SAF’s Into the Fields theater group performed for 105 migrant farmworkers at 3 camps this summer. Returning to all 3 camps, they facilitated theater exercises with the workers, who shared their experiences with alcohol, family separation, and discrimination by creating songs, human sculptures and skits.

Through the play “Una Chela al Año no Hace Daño/ A Beer a Year Doesn’t Hurt,” actors portrayed the risks involved in abusing alcohol and presented healthy alternatives to drinking such as playing sports, keeping in touch with family, creating art/music/dance, breathing exercises and a yoga demonstration.

Farmworkers received recreational equipment such as soccer & volleyball, art materials, books and one camp received a guitar on loan for the season. They got an entertaining break from their normal routine and great conversation. The student actors gained trust quickly, allowing SAF and the host organizations to better address their needs.

**Accomplishments**
3 performances & 3 workshops reaching 105 farmworkers
June 30-August 7

**Locations**
Nash County, NC
Franklin County, NC
Harnett County, NC

**Actors**
Eduardo Hernandez, Wake Forest Univ.
Maria Cabrera, CSU-Fresno
Ramon Hernandez, New Mexico State Univ.
Araceli Bollo, UNC-Charlotte
Daniel Derman, Appalachian State Univ.
Selena Ibarra, NC State University
Katelyn Smith, Meredith College

**Evaluators**
Lisa DeAlmeida, College of Charleston
Dr. Jose Sandoval, Duke University
Adeline Bean-Thompson, Univ. of Freiburg

**Directors**
Laxmi Haynes, Program Director
Raúl Gámez, Migrant Youth Director
Ramon Zepeda, Program Director

**Hosts**
North Carolina Farmworker’s Project
 Carolina Family Health Services
 Rural Health Group Inc.

**Fundees**
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
 NC Farmworker Health Program, Office of Rural Health & Community Care
 Puffin Foundation LTD
2014 Into the Fields Theater Group Report

**Farmworker Comments**

“[From participating in the workshop I learned] ways to deal with stress and tiredness.”

“[I learned] to value my family and not mistreat them.”

“[The play] helped me to see that alcohol abuse leads to many problems and I should not to depend on it.”

“[I learned] that everything is better with moderation.”

*Images*
Top: Araceli, Ramon & Maria take a family picture. Middle: Daniel in artist character & Katelyn shares a poster on unhealthy drinking levels. Bottom: Juan and Efren take a photo while singing their song. *Photos by SAF Staff*

**SAF’s Theater Evaluation**

The impact of the play on farmworkers showed:

93% said they felt more confident in their ability to make healthy choices about drinking alcohol.

96% said the performance made the think differently about alcohol.

92% related to some of the characters.

100% found it entertaining.

**Excerpt from “Inmigracion y Dinero”**

“Aqui estoy yo emigrando
A los Estados Unidos buscando un buen por venir
Para mi esposa y mis hijos
Por no tener yo dinero mucho hambre han pasado ya
Voy con mi frente en alto
Para cumplir yo sus suenos y poderlos ayudar”

The song, “Inmigracion y Dinero,” was written for SAF by Efren Pintor y Juan Rios, two farmworkers. The song addresses why farmworkers come to America covering issues of poverty, stress, family separation and isolation that comes when one migrates.
SAF’s Into the Fields theater group performed for 85 migrant farmworkers at 3 camps this summer. Returning to all 3 camps, they facilitated theater exercises with the workers, who shared their experiences by creating songs, human sculptures and skits.

The play, “Una Chela al Año No Hace Daño/ A Beer a Year Doesn’t Hurt,” was written by Raúl Gámez, SAF Migrant Youth Director. The play addresses the family separation, stress, isolation and mental health toll that can come with a migrant lifestyle. Actors portrayed the risks involved in abusing alcohol and presented healthy alternatives to drinking such as playing sports, keeping in touch with family, creating art/music/dance, breathing exercises and a yoga demonstration.

Farmworkers received recreational equipment such as soccer & volleyballs, books and 2 camps received a guitar on loan for the season. They got an entertaining break from their normal routine and great conversation. The student actors gained trust quickly, allowing SAF and the host organizations to better address their needs.

**Accomplishments**
3 performances & 3 workshops reaching 85 farmworkers, June 24-August 5

**Locations**
Person County, NC
Franklin County, NC
Nash County, NC

**Actors**
Christine Burke, USC-Columbia
Juan Martinez, Idaho State U.
Andrea Barreto, UNC-CH
Jose Cruz Araujo, U. of Idaho
Oscar Vitali Garay, SUNY-Oneonta
Bernardo Lopez, New Mexico State

**Directors**
Laxmi Haynes, Program Director
Raúl Gámez, Migrant Youth Director
Ramon Zepeda, Program Director

**Hosts**
Piedmont Health Services
Carolina Family Health Services
Rural Health Group Inc.

**Funders**
Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust
United Church of Christ- Justice Witness Ministries
Duke Global Health Institute-Student Research Training

For information contact:
Laxmi Haynes, Program Director
919-660-3660
farmworker_justice@yahoo.com
www-saf-unite.org
2013 Into the Fields Theater Group Report

Farmworker Comments

“[The play] helped a lot to see that addictions harm us because we only come to work.”

