
FJEP NEWSLETTER

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*Adult Migrant Program &
Services Section, Florida
Department of Education*



The mission of the Adult Migrant Program and Services Section is to provide educational and supportive services to chronically unemployed and underemployed farmworkers that they may graduate from school and obtain the education to prepare them to enter or advance in the workforce; prepare their children for success in school; and exercise their rights as citizens in a competitive global economy.

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State News...

***HURRICANES CHARLEY,
FRANCES AND JEANEE IMPACT
FLORIDA AGRICULTURE,
FARMWORKERS, AND THE FJEP***

By Carlos R. Saavedra

Our Annual Orientation Meeting, originally scheduled for August, was postponed due to Hurricane Charley, the first of four hurricanes to batter Florida this past summer. Unprecedented in their occurrence and intensity, they caused damaged to property in the millions of dollars and changed lives in many ways. As we were concluding our rescheduled Meeting in Bonita Springs on September of 21-23, Jeanne was bearing down on Florida's East Coast. It seemed as if nature had declared war.

Many of us were without electricity and water for days, and had damage to personal property as well as to our offices. Yet, in the midst of all this, FJEP staff took on the job to insure that farmworkers were included in federal, state and local recovery efforts. Special recognition and a note of thanks to the following: Esperanza Gamboa and her staff at Manatee Technical Institute, who visited Arcadia on many occasions delivering much needed food, water and clothing. Manatee Technical Institute, which hosted the first meeting of federal, state and non-profit agencies to address the needs of farmworkers. Alice Moore, Daune Neidig, Daniel Bird, and their staff, which went about the business of securing Temporary Workers through the National Emergency Grant (NEG) to conduct needs assessment surveys in their respective counties. Joan Turner and her staff, which set out to provide emergency assistance to farmworkers that became temporarily or permanently unemployed due to major crop losses.

As of this writing, the forecast for the vegetable and citrus harvest is very poor. This, of course, translates into the underemployment and unemployment of many seasonal and migrant farmworkers. Fortunately, federal and state funds have made it possible for many

agencies, particularly non-profit agencies, to play a vital role. Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc., Centro Campesino, the Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organizations, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, the Agricultural Labor Program, Inc., the Farmworker Association of Florida, and others, brought their expertise to the affected areas and continue to play a significant leadership role in Florida's recovery efforts.

***PY 2004-2005 Orientation Meeting
for Project Coordinators, Supervisors and
Financial Personnel***

By Carlos R. Saavedra and Shirley Caban-Tellez

The initial purpose of our Orientation Meeting was to provide information to Coordinators, Supervisors, and Finance Personnel regarding the implementation of the Program Year 2004-2005. After some discussion, we felt we needed to address areas of special concern to Project Coordinators, their Supervisors and Florida Department of Education administrators.

Although each Project Coordinator is concerned about how his/her Project is doing, we believe it is important that everyone have a sense about how well the Farmworker Jobs and Education Program performs as a whole. We needed to remind ourselves that the parts (Projects) make up the whole of the body (FJEP), and the United States Department of Labor sees a single entity, capable of responding to the multiple and varied needs of farmworkers, while still meeting the requirements of the grant. Being aware of this, we followed an agenda that required us to look at past performance and to discuss current and future performance, in various program areas. As of now, we are pleased to report that most Projects are on target, and it appears that we will have a very productive year, in spite of four hurricanes and the funding dilemma we have had to deal with in the past two years. Follow-up visits to the Projects, by Linda, Robert, Shirley and Carlos, hopefully have helped to answer program and operational questions that Project staff may have had.



Above, Project Coordinators review a case study and presented their pros and cons of the case and provided possible solutions to the problem.



A tour! That was the schedule for our second day. Remembering old times but not too long ago when we took a bus to school. With Diane Christianson as our guide, our first stop was the One Stop Center in Immokalee. Mr. Joe Paterno, Executive Director of the Workforce Board of South West Florida, met us there and talked about how the One Stop Center provides services through its various workforce partners. Who can forget the lunch that day and Leo Mediavilla's motivational "You Are Awesome" presentation? Many thanks to Dr. Fred Tuttle, Mr. Joe Paterno, and Dr. Leo Mediavilla and the Bethune Education Center.

A very special thanks to Diane Christianson and her staff, for securing a great place for our meeting and for making arrangements for a tour of the One-Stop Center and farmworker housing in Immokalee.

SPECIAL PEOPLE... SPECIAL PROJECTS...



Mr. David Strauss Executive Director, of the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP), presented an overview of the Association.

Attention!!!

