

# Newsletter

September 2023

North Carolina Focus on Increasing Education, Leadership, &amp; Dignity



## Farmworker Appreciation Day!

Farmworker Appreciation Day is celebrated on August 6 annually. The first day in honor of farmworkers originated in 1966 and was founded by the United Farm Workers. This day aims to raise awareness about the importance of people's work on the farm. The truth is that farmworkers work outside in sometimes extreme weather conditions to bring in a multi-billion dollar harvest. You can see them between May-November annually in rural North Carolina fields. Only about 1/5 or 20,000 workers arrive via the H2A visa program, while the remaining workforce (150,000 men, women, children) are a mix of traditional migrant stream workers or year around residents. Farmworkers are rarely remembered and honored for their contributions. This day is set aside to thank them for their life-saving contributions.



# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



We recently marked the fourth anniversary of Yesenia Cuello's appointment as Executive Director at NC FIELD! Between 2019-2023 NC FIELD has experienced tremendous growth, adding 13 full time staff, and 6 part-time and temporary positions. Investment in NC FIELD has increased from \$150,000 to an average of \$800,000. Locations have expanded from one site in Lenoir County to three additional sites located in areas accessible to historically marginalized agricultural workers in Duplin, Wayne, and the Brightleaf Flea Market site in Johnston County. Six bilingual state certified community health workers are on staff and two bilingual registered alcohol and drug counselors. Sembrando Salud by NC FIELD and other teams have facilitated hundreds of medical visits and medication deliveries; made thousands of home visits to deliver needed resources related to occupational, maternal, environmental, nutrition, material assistance, and related health education; and thousands of COVID-19, flu and TDAP vaccines. For our community, National Latina Day on August 20th had a special meaning as we recognized the Latina leadership in our community. We are committed to amplifying the voices and narratives of Latinas and femme Latinas through the power of community, day in and day out. Yesenia serves as an excellent example of this impact on our society.



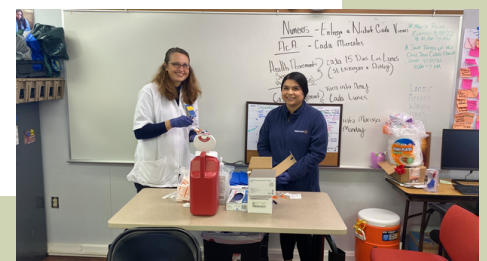
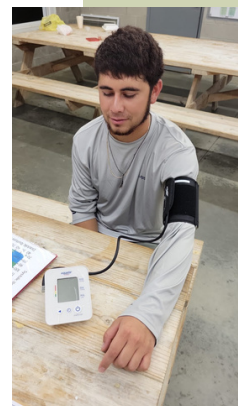
# HAPPY CHW AWARENESS WEEK!

*Community Health Workers (CHWs) have enormously impacted my community, improving lives. These frontline public health workers are revered for their deep understanding of their community. They enhance health knowledge and promote self-sufficiency through outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy.*

*CHWs come from diverse backgrounds and are trusted members of the community, screening individuals for social determinants of health needs and linking them with essential social support resources. They also aid individuals in connecting to medical homes and facilitate appointment attendance as a vital link to healthcare.*

*CHWs provide culturally and linguistically appropriate context for health decisions and education, meeting people where they are, whether in their homes or communities, to understand social vulnerability and barriers to care. They provide personalized support to help individuals achieve their health goals and tackle environmental factors that impact health. CHWs are also instrumental in managing chronic conditions and providing COVID-19-related support for vulnerable populations.*

*NC FIELD's mission is to work alongside marginalized communities to enhance their abilities, establish inclusive systems, ensure equitable access to resources, and cultivate a thriving and diverse rural North Carolina while prioritizing holistic healthcare.*



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# Maternal Health



Sembrando Salud by NC FIELD is dedicated to improving maternal and child health. Maintaining maternal health during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal phase plays a critical role in women's well-being and is challenging for rural women struggling with the need to work, personal transportation, childcare, and similar issues. These unique challenges often directly impact their maternal health. Community Health Workers ensure pregnant women in farmworker communities can access the care and resources they need to remain healthy. Pregnancy tests, supplemental food supplies, WIC, prenatal visit transportation and support, high-risk support, diapers, and other material assistance are available with support from private donors, church donations, and foundation support. A study published in the International Journal of Public Health Research found that breastfeeding is one of the most significant challenges for working mothers. The study also revealed that mothers who receive support from their employers for breastfeeding are more likely to continue breastfeeding for longer.

