

# RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT  
2023



# DEAR PARTNERS OF RMM,

Rural & Migrant Ministry has a set of Working Agreements created by our Board, which guides life within RMM. These Working Agreements highlight our commitment to welcoming into RMM a diverse array of people. It is this wonderful collection of passionate, committed and creative people, hundreds upon hundreds across New York State and beyond, that ensures RMM makes a difference in the life of rural New York.

One of our Working Agreements is: "Strive towards working in a partnership model, and introduce all people coming into RMM to partnership." Partnership is empowering and it is hopeful. This is especially true when we have people from many walks of life joining together to seek justice.

Justice can be elusive in a society that often wants to root itself in fear: Denying the humanity of those who appear to be different. Justice can be denied when the economy tilts toward exploitation of those who lack resources. Justice can be refused when the voices of women, people of color and children are quelled.

And yet, every day, RMM partners with people who believe justice is not only possible, but essential. We are inspired by people such as yourself, by farmworkers in the vineyards, young leaders across rural New York, foundations, congregations, labor unions and so, so many more. In 2023, we were especially inspired to have the Clinton Global Initiative choose to partner with RMM as we expanded our commitment to financial equity in rural New York.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will get a glimpse of our partners, and in turn, of their impact upon RMM. If you are not yet one of our partners, we invite you to join us!

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# OUR IMPACT

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Our main focus in 2023 was building up our base of membership at our four Centers, and from there, strengthening our network across rural New York State. The backdrop for this effort was statewide and national political forces that sought to deny the humanity and power of immigrants, women and youth. These forces are rooted in fear, and thus RMM's motto of Hope, Justice and Empowerment became all the more guiding in our work.

RMM was deeply honored to be chosen to make a Commitment to Action at the Clinton Global Initiative 2023 Meeting for our work in financial equity. We were pleased to partner with the New York Episcopal Federal Credit Union, in creating the credit union that will serve farmworkers across rural New York.

Our campaign of 20-plus years to achieve equality and justice for farmworkers witnessed the Governor of New York beginning the process of lowering the minimum wage threshold for farmworkers.

We celebrated the development of our new Spark Rural Worker Education Center in the Catskills, and we created a structure and ESL program to welcome asylum-seekers and refugees who arrived in the Catskills and Hudson Valley.

We worked with four cooperatives as members sought to create alternative and sustaining economic structures. Highlights included Las Chefs Latinas, a women-owned catering cooperative in the Finger Lakes, developing a business plan; and the Long Island Farmworker Cooperative quadrupling its sales.

We continued to work toward health equity in partnership with Northwell Health, as we welcomed doctors' and flu-vaccination clinics.

In partnership with CASA, our worker-led organization that serves as an incubator for change, the New York Civil Liberties Union and a Harvard Law clinic (as well as our Rural Academy of the People) successfully engaged a Long Island school district to begin examining education equity and inclusion for people of color.



# OUR CENTERS

RMM operates four Rural Worker Education Centers around New York State in Western New York, Long Island, the Sullivan County Catskills and the Hudson Valley.

**THE CATSKILLS:** Spark Rural Worker Education Center in South Fallsburg, Sullivan County, is home to the Youth Economic Group, Bags For Justice (youth screen-printing cooperative), Cociendo Culturas: Crafting Cultures (adult artisan cooperative) and our Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium. Located at 5277 NY-42, South Fallsburg, NY 12779.

**EASTERN LONG ISLAND:** The Amandla Rural Worker Education Center in Riverhead, Long Island, between the north and south forks, offers an array of programs including CASA, Mujeres de Esperanza/Women of Hope, VOLIY (Voices of Long Island Youth) and the Long Island Farmworker Cooperative, as well as the Rural Academy of the People. Located at 573 Roanoke Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901.

**FINGER LAKES & LAKE ONTARIO:** Liturgia Rural Worker Education Center in Lyons serves Western New York. Liturgia is home to JOY (Justice Organization of Youth), Youth Summer Day Program, the Rural Academy of the People and the cooperative Las Chefs Latinas. Located at 7 Phelps St., Lyons, NY 14489.

**HUDSON RIVER:** Our central office in Cornwall-on-Hudson — known as the Grail — is home to the Youth Arts Group, the Rural Academy of the People, our Summer College Internship Program, and Seminarian Fellowships and Cohorts, as well as providing meeting and retreat space to our various programs from around New York State. Located on 44 acres next to Storm King Mountain and near the Hudson River, the Grail is an inspiring setting to gather for reflection and strategizing. Located at 125 Duncan Ave., Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY 12520.



