

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY

ANNUAL REPORT



HOPE, JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM) is having an impact in rural New York. Through determination, persistence and creativity, and in collaboration with a remarkable group of partners, Rural & Migrant Ministry is bringing about change.

The year 2014 saw the voices of rural New Yorkers increasingly being heard at the tables where decisions impacting their lives were being made. Prominent leaders in food justice movements called for the inclusion of labor when discussions about sustainability were being explored. Foundations involved in cutting edge agricultural development began to include farmworkers in their deliberations. Policymakers heard the voices of undocumented youth, the Dreamers, and began to explore how to make college more of a reality. Leaders in one of New York's poorest counties witnessed the determination of their young people to create economic opportunities, and opened a building to facilitate their development.

Gathered around these tables, and in the midst of these important developments, were the people of Rural & Migrant Ministry. RMM offered safe places to gather and learn from one another and from others. RMM supported them as they developed their own leadership. RMM stood with them, and helped to add the voices of others when they called for justice and equality. RMM helped channel resources to them, so that their efforts would find traction and sustainability.

We are a diverse array of committed individuals acting to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate people in rural New York State, by building communities that celebrate diversity, achieve true mutuality and fight for dignity and opportunity for all.

If you want to know more, or better understand us in depth, visit our web-site: www.ruralmigrantministry.org

Thank you for standing with the people of RMM. Thank you for being one of us: living in hope and committed to justice and empowerment in rural New York State.

In Peace,

Ginena Dulle Wills, President
The Rev. Richard Witt, Executive Director
Laura Lecour, Managing & Development Director

P.S. If you find yourself moved by the people and programs of Rural & Migrant Ministry, we invite you to support us with a donation. Give us a call, or go to our web-site, and we will make it easy for you to partner with us!

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RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY WORKS TO BUILD A JUST COMMUNITY THROUGH THREE MAJOR INITIATIVES

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

RMM is proud to stand with the emerging young leaders who are working for change through the Youth Empowerment Program (YEP). As they develop their skills through experiential education, they are creatively facing barriers of poverty, rural isolation and prejudice.

A large part of the vitality of Rural & Migrant Ministry comes from the young leaders of the programs of our YEP. In 2014 these leaders were repeatedly proactive in developing creative responses to the barriers and issues of their lives.



It all begins with our camps. The Overnight Leadership Summer Camp celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer. Some 2000 children have

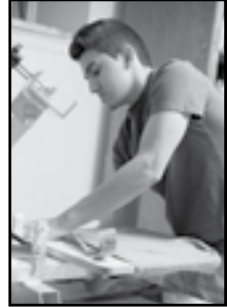


attended, and many have graduated to our year-round programs. A highlight at the Camp was the presentation of three college scholarships from the Nurses' Scholarship Fund. RMM also facilitated two day camps – one in Wayne County and one in the Hudson Valley, welcoming over sixty middle school-aged children .

The Youth Arts Group (YAG), with participants from



six different schools, proudly presented *The Mural (El Muro – The Wall)*, an interactive, political, art for justice exhibit exploring issues of immigration, and the experiences of undocumented people living in the United States. They also developed and hosted the annual ART FOR JUSTICE, a state-wide gathering in Albany for students from across New York.



The Youth Economic Group (YEG) successfully opened their new center in the Catskills. The center houses their silkscreen production facilities and storefront for their cooperative business, *Basement Bags*. YEG also hosted the first ever Youth Cooperative

Entrepreneurship Symposium in collaboration with SUNY Sullivan. YEG welcomed students from three different high schools and acclaimed



economic experts from across the state.

RMM welcomed 27 college interns this past year. You can see the work of two of them as they helped put together an oral history video project *FARMWORKER STORIES* on our Blog <http://rmmwitness.tumblr.com/>

We are also proud that 100% of the graduates of our year-round youth programs graduated from high school this year and went to college. We celebrate the accomplishments of recent graduates who have created their own organizations and have worked on a successful Congressional campaign.