“I learned] that alcohol causes accidents and does not help to relate to companions.”

“[From participating in the workshop I learned] to lose the shyness to express yourself.”

“I learned] some experiences to cope with the stress and sadness of being away.”

Images

Top: Actors demonstrate yoga stretches & breathing. Laxmi paints Juan’s beard.

Middle: Oscar & Jose learn how to facilitate a song-writing workshop. Script excerpt.

Bottom: Sample drawing for loved ones. Farmworkers complete evaluations. Christine, Bernardo & Andrea in family scene.

Photos by Mike Mian, Yazmin Garcia Rico, & Laxmi Haynes.
2012 Into the Fields Theater Group Report

SAF’s Into the Fields theater group performed for 99 farmworkers. They returned to two camps and facilitated theater exercises with 50 workers, sharing and acting out their experiences of oppression.

The play, “Más Vale Prevenir que Lamentar/Better Safe than Sorry,” was written by Raúl Gámez and Jorge Alonzo. The play addresses the risks involved in having unprotected sex, and the importance of using a condom to reduce the risks of contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI’s).

Farmworkers received a condom demonstration, condoms and fotonovelas to read more information on HIV and STI’s. They got an entertaining break from the routine and great conversation. The actors gained trust quickly, allowing SAF and the host organizations to better address their needs.

Farmworker Comments

“I liked it because you make everything funny but still emphasize its importance in real life.”

“I enjoyed it because it taught me how to protect myself from STI’s.”

“I liked it because it made me forget how tired I was from today’s work.”

“Thank you for your interest in our work. Good luck in everything you do.”

Conversations uncovered workers’ major concerns:

✿ Workers did not know how to access health clinics when they had concerns
✿ Work schedule was unpredictable and often included 12 hour work days
✿ Workers wanted more information on the Obama administration’s Deferred Action policy
✿ Workers asked for a future play on drug addiction and alcoholism

Directors
Laxmi Haynes
Raúl Gámez

Hosts
Legal Aid of NC - Farmworker Unit
Pender County Health

Funders
United Church of Christ
Justice Witness Ministries
NC Farmworker Health Program

For information contact:
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www-saf-unite.org
SAF’s Into the Fields theater group performed for 101 farmworkers. They returned to two camps and facilitated theater exercises with 30 workers, sharing and acting out their experiences of oppression.

The play, “Más Vale Prevenir que Lamentar/Better Safe than Sorry,” was written by Raúl Gámez and Jorge Alonzo. The play addresses the risks involved in having unprotected sex, and the importance of using a condom to reduce the risks of contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Farmworkers receive a condom demonstration, condoms and fotonovelas to read more information on HIV and STIs. They get an entertaining break from the routine and great conversation. The actors gain trust quickly, allowing SAF and the host organizations to better address their needs.

**Farmworker Comments**

“I learned something new and I liked it. Thank you for this good information.”

“I liked it because it helps you psychologically. Thank you.”

“More than anything, this [theater workshop] allowed us to share life experiences with our coworkers.”

“The information that you all deliver is so important. I loved the play, thank you for coming.”

“Of course, I liked it a lot. Thank you for remembering us and I hope that you all continue to teach many people.”

**Conversations uncovered workers’ major concerns:**

- Lack of access to own transportation
- Want English lessons at their camp
- Workers did not know how to access health clinics when they had a concern
- Mattresses were not provided
- Work schedule was unpredictable and often included 12 hour work days

**Accomplishments**

3 performances reaching 101 workers & 2 workshops with 30 of the workers. (June 20-August 1)

**Performances in:** Edgecombe County, NC Johnston County, NC

**Actors**
Luis Arzaluz
Victor Canales Gamino
Leticia Arevalo
Julie Pittman
Natalie Hyatt
Diego Lopez
Marichel Mejía
Martha Ramirez

**Directors**
Laxmi Haynes
Raúl Gámez

**Hosts**
Legal Aid of NC
Carolina Family Health
NC Farmworkers Project

**Funders**
The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation

**Collaborators**
NC Harm Reduction Coalition provided education and free rapid HIV tests to farmworkers at performances
NC Farmworker Health Program

For information contact:
Laxmi Haynes, Program Director
919-660-3660 or farmworker_justice@yahoo.com
www-saf-unite.org
SAF’s Into the Fields theater group performed 5 times for 180 farmworkers; they returned to one camp and facilitated theater exercises and games with the workers focusing on sharing their stories and experiences around oppression. The play, “Las Apariencias Engañan/Looks Can be Deceiving,” was created by the SAF interns and dialogues about the risks involved in having unprotected sex, and the importance of using a condom to reduce the risks of contracting HIV and other STI’s. It is an interactive play that uses audience participation. At the end of the performance the actors showed the farmworkers how to properly use condoms, and distributed condoms and fotonovelas with more information on HIV and STI’s.

