeting with their case manager or for classes, Sakeiro walks, speaks and blows kisses to the staff. The Maldonados' older children, Leily, 11, and Luis, 9, like their younger brother Sakeiro now have health insurance through Medicaid. Their mother has seen their schoolwork improve through the Council's after-school tutoring program. They also enjoy a chance to be creative in the weekly Afterschool Arts Outreach taught by the Norton Museum's Lupe Lawrence. "They love it," said Ms. Troche.

To see their children succeed is an irreplaceable gift for the Maldonado family – and one that the Coordinating Council and its donors and friends have made possible.

2015 - 2016 HIGHLIGHTS



Shoe Distribution
August 13th - 14th, 2015
Distribution of shoes in both of our offices. Over 400 children received shoes thanks to our partnership with Shuzz Foundation.



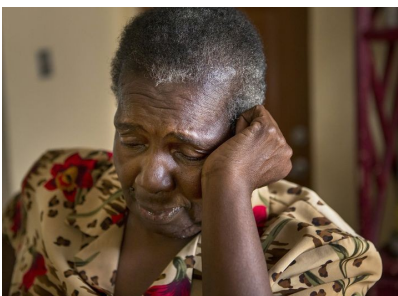
Wine Tasting
September 18th, 2015
Fundraising event held at Padron Flooring & Design Center.



Visit to the Museum
October 22nd, 2015
Children in our Education Programs participated in an outing to the Norton Museum of Art.



Dance for Food
November 7th, 2015
This performance by Artists For A Cause helped the Farmworker Council collect 1,259 pounds of food to distribute to our clients.



Season to Share
November 26th, 2015
One of our clients was selected for the Palm Beach Post Season to Share program. Client received over \$40,000 in donations.

Holiday Luncheon
December 17th, 2015
Our biggest fundraising event of the year was hosted at the Atlantis Country Club



Holiday Gifts Distribution
December 24th, 2015
FWCC distributed toys and other gifts to 700 children in our programs



Comedy Night
March 18th, 2016
Our annual fundraising event at the CityPlace IMPROV.



Great Give
May 3rd, 2016
FWCC was part of the 24 hours online giving event .



Baby Shower
May 21st, 2016
Extraordinary Charities hosted a baby shower event to collect diapers and other baby supplies for our clients.



FUNDERS



AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenues - \$1,041,083

Governmental Support :	49.2%
Foundations:	22.6%
Community Support:	21.2%
Fundraising :	6%
Investment Income:	1%

Expenses - \$1,055,548

Programs & Services:	89.4%
Management & General:	9.6%
Fundraising:	1%

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 30th, 2016. Our independent audit report and IRS Form 990 tax return are available for public inspection.



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Levels:

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

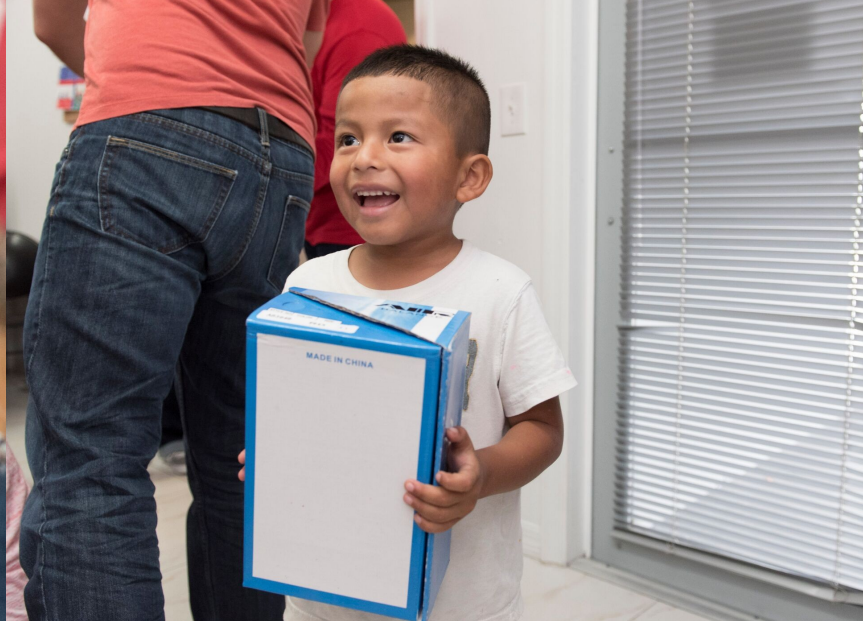
ORGANIZATIONS

Aequalis, Inc.
Alex & Ani
All Saints Catholic School
BankUnited
Bedner's Farm Fresh Market
Biz in the Bag
Digital Tsunami
Extraordinary Charities
First Republic Bank

Florida Crystals
Frankl & Kominsky
FPL
Gilberts Jewelers & Gifts
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
Goodsearch
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Holyfield & Thomas
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Jewish Federation of South PBC
Lydian Preferred Capital Corp.
Mollie Parnis Livingston Foundation, Inc.
Motion Point Corporation
OneHope Foundation
Oristano Scholar Fund
Paradies Shops
Pearl Properties, Inc.
Rosenthal, Levy, Simon & Ryles

Thank you to all the individuals/companies/organizations that helped our clients through donations of food, clothing, household items, toiletries, diapers, etc. Also, our sincere appreciation to all the individuals and organizations that have chosen to remain anonymous.



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