



# 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Community Report

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



# Message From Our Leaders



Dear Friends,

Palm Beach County leads the State of Florida, all counties east of the Mississippi River, and is one of the ten largest counties in total agricultural sales. Palm Beach County leads the nation in the production of sugarcane, fresh sweet corn, and sweet bell peppers. It leads the State in the production of rice, lettuce, radishes, Chinese vegetables, specialty leaf, cucumbers, eggplant, and celery. Approximately 35% of the county's total land mass is dedicated to agriculture. There is much to be proud of.

There are about 10,000 farm workers, and their families, who rely on agriculture as their primary source of income. When most of the nation is under snow and ice and it is too cold to grow vegetables, Palm Beach County farmers grow 26 major crops.

Palm Beach County agriculture occupies two distinct areas. In the western section of the county the soil is organic muck, nicknamed "black gold," because it is so fertile. The facilities that support Glades agriculture include three major sugar mills, a rice mill, a dozen vegetable packinghouses, and a sugar and molasses shipping facility located at the Port of Palm Beach in Riviera Beach.

In the eastern half of Palm Beach County, the sandy soil is used mostly for crops such as bell peppers, cucumbers, eggplant, and Chinese vegetables; plant nurseries; and equestrian uses.

Without farmers, we would have to grow our own food or walk through a lot of fields and forests hunting for something to eat, as the early pioneers did. Farmers grow vegetables and fruit, and raise cows that supply milk and meat for us to eat. These products are sold to companies that process, package, and sell the final product to grocery stores and restaurants. From the planting of the seeds to the selling of the food in the stores or serving the food in restaurants or at home, a lot of jobs depend on agriculture.

We are proud that since 1978, with your support, we have been serving the migrant and seasonal farm workers in our community,

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**

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# Program & 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 via a long-term intervention model that uses a case management, case worker framework. The program is designed to empower clients to move from crisis to stability through ongoing support fostering 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. Additionally, program staff helps parents navigate the public school system to ensure children are enrolled in school.



## **Assistance for Housing Opportunities to Promote**

**Employment (AHOPE):** Funded by the Department of Labor, AHOPE 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. AHOPE 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 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.

# Programs & Services



**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, reduce the dropout rate and the 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.



**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):** Funded by the State of Florida Attorney General, the VOCA program provides a variety of services to support victims of crimes. Clients in the program receive case management services that include referrals to counseling, shelter, legal services, and access to victims compensation funds. In addition, the program provides translation and interpretation during police procedures, attorney appointment and other social services. Also, victims receive transportation assistance via bus passes and/or using the agency vehicle when attending court procedures, counseling services, doctors appointments, etc.

## Additional Services:

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



# The Washington Family



Mr. Jarvaris Washington is a seasonal farm worker who drives a truck during the sugarcane harvest season from October to late March. Once that job ends, he works as a forklift operator at a packing house during the corn season on April and May. Every year from May through October, Jarvaris finds himself unemployed and having to rely on odd jobs to survive. Jarvaris' partner Angle is a stay at home mom who has had to put off her plans for a career because of her children's health. As the sole wage earner for his family, Jarvaris' ability to provide for the household is limited due to the harvest seasons and the lack of employment opportunities in the

Belle Glade region. This family has an annual income of slightly over \$23,000.

Together Jarvaris and Angle have two children, Taraji (1) and Nenna (6). In addition, they take care of another three children from Angle's previous relationship, Ke'Shawn (12), Karri (14) and Alkeira (16). Tragedy first struck the Washington family when Angle's older sister Nenna died of acute renal failure on December 19, 2007. At the time of her death Nenna was 30 years old and the mother of four young children. After Nenna passed away, the Washington family took in Diamond (Nenna's oldest daughter) who was 9 years old at the time. Unfortunately, Diamond has been in poor health since she was born. During the last days of Nenna's life, Diamond was also hospitalized because of prolonged nausea and loss of appetite. Diamond spent 29 days in the hospital where she was told that her mother had passed away and that she would not be allowed to attend her funeral because of her health. During her stay in the hospital it was determined that the best treatment for Diamond was the implantation of a permanent gastric feeding tube which still helps her to consume food. Her aunt and uncle are now her custodial parents.

