Community Impact

🌟 Leanne Tory-Murphy, Rural & Migrant Ministry, NY
Programmed a 5-week Youth Leadership Academy and assisted with an oral history project, the Youth Arts Group, Rural Women’s Conference, and Sullivan Co. Day Camp

🌟 Barbie Spitz, Telamon Corp., VA
Gave pesticide safety presentations, managed the in-house food bank, helped people obtain their passports and other legal documents, conducted outreach.

🌟 Mariela Cedeño, Southern Migrant Legal Services, TN
Conducted outreach to farmworkers in the region, and communicated with clients in ongoing legal cases.

🌟 Stephanie Gans, Comité de Apoyo a Trabajadores Agrícolas, PA
Facilitated a fundraising campaign with mushroom workers to secure a new office space for worker organizing.

SAF’s Sowing Seeds for Change fellowship program was a huge success this year. Fellows from NY, PA, VA and TN participated in 2 intense trainings on farmworker issues, completed weekly reflective journals, and worked full-time at their agencies. Fellows also completed documentary projects, interviewing and photographing farmworkers’ experiences. In all, Fellows reached over 700 farmworkers this summer!

Personal Impact

“The conditions are not far from what could constitute slavery, and it’s justified by the argument that ‘they’re not real American citizens. I’ve met people who are tired of being treated this way. I’ve also met people who are afraid to speak up. Organizations like Telamon are doing great things for farmworkers’ every day health and safety, but their services only go so far. I think that it’s only a matter of time before people start to demand a better kind of system in which they don’t have to rely on hand-outs.”

Barbie Spitz

“I believe [documentary work] is an amazing tool to create allies in the non-immigrant community of the U.S. and to inspire farm workers that they can make a difference. Documentary work, if it is personal and factual, is a beautiful way to involve people, because the passion they would get from caring about a human being would be more powerful than any of the economic or theoretical arguments we could give them.”

Stephanie Gans

“This summer has given me more than I even expected on both a personal and professional level. On a personal level, it truly impressed upon me how privileged I have been in my own life, and gave me reason to want to continue to be involved in the farm worker justice movement. Professionally, it has allowed me an insiders view into the legal aid world, how it functions, its obstacles, and the ways that lawyers and the staff find to overcome barriers. On the other hand, it also showed me how inefficient, abusive, and flawed the U.S. guest worker program is.”

Mariela Cedeño

“I believe overall this summer have supported me in refining my thought and practice further. I have relished the opportunity to really stretch my legs, and take on responsibilities within an organization, and also to observe the internal struggles and challenges of non-profit social justice work.”

Leanne Tory-Murphy

Funders

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