## ABOUT RMM

Since 1981, Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc., a statewide, nonprofit organization, has been standing proudly with rural and migrant communities throughout New York State. We act to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate people within rural New York by building communities that celebrate diversity, achieve true mutuality and fight for dignity and opportunity for all.

We work with rural leaders, both young and older, who are committed to equality and cooperative opportunity, especially within agricultural systems. We also support people in faith, labor and university communities who seek to stand with rural leaders as allies.

For more information, please visit [ruralmigrantministry.org](http://ruralmigrantministry.org). For inquiries, please contact Sakima McClinton, Administrative Director, at [sakima@rmmny.org](mailto:sakima@rmmny.org) or 845-485-8627, or Gittel Evangelist, Communications Coordinator, at [gittel@rmmny.org](mailto:gittel@rmmny.org) or 585-353-4313.





# THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

Below, you'll find a comprehensive list of our individual donors from 2023. Thank you to everyone who supported the work and Mission of RMM. Without you, none of this would be possible.

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*If your name is missing, please accept our humble apologies, and let us know!*

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# LEGACY OF HOPE

As you look to the future, we ask you to make a planned gift to Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc., so that your commitment may continue to have an impact upon the lives of the people of RMM for generations to come.

The charitable bequest lies at the heart of estate planning. A bequest to RMM will not only further your commitment to the Ministry and its legacy, it will remove assets from your estate — mitigating the estate tax burden on your heirs.

We would welcome the opportunity to sit down with you and discuss the best way that you can help to create a Legacy of Hope through RMM.

Please feel free to call our Treasurer, the Rev. Jerry Keucher; our Executive Director, the Rev. Richard Witt; or our Managing Director, Ms. Laura Lecour, at 845-485-8627.

We are pleased to welcome the following, who have included RMM in their estate planning, to our Legacy of Hope Circle:

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New York State AFL-CIO  
NYSUT  
NYSUT Retirees Westchester-Putnam  
RWDSU LOCAL 338

UAW Local 1097  
UFCW Local 342  
UFCW Charity Golf Classic  
United Federation of Teachers  
United University Professions

**#WEARERMM**

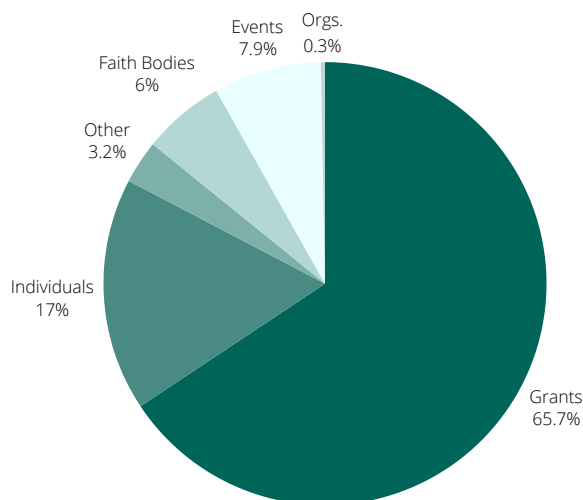
## DENOMINATIONAL & CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

