

## **Rural & Migrant Ministry Inc.**

### **Youth Arts Group**

**2018**

#### **Some accomplishments:**

- ★ Through educational trips, workshops, presentations and actions our members had the opportunity to:
  - Travel and explore new places.
  - Promote inclusivity, diversity, community, and justice.
  - Explore issues that are affecting our community.
  - Connect our work with other communities.
  - Learn, practice, and improve important life skills: communication, public speaking, organizing, prioritizing, confidence, critical thinking, working in groups etc.
  - Learn more about the institutional nature of discrimination and racism in modern society - and take new conversations and experiences back to their communities.
  - Learn how to use their voices to speak up against injustice and become agents of change.
- Continue to be active allies to farmworkers in their struggle to obtain equal rights.
  
- ★ During 2018, we had 6 college interns in total.
  
- ★ In YAG we have 15 active members ages 14 to 17 years old.

★ We are really proud of our YAG graduates for their hard and inspirational work during their time in our program: Congratulations to Roshauna Brown and Olivia Thibault. We wish them the best in their future.

★ YAG Annual Committees: our committees/topics included:

- LGBTQ+
- Mental Illness
- Feminism
- Farmworkers Rights

★ Some educational workshops presented in YAG:

- Public speaking
- Leading effective meetings
- Organizing
- The power of Team Building Games
- Wheel of the Oppression
- Understanding Power
- Systematic Racism
- LGBTQ+

- The Route to College
- Undocumented Students and their struggles
- ★ We organized a successful event called *Second Annual Youth Symposium*. This event took place at Vassar College, NY. We had around 60 participants and 10 educational workshops.
- ★ YAG participated at the *Farmworkers Advocacy Event* in Albany, NY
- ★ YAG created two political murals with the themes of: LGBTQ+ and Mental Illness. We exhibited our art in the Newburgh Public Library, NY
- ★ YAG participated in the educational trip/event called *Jonathan Daniel's pilgrimage* that took place in Hayneville, Lowndes County, Alabama.
- ★ The *First Annual YEP Retreat* on November 2, 3 and 4 2018 was another successful event. This event took place at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, CT. Here members from YAG, YEG, and JOY had the opportunity to build community, learn from each other, and participate in educational leadership workshops.
- ★ YAG participated at RMM events: Rural Women's Assembly, Toy Store, Coffee House, and Overnight Camp.
- ★ Our YAG program and other RMM programs were promoted every Thursday at the radio show called *Trova and more* 91.3 FM Independent Radio Vassar College NY.
- ★ During the year, we talk about important, provocative, and controversial themes that are affecting our community and the world. Themes included:

- People trafficking- Slavery -torture rape and forced labor: these are some of the struggles that migrants are facing in Libya.
- Immigration
- Separation of families
- White supremacy and their effects in our community
- Police brutality
- DREAM Act and DACA

**The Youth Arts Group is committed to continuing working for Justice.**

**Thank you for believing in the power of the youth.  
Peace.**