In 2009, Angle and Jarvaris' daughter Nenna, who was named after her aunt, started having seizures when she was one year old. Despite medical interventions and costly medications her epileptic seizures have gotten worse. When she was 2 ½ years old the nature of them changed. At the time she no longer displays the common symptoms of convulsions, jerking motions, muscle rigidity, and unconsciousness. The only thing that Nenna does is to stare occasionally for 30 minutes at a time. Just this year her seizures advanced to the point that they are now causing memory loss. She forgets what she is told within seconds, for instance when she is told her age, she forgets within 10 seconds. Nenna requires a constant companion to monitor her activities which is the reason why Angle is not able to work. Nenna was diagnosed with a disease called Unspecified Epilepsy. Although there are still many other medical tests that need to be done on Nenna, the family is concerned about the effects that these tests may have on their daughter's health.

Mr. Washington came to the Farmworker Coordinating Council in 2014 for assistance to pay his light bill due to him having to use all of his savings to pay his rent. The Farmworker Council was not only able to help them pay their light bill but also provided them with emergency financial assistance, food, clothing and referrals to available services in the area. Although the family's biggest challenge is the health of their children, the Farmworker Council will continue to support them to improve their quality of life and reduce their risk of becoming homeless.

# The Gutierrez Family



Although the Gutierrez family has been struck by an unexpected hardship, they continue to persevere. Just before the sugarcane harvest season was set to begin this October Jesus Gutierrez started experiencing lower back pain. At first, he didn't think anything about it because the pain would just go away on its own. However, when his ankles started swelling up he quickly looked for medical attention. He went to see his doctor who performed several tests and diagnosed the 37 year old man as being imminent for acute renal failure.

Mr. Gutierrez asked his doctor what it meant and he was informed that both of his kidneys were close to failing. He was told that he would have to adjust his diet, take medication, and undergo dialysis treatments three times per week. He then asked about how long would he have to get the dialysis treatments and he was advised that he would most likely have to receive treatments until he receives a suitable kidney from a donor. Mr. Gutierrez responded that this is not going to work for him because he has a family to support. He explained that he had been working for nearly 20 years and that he and his wife have three daughters ages: 6, 16, & 18 along with a 1 year old son and that he cannot afford to just quit his job. His doctor then explained to him that he might be able to return to work but he would have to ask for time off because of his dialysis treatments.

Mr. Gutierrez had never imagined that he would be fighting not only to hang on to his life but also to support his family. When he notified his employer about him needing time off to get his dialysis treatments, he was told that his current health condition presented too much of a risk to allow him to return to work given the nature of his job. Mr. Gutierrez had been a heavy equipment operator harvesting sugarcane. He was told that he would only be allowed to return to work once he passes a company physical. Having exhausted his unemployment benefits Mr. Gutierrez and his family found themselves in a dire situation. His wife, who had been a homemaker for most of her life, started running an out-of-home restaurant. Despite her best efforts her income was not enough to pay all of the household bills.

On a Monday afternoon, the landlord stopped by their home and asked for the rent. Mrs. Gutierrez explained to their landlord of the reasons why she did not have the money and she was hand-given an eviction notice. Desperate, Mrs. Gutierrez called on her friends for help and one of them told her that she might be able to obtain help from the Farmworker Coordinating Council. The next morning Mr. Gutierrez came to our office in Belle Glade and was given an eligibility screening. After learning of the family's circumstances the caseworker expedited the case so that his past due rent could be paid. Within a week of him going to the office his landlord received a check for the past due rent. His family was also assisted with food through our food pantry program. Although the family has a huge challenge ahead of them, The Farmworker Coordinating Council is committed to helping them reach financial stability. We will continue providing them with food, clothing, household items, transportation to medical or social appointments, referrals to services and any other additional services they may need.

If you would like to make financial donation to continue helping farm worker families in need, please visit our website [www.farmworkercouncil.com](http://www.farmworkercouncil.com).



# 2013-2014 Highlights



**08/10/2013**  
**Back to School Bash**  
Over 400 clients' children attended the event and received school supplies



**10/04/2013**  
**International Wine Tasting**  
Fundraising event held at Padron Flooring and Design Center. Havana Restaurant and PRP Wine sponsored the event.



**10/11/2013**  
**PACE Program**  
Partnership with the Norton Museum that provided an Eight week Art Program for Middle School Students.



**11/07/2013**  
**Extraordinary Charities**  
FWCC was included in the Extraordinary Charities Directory for the second consecutive year.



**11/20/2013**  
**Thanksgiving Distribution**  
FWCC distributed turkeys and other holiday food to clients. Also, clients received Publix Gift Cards.



