

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2023

North Carolina Focus on Increasing Education, Leadership, & Dignity



Hispanic Heritage Month



One of our favorite celebrations is happening now! Hispanic Heritage Month is a yearly celebration that honors the rich history and culture of Hispanic and Latine communities in the United States. This month-long event, observed from September 15 to October 15, is dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions and influences these communities have on American society. Here at NC FIELD we have an incredibly diverse staff that includes members of various nationalities including Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Cuba, and Nicaragua. We are thrilled to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with various activities and festivities that bring everyone together to commemorate our collective impact on culture and business.



EQUITABLE ACCESS



Ensuring equitable access to healthcare services for rural and vulnerable individuals is crucial in promoting the well-being of the broader community. The journey towards equitable access to healthcare begins by ensuring vulnerable working people without health insurance or job security can experience culturally competent care. It is also vital to make healthcare affordable through application assistance, sliding fee scales, subsidies and tailored insurance options. Community health workers play a key role in outreach, education and impact. Stable, targeted investment in rural-specific health education and prevention programs is essential, especially for historically marginalized communities. Recognizing and addressing the social determinants of health, promoting collaboration, advocating for supportive policies, conducting research, prioritizing patient-centered care, and ensuring emergency preparedness are all essential steps towards creating equitable healthcare access in our region. We believe all people have the right to live happy healthy lives. Dignity in health care saves lives, and we are dedicated to ensuring the most vulnerable receive equitable, accessible care.



MATERNAL HEALTH



Current social determinants of health challenges pregnant farmworker women served by Sembrando Salud by NC FIELD:

- **Mariana** has traveled to four different states in the past six months along the east coast migrant stream. During that time she has worked in tobacco, grapes, blueberries, and tomatoes. She is barely twenty years old and a first-time expectant mother. With no personal transportation, long work days, and limited English-speaking skills, she is in her second trimester without access to prenatal care.
- **Leticia** is in her late thirties. She and her husband are living in one room with access to a bathroom but not a kitchen. She speaks an indigenous language and very little Spanish. When her pregnancy became apparent she was let go from her job in the tobacco fields. The heat was a real problem for a while inside the small room, and donors helped us supply an air conditioner. We continue to reach out to contacts in the Faison area about better housing. The baby was born recently, small but healthy.

Farm and Food Workers Relief Program (FFWR)



Our dedicated NC FIELD team continues to work hard to process the applications for the Food and Farmworkers Relief Program. We are edging closer to our goal of 4,000 applications! Our outcomes continue to meet our goal with 550 applications created in September and an updated total of \$1,401,600 to assist the agriculture workforce that worked tirelessly to make sure that we were fed throughout the pandemic. NC FIELD will continue the project through the end of 2024. Angel and his team are shifting their focus to the seasonal agricultural workforce and will begin H2A migrant worker applications again early spring of 2024.

Angel Gaona

FOOD AND FARM RELIEF
COORDINATOR

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HISPANIC FEDERATION



In partnership with Hispanic Federation we organized two events to help educate immigrants about their rights and how to protect themselves. The first event was an Immigration Know Your Rights Training, where we covered various topics, including constitutional rights and the legal system. At the second event, an Immigration Clinic, our team helped participants complete the necessary paperwork, answered questions, and guided them through the process. We would like to extend our gratitude to our partners, Pahola Burgos, Attorney at Law - Abogada Hispana, and the Hispanic Federation, for their valuable contributions to our community! We look forward to future collaborations!



Health Marketplace & and Medicaid

NC FIELD's Health Marketplace employs certified Navigators to help anyone with available options. We offer application assistance in English and Spanish and are trained to assist with the Medicaid Unwinding and preparing for Medicaid Expansion. We will be at Brightleaf Flea Market in Smithfield on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 AM to 2 PM between November 1 and January 15, 2024.