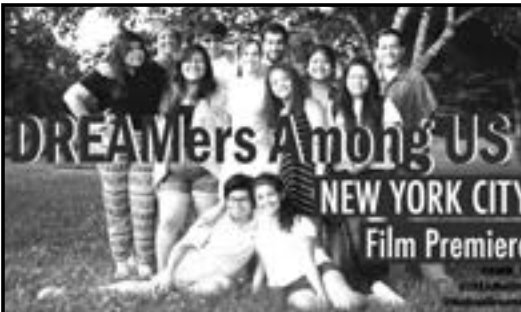
ACCOMPANIMENT

The Accompaniment Program continued to build a rural network across New York State committed to changing a food system that has historically excluded and oppressed workers.

Accompaniment depends on allies standing with farmworkers and other rural food workers in their struggle to organize for equality, dignity, and just working and living conditions. A key component of RMM's Accompaniment Program has been RMM's leadership in the Justice for Farmworkers Legislative Campaign (JFW). JFW is a broad coalition of labor unions, faith communities and student organizations committed to ensuring that the voice of farmworkers in New York is heard in the public policy process. Of specific concern is a legislative campaign that would remove those sections of New York's labor laws that exclude farmworkers from equal rights.

2014 also saw RMM's growing impact in urging the food justice movement to include farmworkers in their efforts to create an alternative, just and sustainable food system. RMM was invited by two major foundational initiatives as consultants to the creation of two innovative and critical farm projects in the Hudson Valley, ensuring that farmworkers are part of these emerging projects. RMM also began a new partnership this year with noted food writer, Ruth Reichl.

RMM continued its engagement and support of students who seek to create educational opportunities through passage of the DREAM ACT. Hand in hand with these efforts, RMM participated in national campaigns toward Immigration Reform.



EDUCATION

Participatory education has long been a cornerstone in all of RMM's Leadership Development programs. RMM brings together an array of people from different ages and cultures, from diverse religious and socio-political backgrounds, and from a variety of geographical areas. One of the binding factors is our desire to learn from one another as we develop our understandings and leadership skills to work for change.

A foundation for RMM's participatory education begins with our two Worker Education Centers. Liturgia is located in the heart of Wayne County, the second largest producer of apples in the United States. Liturgia hosted Jamaican, Haitian and Spanish-speaking farmworkers from around the region in cultural programs, discussion groups, and ESL/Literacy workshops. Liturgia also hosted Delegations and Alternative Spring Breaks for allies from faith, labor and university communities across the State, who want to become stronger allies.



This year RMM also opened Spark in the Catskills, home to duck workers and hundreds of food processing plant workers. Spark began developing an educational program as the workers are



identifying their goals and needs to improve working and living conditions. Spark is also beginning to serve as a center for youth

groups and other groups who want to better understand the food system.

2014 marked the ninth anniversary of the Destiny Rural Womens' Conference in Binghamton. Over one hundred women from across the State gathered to strategize for change through workshops, speakers and storytelling. Through the Conference, a powerful new Latina women's group began this year in Orange County.



RMM was also at the cutting edge of engaging the food justice movement in the importance of including farmworkers – through two Symposia (New York City and Rochester.) These gatherings showcased some of the nation's most prominent food justice leaders in dialogue with workers and advocates. All of this was captured through RMM's social media on Facebook, Twitter and through our blog WITNESS <http://rmmwitness.tumblr.com/>



The focus of these remarkable programs lies not in just talking about issues, but in engagement. Our participants repeatedly shared their experiences of action, and in turn were inspired to go forth and further engage.



UNIQUE COVENANT

Historically the backbone of the Ministry has been our Covenant with several bodies of faith. These Covenanting Denominations have long supported the organization through resources, space and volunteers. In turn they have seen RMM as a facilitator of their ministry in rural New York State. Current Covenanting

Denominations include: American Baptists of New York State through the leadership of the Mid-Hudson and Capital Area Baptist Associations, the Episcopal Dioceses of New York and Rochester, New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers,) The New York Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC,) The New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, The New York Synod of the Reformed Church of America through the leadership of the Mid-Hudson and Orange Classes, The Presbyteries of Albany and the Hudson River, and the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Albany and Rochester.