**11/24/2013**  
**Dance For Food**  
Event hosted by Artists for a Cause that featured dancing performances. The admission cost was a donation of food to the FWCC

**12/12/2013**  
**Holiday Luncheon**  
Fundraising event hosted at the Atlantis Country Club and Sponsored by PNC Bank



**12/23/2013**  
**Holiday Toy Distribution**  
FWCC distributed over 400 toys to children of farm workers.



**01/10/2014**  
**Harvest of Voices Premiere**  
Produced by Core Ensemble, this show featured stories of farm workers clients of FWCC.



**02/01/2014**  
**FTI Consulting Great Charity Challenge**  
Equestrian competition hosted by Equestrian Sport Productions. FWCC finished in 16th place.



**02/04/2014**  
**Payless Gives Shoes**  
100 children received \$20 Payless Gift Cards to purchase shoes at the Payless Shoes Store.



**04/26/2014**  
**Triunfo Award**  
FWCC received the Non-Profit of the Year Triunfo Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of PBC.





# 2013-2014 Community Impact



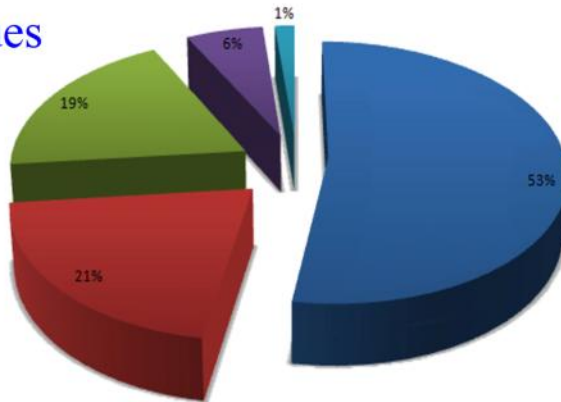
Families Served .....	864
Pounds of food distributed .....	167,324
Families that received emergency assistance .....	170
Total amount spent on emergency assistance .....	\$86,718.91
Students who received School Supplies .....	400
Bus Passes Sold .....	637
Diapers distributed .....	19,200
Number of children that received toys .....	409
Non-client who received USDA food .....	1,152
Total services provided this year .....	13,320

## 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
- Pope John Paul II High School
- 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

# 2013-2014 Audited Financial Report

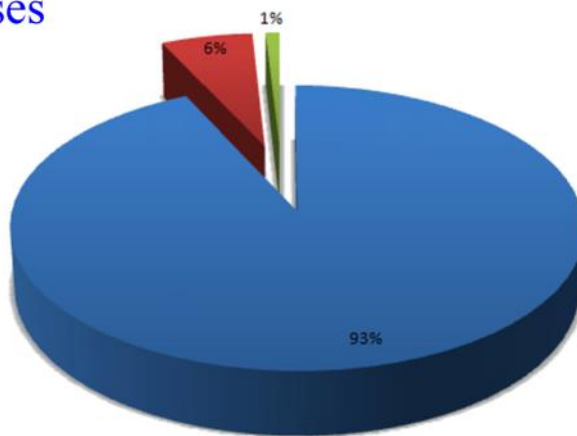
## Revenues



**Total Revenues = \$868,688**

- Governmental Support
- Community Support
- Foundations
- Fundraising
- Investment Income

## Expenses



**Total Expenses = \$841,688**

- Programs & Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising

Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County 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, 2014. Our independent audit report and IRS Form 990 tax return are available for public inspection.

## Funders

**Allegany Franciscan Ministries**

**FTI Great Charity Challenge**

**Great Give PBC**

**The Hazel B. Bundy Memorial Fund**

**Howard Hill Foundation**

**The Jim Moran Foundation**

**Lawrence Sanders Foundation**

**Lost Tree Village Foundation**

**Mary Alice Fortin Foundation**

**Palm Beach County FAA**

**Palm Beach County ESG**

**Town of Palm Beach United Way**

**United Way of Palm Beach County**

**U.S Department of Labor**



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

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PNC  
State Farm  
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Jose G. Rodriguez, P.A.  
Padron Flooring & Design Center  
Legends Insurance Services, LLC

Aflac  
FSECC  
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Cocuy, Burns, & Co., P.A.  
St Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative  
Harvey L. Brown Agency  
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Jewish Federation of South PBC  
Palm Beach Post Season to Share  
Miami Dolphins  
Oristano Foundation  
Lake Worth Kiwanis Club  
Havana Restaurant



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