

# FROM THE GROUND UP

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## SAF CELEBRATES TEN YEARS!

### FOUNDING DIRECTOR CAROLYN CORRIE SPEAKS ON SAF'S ORIGINS

*Interview by Connie Gates*

I was an intern the first year the program was run by Duke's Center for Documentary Studies (1990). There were many incarnations of students from Duke University working with farmworkers. At that time, it was called the Center for Documentary Studies' Migrant Children's Education and Documentation Project. It was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Iris Tillman Hill was involved; Bob Coles was officially the head researcher; the staff person working on it at the Center was Lynn Wareh Fine, and the student coordinator was Luisa Tio. They got started in the fall of 1989 putting the program together and creating the spring house course and summer internships for 1990.

During the summer of 1990, we were planning to work in Migrant Education Programs, but since the summer school didn't start until July we got in touch with Tri-County Community Health Center, Farmworker Legal Services and St. Martin's Migrant Head Start Center to set up placements. I worked at Head Start and Legal Services; I had always been torn between education and law.

After the summer program, I went back to school. Sarah Carroll and I were coordinators for the second summer. While working at the office in the Center, I was filing some stuff related to the migrant project, and saw the [Department of Education] grant application. I started reading through it and realized that there was funding for someone to write a final report and resource manual to help students and administrators from other schools start similar programs with farmworkers. I became very attached to

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### SAF: SOLIDARITY SINCE 1992

For ten years, Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) has brought students and farmworkers together to learn about each other's lives, share resources and skills, improve conditions for farmworkers and build diverse coalitions working for social change. SAF is the only non-profit organization specifically dedicated to linking young activists with organizations seeking justice for farmworkers.

SAF connects young people with the larger politically active community focused on changing the unjust agricultural system. Through training, internships, and networking opportunities with progressive farmworker organizations, SAF provides thousands of students the opportunity to become a vital part of the farmworker movement.

SAF's goals are to:

- ∞ Provide farmworkers with greater access to resources;
- ∞ Increase interaction, communication, and understanding among people of different backgrounds;
- ∞ Increase the involvement of farmworkers in leadership and decision-making roles within SAF and encourage such involvement within other organizations;
- ∞ Create internships and other projects that are mutually beneficial for students and farmworkers;
- ∞ Provide information on farmworker issues for students, faculty, organizations, and community groups;
- ∞ Provide students from farmworker families with educational and career opportunities;
- ∞ Link student groups working with farmworkers;
- ∞ Encourage student commitment to justice and social action.

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Into the Fields alumni at SAF's ten year anniversary celebration at California State University in Sacramento on November 9, 2002.