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First Baptist Church, White Plains, NY
First Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, NY
Moulton Memorial Baptist Church,
Newburgh, NY

Episcopal
All Saints' Church, Briarcliff Manor, NY
Christ Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA
Church of Christ the King, Stone Ridge, NY
Church of the Ascension, Staten Island, NY
Church of the Good Shepherd, NY, NY
Church of the Heavenly Rest, NY, NY
Church of the Intercession, NY, NY
Church of the Messiah, Rhinebeck, NY
Church of the Regeneration, Pine Plains, NY
Church of the Transfiguration, NY, NY
Episcopal Church Women Diocese of NY
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island
Grace Church, Millbrook, NY
Grace Episcopal Church, Hastings, NY
Grace Episcopal Church, Middletown, NY
Holy Trinity Church, Pawling, NY
Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester, MA
St. Andrew's Church, Woodbourne, NY
St. Augustine Episcopal Church, Croton, NY
St. George's Church, Newburgh, NY
St. Gregory's Church, Woodstock, NY
St. James Church, Goshen, NY
St. James Church, Hyde Park, NY
St. James' Church, NY, NY
St. John's Episcopal Church, Canandaigua, NY
St. John's Episcopal Church, Larchmont, NY
St. John's Episcopal Church, Sodus, NY
St. John's Episcopal Church, Yonkers, NY
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Brockport, NY
St. Mark's Church, Newark, NY
St. Mark's in-the-Bowery, NY, NY
St. Mary's Church, Tuxedo Park, NY
St. Nicholas-on-the-Hudson, New Hamburg, NY
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester, NY
St. Peter's (Lithgow,) Millbrook, NY
St. Thomas' Church, Mamaroneck, NY
Trinity Episcopal Church, Fishkill, NY
Zion Episcopal Church, Wappingers Falls, NY

Methodist
Catskill Hudson District United Methodist
Women, West Hurley, NY
St. James United Methodist Church
Women, Kingston, NY
United Methodist Church, Liberty, NY
United Methodist Women, Poughkeepsie, NY
White Sulphur Springs Methodist Church, NY

Presbyterian
Bedford Presbyterian Church, NY
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Newburgh, NY
Cornwall Presbyterian Church, NY
First Presbyterian Church, Poughkeepsie, NY
First Presbyterian Church, Highland, NY
First Presbyterian Church, Katonah, NY
First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers
Falls, NY
First Presbyterian Church, Port Jervis, NY

First Presbyterian Westminster Guild,
Montgomery, NY
For Faith Parish Presbyterian Council,
Cochecton, NY
Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church,
LaGrangeville, NY
Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY
Hortonville Presbyterian Church,
Hortonville, NY
Laurelton United Presbyterian Church,
Rochester, NY
Palisades Presbyterian Church, NY
Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church,
Staatsburg, NY
Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Rochester, NY
Presbyterian Women's Association,
Pleasant Valley, NY
Presbyterian Women of Hitchcock
Church, Scarsdale, NY
Presbyterian Women of Katonah, NY
Presbyterian Women's League,
Pleasantville, NY
Rye Presbyterian Church, NY
Smithfield Presbyterian Church, Amenia, NY
Women of Irvington Presbyterian Church, NY
Women's Association of the Presbyterian
Church, Jeffersonville, NY

Reformed

Community Church of High Falls, NY
Marbletown Reformed Church, Stone
Ridge, NY
Marbletown Reformed Church Women,
Stone Ridge, NY
Meadow Hill Reformed Church, Newburgh, NY
Meadow Hill Reformed Church Women's
Guild, Newburgh, NY
New Hackensack Reformed Church,
Wappingers Falls, NY
New Hackensack Reformed Church Women's
Ministries, Wappingers Falls, NY
Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie, NY
Reformed Church of Closter, NJ
Reformed Dutch Protestant Church of
Rhinebeck, NY
Reformed Protestant Dutch Church,
Kingston, NY
The Reformed Church, Bronxville, NY
United Reformed Church of Rosendale,
Bloomington, NY
Wiltwyck Guild Church of the Comforter,
Kingston, NY
Women's Guild, Wallkill, NY

Roman Catholic

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of NY, NY
Catholic Charities Diocese of Rochester, NY
Catholic Charities of Finger Lakes, Geneva, NY
Catholic Family Center, Rochester, NY
New York State Catholic Conference, Albany, NY

