

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!

In partnership,

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OUR IMPACT

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 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. For inquiries, please contact Sakima McClinton, Administrative Director, at sakima@rmmny.org or 845-485-8627, or Gittel Evangelist, Communications Coordinator, at 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!

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:

Julie & Scott Cicora
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St. John's Episcopal Church - Montclair
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St. Paul's Episcopal Church - Rochester
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St. Philip's Church - Garrison
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Trinity Episcopal Church - Roslyn
Trinity/St. Paul's Church - New Rochelle
Trinity Wall Street - NYC
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United Methodist Women - Poughkeepsie (New Hackensack)
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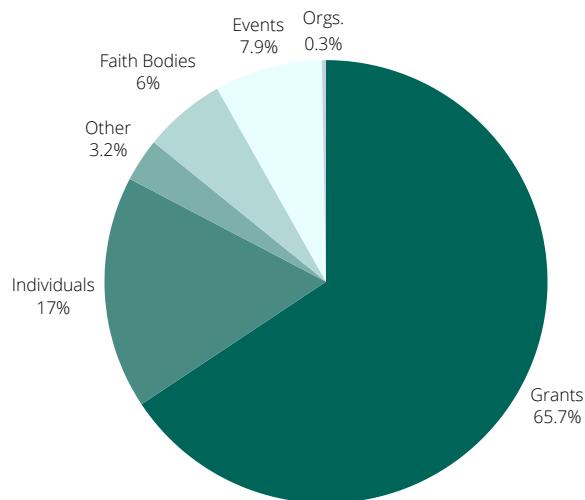
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UNAUDITED SUMMARY OF 2023 INCOME & EXPENSES

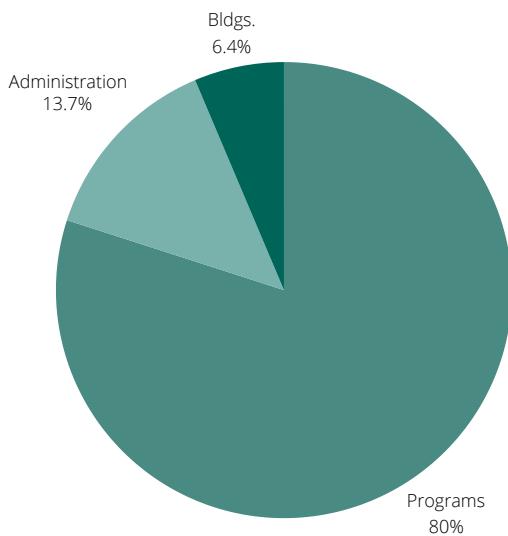
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- Individuals
 - \$330,493
- Other
 - \$61,344
- Faith Bodies
 - \$116,552
- Events
 - \$152,883
- Organizations
 - \$5,801



EXPENSES

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



Total Income: \$1,942,609

Total Expenses: \$1,937,694

BY THE NUMBERS

874 Participants in the Rural Academy of the People

260 Participants in our Youth Empowerment Programs

175,151 Miles we have driven

147 Workshops we offered across all of our programs

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

4 Emerging cooperatives we support

550 Meals served by Las Chefs Latinas cooking cooperative

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

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



GATHERING FOR REFUGEES



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY



LAS CHEFS LATINAS COOPERATIVE



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 (VOLIY)