**Accomplishments**

- 5 performances & 1 teach-in (June 18-August 2)
- 180 workers reached
- Performances at Wake, Harnett, Lenoir, & Sampson counties

**Conversations uncovered workers’ major concerns:**
- Lack of own transportation
- Workers would like to visit the clinic
- Concerned about pesticide exposure
- Concerned about immigration
- Workers do not have enough stoves for everyone to cook, would like more refrigerators, there is not enough space for everyone to store food

**Farmworker Comments**

“It was a great play. Many of us do not know how to use a condom or know that we should use if for safety. Thank You.”

“It is great that you all talk to us about Sexually Transmitted Infections.”

“This play helped me solve my doubts.”

“I liked the play and your explanation on how we can take care of ourselves. Because of you, we learn how to take care of ourselves and be healthy.”

“I liked the comments from the doctors.”

For information about Student Action with Farmworkers’ ITF theater group contact Laxmi Haynes, Program Director: 919-660-3660 or farmworker_justice@yahoo.com

**Actors**
- Diana Falcón
- Veronica Bustabad
- Lauren Kenyon
- Carla Hernandez
- Jerry Gutiérrez
- April Pineda
- Daisy Aguilerá
- Luke Walsh-Mellet

**Directors**
- Laxmi Haynes
- Raúl Granados Gámez

**Hosts**
- Wake Co. Human Services
- Carolina Family Health
- NC Farmworkers Project
- Greene Co. Health Services

**Funders**
- NC Community AIDS Fund
- NC Farmworker Health Program
- The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation
Accomplishments
6 performances
(June 22-August 3)
194 workers reached
Performances at labor camps in Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Wake, and Wilson counties in North Carolina

SAF’s Into the Fields interns wrote and performed a new play, Pontelo!, focusing on the education and prevention of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) among farmworkers. In the play the actors played “guests” on the Jorge Luis Talk Show, sharing their stories of concern and survival of living with STIs. The play included a demonstration on how to correctly use a condom and engaged the audience to participate in the show using popular theater techniques. SAF provided dinner, talked with workers about their life and concerns and took polaroid photos with them as souvenirs.

Conversations uncovered workers’ major concerns:

- Unaware of how to use a condom & consequences of STIs
- Green Tobacco Sickness, pesticides, heat exhaustion
- Not drinking enough water because they don’t want to fall behind other farmworkers’ productivity. Had to bring water from home to wash their hands
- H2A wages decreased from last year, down $1.70/hr.
- Lack of work; Not receiving breaks; work 15 hour days; No day off
- Lack of own transportation
- Requested dental services, nutrition info, info about access to education for undocumented students, ESL tapes, drivers license info

Farmworker Comments

“It was great, keep going so that our people learn more about Sexually Transmitted Infections.”

“I liked it, and if it’s necessary, I would get an HIV test.”

“Your theater presentation was very entertaining and fun. This is what farmworkers need. It teaches us and takes us out of the routine. Thank you.”

“Beautiful play, very educational. I would like to see a play about hypertension, nutrition and cholesterol, thank you.”

For information about Student Action with Farmworkers’ ITF theater group contact Laxmi Haynes, Program Director: 919-660-3660 or farmworker_justice@yahoo.com
SAF’s Into the Fields interns wrote and performed a new play *La Visita del Campolín* to inspire dialogue and action among farmworkers. The Campolín character is a play on *El Chapulín Colorado*–a popular TV superhero in Mexico. Interns used popular theater techniques and participatory methods for getting farmworkers to talk about housing and health issues that concern them and ways to protect themselves from pesticide exposure. In addition to the performance, SAF provided dinner, spent time with workers and took polaroid photos with them as souvenirs. SAF alum Raul Granados, returned to assist with ITF this summer, using his degree in Theater Arts to direct the theater group.

**Farmworker Comments**

“I liked it because you try to advise us of the dangers pesticides cause and try to advise us how to treat them. Also on the laws that protect us from the bosses so they don’t abuse us.”

“Hi, I’m from Nayarit, what you do is very good for everyone who comes here, because with this you can avoid a lot of health problems.”