FRANK CAMPANO MEMORIAL FUND GIFT RECIPIENT

The recipient of the 2004-2005 Frank Campano Memorial Fund Gift was Janet Lozano, a participant of the Farmworker Jobs and Education Program of the School District of Hillsborough County.



From left to right Marisol Montoya, Janet Lozano and Richard Harrison

Janet Lozano is an exemplary student who not only graduated from Plant City High School with a certified nursing assistant degree, but also successfully completed the Indian River Community College Summer Leadership Institute. She continues to strive forward in obtaining her ultimate educational and career goal at Hillsborough Community College in the Registered Nursing Program. Receiving the Frank Campano Memorial Fund Gift further honored Janet's accomplishments

Pasco County *By Georgina Rivera-Singletry*

The Farmworker Jobs and Education Program (FJEP) at Moore Mickens Education Center has started off fantastically! During August and September, eight participants completed a Certified Nursing Assistant Program. Of the eight students, six graduated with an occupational skill certificate. Occupational skill certificates were awarded to Amanda Godinez, Samantha Schneider, Ana Maldonado, Diana Maldonado, Velma Garza and Celia Perez during a luncheon at the school.

In addition, employment was secured for Samantha, Ana, Diana, and Velma in area medical offices and nursing homes. Hector Garcia and Jason Sandoval also participated in a Certified Nursing Assistant program sponsored by Heartland, a nursing home in Zephyrhills



Pictured from Left to Right: Celia Perez, Amanda Godinez, Velma Garza, Ana Maldonado, and Diana Maldonado. (Not pictured: Samantha Schneider, Hector Garcia, and Jason Sandoval).

All of the eight students are scheduled to take the state exam in November and will become licensed if they are successful. We are very proud of these students and wish them much success as they begin their careers in the field of Nursing.

We also would like to congratulate Diana Maldonado for pursuing higher education at Pasco-Hernando Community College. She is currently taking pre-requisite classes for the Licensed Practical Nursing Program. During a visit to Diana's job site, her supervisor made many wonderful comments about her and very

specifically mentioned that “Diana is going to make a super Licensed Practical Nurse!”

**South Florida Community College
Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto Counties
By Daune Neidig**

This is the fall that Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto took off, realistically and figuratively. We got off with a bang on August 13th with Charlie, followed by Frances and Jeanne. As a result of the damage done and jobs lost, we were allocated seven National Emergency Grant (NEG) Temporary Workers. They have become part of our Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title 1 Section 167 family and are out every day doing needs assessment surveys in the communities where farmworkers reside.



Starting in DeSoto County, we have the NEG Dream Team of Rosario Angles and Rachel Rios. Rosario has two brothers who were in the Program, so she knows what we do. Rachel has the distinction of teaching herself Spanish at age 26 when she realized that there were more job opportunities for bilingual people. Yea!!



Sandra Velazquez

Sandra Velazquez did a twelve week training session with Early Childhood Resources in Wachula in order to qualify for in-house day care. She received her certificate and started taking in children in early October. Congratulation Sandra!

**Putnam County
By Lucy Robles**

¡Si se puede! Youth can make a difference in slowing the spread of AIDS in their communities! Project *Claridad*, which includes approximately 20 participants of the Step Ahead to Success Youth Program is a prevention project designed to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among farmworker youth. The goal of Project *Claridad* is to create an informational youth campaign that will fill gaps in farmworker communities' knowledge about HIV/AIDS by building youth leadership and peer outreach educator programs.



Claridad, which in Spanish means clarity, is a program facilitated by The Rural Women's Health Project (RWHP) of Gainesville. The *Claridad* strategies include leadership development, the use of visual arts as a medium for youth to express themselves and the training of youth as peer educators on HIV/AIDS and comprehensive sex education. They also partake in community celebrations and parades, serve as conference presenters and community survey collection.

By training youth to be HIV peer health educators, *Claridad* strives to create an HIV prevention campaign using peer education based on knowledge and presents this knowledge in unique youth terms. During each *Claridad* workshop, youth sound off on their points of view, on challenges they have faced in their prevention work, and articulate what they expect to accomplish through their work.

While the training program allows the youth to better understand HIV and the effect that it has had on people around them, its main focus is on leadership development. By expanding youth self-esteem and their own knowledge about HIV/AIDS, the *Claridad* community youth are enabled to choose safe behaviors, inform peers and other community members about what they have learned in order to make a difference in the well being of their communities. If you want to know more about Project Claridad go to www.rwhp.org/Claridad.

Polk County
By Alice L. Moore

3 Strikes, But We're Not Out

It has been a horrendous quarter for the FJEP of Polk County weather wise. We seemed to be the bull's eye of the nation, getting hit by 3 separate hurricanes. The FJEP Polk office was hit by Charlie and Jeanne. Our partners, Polk Works and the Winter Haven One Stop Center, were gracious to accommodate us both times so we could continue to work until our building was accessible.