Other Congregations/Faith Bodies

Bridgewater Church, VA
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, New York, NY
Faith Church of God West Park, Port Jervis, NY
First Unitarian Church, Rochester, NY
Lyll Memorial Federated Church, Millbrook, NY
Praise Dominion Family Worship Center,
Ellenville, NY
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Poughkeepsie, NY
The Riverside Church in the City of New York, NY

Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, NY
Spiritus Christ Church, Rochester, NY
Word Alive Ministries, Valley Cottage, NY

COVENANTING DENOMINATIONS

Capital Area Baptist Association
Episcopal Diocese of New York
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Mid Hudson Area Baptist Assoc.
New York Annual Conference of the United
Methodist Church
New York Yearly Meeting Religious Society
of Friends
Presbytery of Albany
Presbytery of the Hudson River
Regional Synod of New York Reformed
Church of America
Classis of Mid Hudson Classis RSNY/RCA
Classis of Orange RSNY/RCA
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

ORGANIZATIONS

Adelphi University
Age of Grace Gourmet Cafe, Inc.
Andrew Satter & Associates, Inc.
Arm of the Sea Productions Inc.
Barriger & Company
Bethel Performing Arts Center
Blitman & King
Brockport Ecumenical Outreach Committee
Blossoms Montessori Learning
Catskill Mountainkeeper
CR Properties Group Inc.
Columbia University
Cooperative Development Institute
Economic Ventures, Inc.
Eventbrite
Fine, Olin & Anderman, LLP
Genetta Realty Corp.
Greater Newburgh Ministerial Assn.
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
In My Mother's House
Ithaca College
The Law Offices of Jose Perez
M & M Ford Lincoln, Inc.
Metavante Corporation
Metro Justice
Millbrook Rotary Club
Modell's Inc.
Monticello Motor Club, LLC
New York Civil Liberties Union
PathStone Corporation
Pearl Carroll & Associates
Poughkeepsie Branch, AAUW
Real Property Abstract & Title Svcs.
Richard J. Smith Enterprises Corp.
Rolling V Bus Corp.
RONIK Design
Rotary Club of Liberty
Rotary Club of Newburgh
Santillo's Meat Market, LLC.
Schmidts Wholesale, Inc.
State of New York Summer Food Program
Sullivan County Community College
Tribeca Film Institute, Inc.
Vassar College
Western NY Peace Center, Inc.
Worker Justice Center of NY, Inc.
Workforce Development Institute
YWCA Orange County

RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

American Baptist Foundation
Collegiate Church Corporation
Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Parish of Trinity Church
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Sisters of Saint Dominic
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, Inc.
Unitarian Universalist Association of
Congregations
FOUNDATIONS
Adelante Foundation
Community Foundation of Dutchess Co.
Community Foundation of Orange &
Sullivan Counties
Davenport - Hatch Foundation
Dyson Foundation
The Elphaba Fund
Empire State Bank Charitable Trust
Lynn Favrot Nolan Family Fund
Maine Community Foundation
Millbrook Tribute Gardens
New World Foundation
Ralph E. Ogden Foundation
Rochester Community Foundation
Sparkplug Foundation
Staples Foundation
Stewart's Foundation

LABOR

AFSCME, AFL-CIO LOCAL 372
AFSCME, AFL-CIO LOCAL 420
AFSCME, AFL-CIO LOCAL 1000
Amalgamated Transit Union LOCAL 1056
American Federation District 37
American Postal Workers Union Rochester
Communications Workers of America,
AFL-CIO, Local 1180
Council of School Supervisors and
Administrators
Education & Solidarity NYC LCLAA
Local 3 United Storeworkers
New York City Central Labor Council
New York State AFL-CIO
New York State Nurses Association
New York State United Teachers
Professional Staff Congress
Public Employees Federation
Rochester & Genesee Valley - AFL-CIO
Retail Wholesale & Dept. Store Union
Retirees Association of District 37
RWDSU LOCAL 338
Transport Workers Union LOCAL 100
UFCW LOCAL 342
UFCW LOCAL 1500
United Federation of Teachers LOCAL 2
American Federation of Teachers
United University Professions
Retirees Association of D.C. 37
UFCW Local 342