[READ MORE](#)

# *Farm and Food Workers Relief Program (FFWR)*



Our dedicated USDA FFWR team at NC FIELD continues to process applications for the Food and Farmworkers Relief Program. We hold events at migrant labor camps, Brightleaf Flea Market and other sites accessible to farmworkers. To date we have processed **1,693** applications representing a total of **\$1,015,800.00** in grant assistance as a subcontractor for the UFW Foundation. Our goal is to reach as many qualifying farmworkers as possible through December, 2024.

**Angel Gaona**

FOOD AND FARM RELIEF  
COORDINATOR

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# Health Marketplace & and Medicaid

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Hello! Visit NC FIELD at the Brightleaf flea market! You can locate us at 2320 S Brightleaf Blvd in Smithfield, NC 27577. We are there every Sunday from 9-2 PM until November 1st. You can easily spot us in the fourth position on the central corridor, just before the end. Our team takes pride in offering bilingual and bicultural support! Are you an ally of the farmworker community? We invite organizations to join us! Reach out to Elizabeth Cantu, Health Marketplace Coordinator, for additional information.

## 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**

# First Annual Forum of Community Health Workers

NC FIELD participated in the First Annual Community Health Worker event, organized by El Centro Hispano in collaboration with Wake County Health & Human Services-HealthLit4Wake and LiveWell Wake. Around 130 community health workers attended the event. It featured informative sessions on crucial topics such as health coverage assurance, care management strategies, centering pregnancy for women of color, addressing HIV/STIs, and nurturing mental well-being. The workshops were available in English and Spanish. The event brought together leaders from different organizations who recognized and appreciated the contributions of community health workers in promoting healthier communities. Yazmin Garcia Rico and Pierluigi Mancini acknowledged the vital role of community health workers played throughout the pandemic, and the need to provide them with the necessary tools to continue their work effectively.



# GET TO KNOW US

## HUGO QUINTERO



Various authors of Eastern philosophy and universal literature have influenced my personal development, while authors of pedagogy, psychology, and musical methodology have influenced my professional career. In music, I have been inspired by singer-songwriters and troubadours of Latin American Folklore. My first job was as a music teacher in primary and secondary schools. What led me to work in this field was the need to positively influence early education for social change through art. Similarly, my current job at NC FIELD (Sembrando Salud) was motivated by the need to educate and improve the conditions of the population that provides us with basic needs such as food. What gives me energy to do my job is the ability to see the needs of the community and work towards solving them. However, policies that prevent access to possible solutions drain my energy. I was born in Bogotá, Colombia, but I am also a US citizen. I believe that citizenship is a global concept that should transcend borders. If I had a superpower, I would like to transform many lives through art.

**The best advice I could give would be.**

**"Be courteous, be careful, educate yourself as much as possible, respect so that they respect you and may God protect us"- Hugo Q.**



# Stay up to date

## IMPORTANT DATES

- **September 9:** Citizenship Clinic w/ Hispanic Federation
- **September 10:** Know your rights training with HF
- **September 10:** Festival mes Patriol celebration @ Maria Reina 10-7pm
- **September 13-15** Charlotte CHW Forum
- **September 13:** Ag Partner Network Conference in Johnston County
- **September 16:** LCC Event 10-3 pm
- **September 17:** Kermez at Maria de los Angeles
- **September 24:** Brightleaf Flea market 8-12 pm
- **September 30:** Health Fair with Hispanic Federation and Pfizer @ Maria de los Angeles church in Mount Olive, NC 28365

**How you can help!**

Follow us on social media.

Like & Follow!

Donate on [NCFIELD.ORG](https://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