After Charlie, Carlos Saavedra and Shirley Caban-Tellez met with the Polk staff to discuss "operation survey". Carlos, Shirley and I then met with the Polk Works Executive Director, Nancy Thompson, to establish a hiring procedure for temporary staff through the National Emergency Grant (NEG). Six people have been allocated to us to assist with outreach for disaster assistance, conduct needs assessment surveys and disseminate information about temporary employment through the NEG.



We welcome the Farmworker Disaster Relief Assistance Staff: (L to R) Cynthia Aldrete, Carlos Salcedo, Sandra Ramirez, Coral Gonzalez, Katie Juarez, and Maclovía Garcia.

These hurricanes have had a tremendous impact on the people of Polk County, especially on migrant/seasonal farmworkers. The loss of crops and therefore, jobs and housing has taken a toll that will require a lengthy time of recovery. This, of course, impacts the physical, mental, and emotional needs of individuals and families. We will continue to assist farmworkers with the information packets we are distributing, along with the surveys and NEG work forms. Our Disaster Specialists are doing a terrific job offering support and comfort as they do their work throughout the county.

Jose Ulloha-A Model Student and Employee



Jose entered the Polk Program on January 29, 2003 with a goal to become an air conditioning technician, a very needed and marketable skill anywhere in Polk County or the state of Florida. His assessments and initial interviews conveyed a

positive status for completion. During his time in technical training, he had to overcome some personal obstacles, but he never let them interfere with his studying. He completed certification in many areas, including the major components of AC, Refrigeration Helper and Refrigeration Mechanic Assistance. He graduated from Ridge Technical Center with high praise from his instructor, Mr. Proferes. He received the Director's Quality Award and was inducted into the National Vocational Honor Society for outstanding character and achievement.

Jose is now employed at Newberry Refrigeration as a refrigeration technician, but since has been promoted to crew supervisor. His supervisor, Tim Newberry reports that he is doing an outstanding job. Congratulations to Jose!!

Collier County
By Diane Christianson

October 28, 2004, was an exciting day for the Collier Farworker Jobs and Education Program (FJEP). Six of nine Bethune Education Center Certified Nursing Assistant completers are FJEP participants! The pinning ceremony was held at Bethune Education Center in Immokalee so family and friends could share in the accomplishment. A light pot luck supper

included special foods representing the diverse backgrounds of participants. Dr. Leo Mediavilla, Administrator for Adult and Community Education opened the ceremony, and Diane Christianson, Coordinator, Farmworker Jobs and Education Partnership closed with a story that invited the new Certified Nursing Assistants to soar like eagles. Four of the completers are currently being considered for nursing home positions, and one has continued with Licensed Practical Nursing.



From left to right Gabriela Facundo, Rafaella Sanchez, Krystal Becerra, Irma Sturgeon, Mirlene Cesar, Jonite Francois Michelle A. Towler, Christina Valdez, and Petra Ochoa. On stage Dr. Leo Mediavilla, Nancy Iacovone, and Diane Christianson.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2005 MAFO National Farmworker Conference

March 13-17, 2005
Garden Grove, California
HYATT REGENCY
For more information contact Lalo Zavala at 320-251-1711

NAWDP CONFERENCE

16th Annual NAWDP Conference May 1-4, 2005
Miami Beach, Florida
For more information go to nawdp@aol.com

We need to know more about your program. Please send your **Success Stories...** to: Shirley Caban-Tellez, Department of Education, Adult Migrant Program, 8402 Laurel Fair Circle, Suite 212, Tampa, FL 33610. Describe your story in no more than 150 words in complete sentences. Remember to send your stories with a picture!!!! ☺

Entérate!!!!

A WARM WELCOME TO:

Ajenys Gonzalez-Eilert, Associate Director of Centro Campesino, and her staff Oscar Sanchez, Lino Medina and Juanita Cruz. Cristina Gutierrez as a Career Manager at the Workforce Council of South West Florida.

A Thank You Note to:

Jorge L. Garza and Laura D. White for years of dedication at Centro Campesino and to the FJEP and Era Singer and Mary Black at Lively Technical Institute. We wish you the best. You will be missed!

Participants from the FJEP at South Florida Community College in Hardee County participated in Spanish TV show.



Concepcion and Maria
Maria Rodriguez and Concepcion Aguilar were contestants on Sabado Gigante with Don Francisco. Maria won money to fix her house in Wachula, which was completely ruined by the hurricanes.

Acknowledgements

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