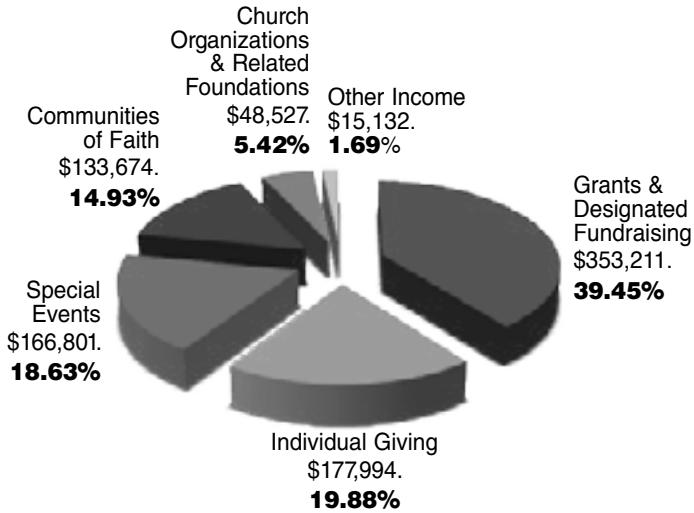
RMM is also very grateful to all of the congregations and individuals who have made in-kind donations.

Please forgive any unintentional oversights or omissions. Thank you.

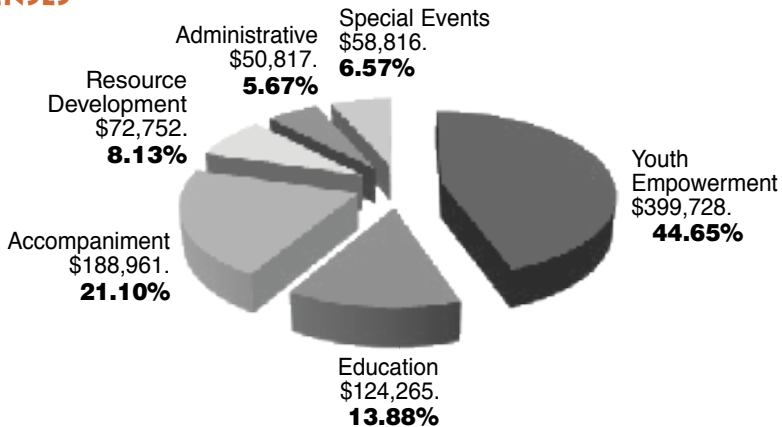
FINANCES

UNAUDITED SUMMARY OF 2014 INCOME AND EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

INCOME



EXPENSES



TOTAL INCOME \$895,339.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$895,339.00

MISSION STATEMENT

Rural & Migrant Ministry works for the creation of a just, rural New York State through:

- Nurturing leadership
- Standing with the disenfranchised, especially farmworkers and rural workers
- Changing unjust systems and structures

VISION STATEMENT

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc. acts to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate all members of our society by building communities that celebrate diversity, achieve true mutuality and offer dignity and opportunity to all. Rural & Migrant Ministry is an interfaith organization whose members believe that inspiration comes from participation in the creation of a just world.

To this end, Rural & Migrant Ministry is committed to:

- Honoring and supporting efforts of those who are disenfranchised, especially migrant farmworkers and the rural poor, as they seek greater self-determination;
- Transforming ourselves to use our privileges and actions, not as pillars of oppression, but as forces for justice;
- Nurturing the development of leaders from various communities;
- Building a ministry that brings people of diverse socio-economic, religious, cultural and racial backgrounds together and promotes the exchange of resources, ideas and hopes;
- Addressing the root causes of poverty and prejudice that are maintained in public and private policies, through advocacy and the development of alternative policies and structures;
- Being equitable and just and honoring diversity within the structures, policies, programs, activities and mores of the organization.



Rural & Migrant Ministry (RMM) was incorporated as a non-profit, non-sectarian organization in 1981.

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc., PO Box 4757, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602
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(315) 871-4031 FAX (315) 871-4067

Spark Center, 172 North Main St., Liberty, NY 12754
(845) 392-7279

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www.ruralmigrantministry.org

www.facebook.com/ruralmigrant

www.facebook.com/JusticeForFarmworkers

https://twitter.com/RMM_NY

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