“Yes I liked it and it seems what you are doing is helping us by distracting us a little. Keep on helping more workers.”

“I liked it because it helps prevent any type of accident in the work that we do.”

**Conversations uncovered workers’ major concerns:**

- No A/C, housing lacks fans
- Workers lack own transportation
- Overcrowded and isolated housing (8 people per room)
- Dirty mattresses, slow work
- Eye infection, insomnia, knee problems, STD concerns
- Need work clothes and help finding English classes

For information about SAF’s Theater group, contact Laxmi Haynes, National Student Organizer 919-660-3660 farmworker_justice@yahoo.com

**Accomplishments**

- 6 performances (June 23-August 4)
- 183 workers reached

**Performed at** labor camps in Greene, Wake, Wilson and Hertford counties in North Carolina

**Actors**

Alejandra Trejo
Cynthia Herrera
Diana Rosales
Norma Salazar
Rosalva Soto
Sandy Preiss
Yolanda Anguiano

**SAF Directors**

Laxmi Haynes
Raul Granados

**Hosts**

Carolina Family Health
Greene Co. Health
Roanoke Chowan Community Health Care-Ahoskie
Wake Co. Human Services

**Funded by**

Association of Farmworker Opportunities Program
Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Duke Biddle Foundation

**Top:** Actors pose for souvenir photo with farmworker; Farmworkers at a performance in Ahoskie, NC by Tony Macias  **Bottom:** Actors draw mustaches on at Wake Co. camp by Emma Raynes; Actors sing final song written by Yolanda  **Far Right:** Sandy dressing as El Campolín by Emma Raynes
SAF’s Into the Fields interns wrote and performed a new play *Novelas, Noticias y Usted* to inspire dialogue and action among farmworkers to address concerns about pesticides. Interns used popular theater techniques and participatory methods for getting farmworkers to talk about health issues that concern them and ways to protect themselves from pesticide exposure. SAF provided dinner for the workers, performed the play, led group discussions and took polaroid photos with workers as souvenirs.

**Farmworker Comments**

“I want to know more about pesticides and also how to protect ourselves from the heat so we don’t work ourselves too hard.”

“I liked the form that the theater group acted with ‘Into the Fields’. Thank you for coming and lifting everyone’s moral.”

“I’m very grateful that you guys came out here, it’s nice to know that we are taken into account. In all my years I’ve never seen anything like this. It’s great to see the youth involved.”

“I liked the play because it gives a message of prevention.”

“The play is really good. I’d like if you all came again and did a play about dehydration.”

**Group discussions uncovered workers’ major concerns:**

- No paid breaks, or no breaks at all
- Unsafe drinking water
- Heat stress
- Skin rashes
- Green Tobacco Sickness
- Overcrowded and isolated housing (6-10 people per room)

For information about SAF’s Theater group, contact Laxmi Haynes, National Student Organizer 919-660-3660 farmworker_justice@yahoo.com
Accomplishments:

- 6 performances (June 19-July 31)

132 workers reached

Performed at labor camps, churches, and health clinics in Fuquay Varina, Prospect Hill, Bailey, Wendell, Sims, and Trenton, North Carolina

SAF’s Into the Fields interns performed a new play Sacudete! to inspire dialogue and action among farmworkers to address concerns about their health, housing and environmental conditions. Sacudete! was commissioned by Fausto E. Arellano, a poet and playwright from Ecuador, and likens Don Quijote to a migrant worker pursuing the American Dream. The play encourages workers to “shake off” fear and other obstacles they face and work towards justice in the fields. Student actors provided dinner for the workers, performed the play, led group discussions and took polaroid photos with workers as momentos.

Farmworker Comments:

“For me, it’s a reflection of the injustice that this country presents us. Thanks for coming to open our eyes.”

“Yes, I liked it very much- it was very enjoyable and I liked learning about how to stand up for my rights.”

“It was very good- there were things that really happen in the fields. They teach us things that we don’t know and that we’re not alone in our fight.”

“The theater project was great; we got more feedback from the workers about their conditions than from regular outreach with our agencies. We usually have to visit the camp twice to get the same information we can get in one visit with the theater group.”

-Actors

Group discussions uncovered workers’ major issues:

- Fear of retaliation
- Being cheated out of wages
- Desire to learn English and go back to school
- Their complaints not being addressed by employer
- Health concerns: Tobacco sickness, and need for dentists
- Housing concerns: no mattresses, roaches, rats, broken roofs, inadequate restrooms and kitchen space, no washer/dryer access
- Unaware of services available in their area besides health clinic

For information about SAF’s Theater group, Contact: Laxmi Haynes, Natl. Student Organizer 919-660-3660 farmworker_justice@yahoo.com