Elizabeth Cantu

HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE
COORDINATOR

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CONTENTS

- 1 **Obamacare/ACA Information**
- 2 **Application Assistance for Affordable prescription Drugs**
- 3 **Durg and Alcohol Counseling**
- 4 **Relief for farmworkers affected by COVID-19**

**And much more!
Stop by and visit us**



RESOURCE FAIR

NC FIELD partnered with Hispanic Federation for a Community Resource Fair at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Mt. Olive, NC, to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Several health clinics, non-profits, and organizations participated to deliver health resources and education. Some of the services provided dental check-ups, groceries, hygiene products, backpacks for teenagers and college students, and assistance with FFWR applications. The event also included an immigration clinic, voter registration, safety workshops for farmworkers, and activities for all age groups! So grateful for an amazing turn out.





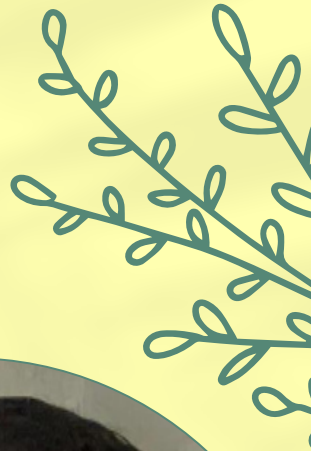
Southeast CHW Network Summit



The NC FIELD team attended the Southeast CHW Network Summit in September in Charlotte. The positive energy from our peers across the state helped tremendously as we continue to navigate cultural and systemic barriers alongside our most rural vulnerable residents. We felt energized to be part of the collective power-building around equitable access to care for all people. The conference content will help inform future strategies as we continue to educate, advocate, organize, and evaluate our processes and responses. "Nothing about us without us" resonated deeply across our organization, and we look forward to continuing to build the collective power necessary to ensure rural vulnerable people have the tools they need to live happy, healthy lives. ¡Pa'lante!

GET TO KNOW US

Esmeralda Juárez



Meet Esmeralda: A valued addition to the NC FIELD staff! Esmeralda recently joined NC FIELD after being part of Poder Juvenil Campesino (PJC) Youth. As a former child farmworker, Esmeralda has established strong relationships within the farmworker community. Her mother has been her role model, teaching her resilience and instilling in her the belief that she can overcome any obstacle. Esmeralda's firsthand experience working in tobacco fields and witnessing harsh working conditions led her to pursue a career in this field. If Esmeralda could have any superpower, it would be the ability to control time. The best piece of advice she has ever received is to “make every day count and not just count the days”.



Stay up to date

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 5:** Food Distribution (21,762 lbs of food)
- Oct. 10:** Goshen Medical Center Mobile Clinic
- Oct. 11:** Campbell Univ Community Care Clinic Mobile Services - Duplin County
- Oct. 12:** First DEEP (Diabetes Empowerment Education Program)
- Oct. 17:** Alliance of AIDS - Carolinas Testing event
- Oct. 18:** Campbell Univ Community Care Clinic Mobile Services - Duplin County
- Oct. 23:** Community-Centered Emergency Action Plans Presentation
- Oct. 24:** Alliance of AIDS - Carolinas Testing event
- Oct. 24:** Conference Presentation - Trillium
- Oct 25:** Campbell Univ Community Care Clinic Mobile Services - Duplin County
- Oct. 29:** Brightleaf Flea Market Outreach Event 8-12 PM
- Oct. 29:** Vaccine event with WalMart - Duplin
- Oct. 31:** Alliance of AIDS - Carolinas Testing event

How you can help!

Follow us on social media.

Like & Follow!

Donate on NCFIELD.ORG.

Volunteer at events



Thank You

Dear NC FIELD Supporters, Thank you for supporting NC FIELD and farmworkers everywhere. We hope you will enjoy some updates on the amazing work that we have been doing thanks to supporters like you!

Yesenia Cuello
Executive Director

Follow NC FIELD! on Social Media



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