American Baptist Churches  
American Baptist Churches of NYS  
Capital Area Baptist Assoc.  
Christ Church - Pittsburgh  
Christ Church - Pittsford  
Christ Church Rochester  
Christ Church - Warwick  
Christ Episcopal Church - Poughkeepsie  
Church of St. Augustine - Croton  
Church of the Good Shepherd - NYC  
Church of the Regeneration - Pine Plains  
Companions Of Mary the Apostle  
Cornwall Presbyterian Church  
Dominican Sisters of Hope  
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island  
Episcopal Diocese of New York  
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester  
Episcopal Churchwomen  
Episcopal Ministries of Long Island  
First Presbyterian Church - Katonah  
First Presbyterian Church - Pleasant Valley  
First United Methodist Church - Mount Vernon  
First Universalist Church of Rochester  
First Universalist Church of Southold  
Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church - Lagrangeville  
Friends of the Stone Church - Cragmoor  
Gates Presbyterian Church - Rochester  
Hitchcock Presbyterian Church - Scarsdale  
Hortonville Presbyterian Church  
Long Island Unitarian Universalist  
Marble Collegiate Church - NYC  
Maumee Valley Presbyterian Women  
New Hackensack Reformed Church  
New York Annual Conference, United Methodist Church  
Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church  
Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church  
Presbyterian Hunger Program  
Presbyterian Women of Hitchcock  
Presbytery of Albany  
Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Inc.  
Presbytery of Hudson River - Scarborough  
Reformed Church In America, Classis of Mid Hudson  
Reformed Church in America, Orange Classis  
Reformed Church of Port Ewen  
Reformed Protestant Dutch Church - Kingston  
Regional Synod of New York Reformed Church of America  
Rochester Monthly Meeting Religious Society of Friends  
Scarborough Presbyterian Church  
Scarsdale Congregational Church  
Setauket Presbyterian Church  
Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary - Tarrytown  
Smithfield Presbyterian Church  
St. Andrew's Church - South Fallsburg  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Women - New Paltz  
St. James Church - Fordham  
St. James Episcopal Church - Goshen  
St. James the Less - Scarsdale  
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
St. John's Episcopal Church - Larchmont  
St. John's Episcopal Church - Canandaigua  
St. John's Episcopal Church - Kingston  
St. John's Episcopal Church - Montclair  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church - Brockport  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church - East Hampton  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church - Penn Yan  
St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery - NYC  
St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church - Rochester  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church - Lake Ronkonkoma  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church - NYC  
St. Matthew's Church - Bedford  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Pleasant Valley  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Rochester  
St. Peter's (Lithgow) - Millbrook  
St. Philip's Church - Garrison  
St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue - NYC  
Trinity Episcopal Church - Newark  
Trinity Episcopal Church - Roslyn  
Trinity/St. Paul's Church - New Rochelle  
Trinity Wall Street - NYC  
United Methodist Church - Poughkeepsie  
United Methodist Women - Poughkeepsie (New Hackensack)  
United Reformed Church of Rosendale  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington  
Wading River Congregational Church  
Wallkill Reformed Church  
Wantagh Memorial United Congregational Church  
Zion Episcopal Church - Palmyra

# UNAUDITED SUMMARY OF 2023 INCOME & EXPENSES

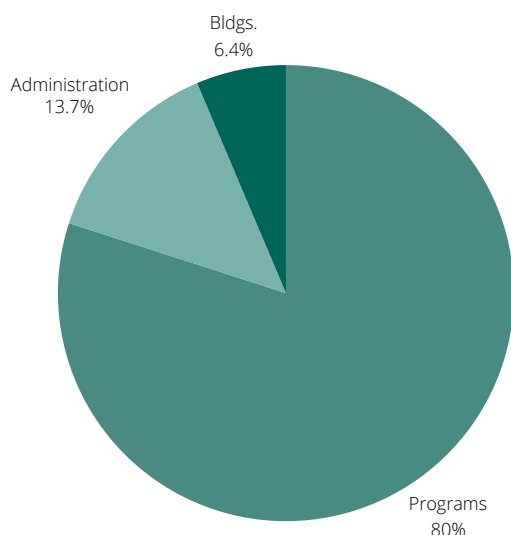
## INCOME

- Grants & Designated Funding
  - \$1,275,536
- Individuals
  - \$330,493
- Other
  - \$61,344
- Faith Bodies
  - \$116,552
- Events
  - \$152,883
- Organizations
  - \$5,801



## EXPENSES

- Programs
  - \$1,549,410
- Administration
  - \$264,833
- Buildings
  - \$123,450



**Total Income:** \$1,942,609

**Total Expenses:** \$1,937,694



# BY THE NUMBERS

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**874** Participants in the Rural Academy of the People

**70,000+** People impacted by the passage of the overtime bill

**260** Participants in our Youth Empowerment Programs

**4** Emerging cooperatives we support

**175,151** Miles we have driven

**550** Meals served by Las Chefs Latinas cooking cooperative

**147** Workshops we offered across all of our programs

**6,500** Flowering plants and vegetables grown by L.I. Farmworker Cooperative

**RMM is grateful to a remarkable staff, who make this all possible! Here are some of our faces:**



## MISSION STATEMENT

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Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc., works for the creation of a just, rural New York State through nurturing leadership, changing unjust systems and structures, and standing with the disenfranchised, especially farmworkers and rural workers.



**HOPE, JUSTICE, &  
EMPOWERMENT  
IN RURAL NEW  
YORK**



# ADVOCACY & POPULAR EDUCATION



JUSTICE FOR FARMWORKERS



LAS CHEFS LATINAS COOPERATIVE



LONG ISLAND FARMWORKER COOPERATIVE



GATHERING FOR REFUGEES



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY



CENTER OF ALLIANCE, SOLIDARITY, AND ACCOMPANIMENT (CASA)

## YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



JUSTICE ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH (JOY)



COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM



SUMMER OVERNIGHT LEADERSHIP CAMP



YOUTH ARTS GROUP (YAG)



YOUTH ECONOMIC GROUP (YEG)



VOICES OF LONG ISLAND YOUTH (VOLIIY)