

RURAL & MIGRANT MINISTRY, INC.



ANNUAL REPORT
2024



DEAR PARTNERS OF RMM,

Dear Partners,

Rural & Migrant Ministry is standing tall because of you. We hope you feel our heartfelt gratitude. It is difficult to write about 2024 while in the midst of 2025 and the oppressive atmosphere in which rural and farmworking families find themselves. In 2024, RMM worked hard to build a foundation that is serving us well as time goes forward.

Our Mission Statement focuses upon nurturing leadership. We believe that leaders are essential to providing hope, justice and empowerment. We also believe that building a diverse community is key to nurturing leaders. Diversity brings a multitude of experiences and approaches to complex challenges. As you can see from our Annual Report (and even more so from our new website, www.ruralmigrantministry.org), an astonishing rainbow of people are involved in RMM. Their commitment — your commitment — is the sustenance we need to stand strong.

Because the people of RMM are connected to one another, we have created a multitude of interconnected programs, utilizing advocacy, the arts, popular education, financial literacy and so much more, building a strong network across New York. This network enables RMM to have an impact on thousands of lives as we affirm the humanity of those who are easily underestimated and unappreciated, and to stand up to forces that would deny just treatment and opportunity.

Thank you for sharing our commitment.

In peace,

JULIE UBINAS
President

THE REV. RICHARD WITT
Executive Director

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Cordelia Anthony
Stuart Appelbaum
James Bopp
Jennifer Brown
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STAFF

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Andrés Chamorro, Youth Empowerment Program
& Youth Arts Group Coordinator
Lionel Charles, Voices of Long Island Youth
Coordinator
Curlene Coulter-Crawford, Finance Director
Noellia Cruz, EWF Outreach Associate
Ziheem Edmonds, Overnight Camp Head Counselor
Gittel Evangelist, Communications Coordinator
The Rev. Jane Soyster Gould, Seminarian Fellowship
Program Coordinator
Dazell Green, Chef/Hospitality
Elizabeth Grese, Special Events Coordinator
Jacqueline Thomas Harrison, Administrative Assistant
Adrienne Jensen, Catskills Regional Coordinator
Wilmer Jimenez, Chief Program Officer
Yineily Herrera Rodriguez, EWF Outreach Associate
Zulekia Herrera Rodriguez, EWF Outreach Associate
Jane Konitz, Volunteer Special Projects Coordinator
Laura Lecour, Managing Director
Jesus Martinez, Betsaida Alcantara YEP Fellow
Sakima McClinton, Chief Operations Officer
Ana Mendez-Vasquez, Western NY Associate
Regional Coordinator & College Prep Coordinator
Daniela Mendez, Jim Schmidt Fellow
Mateo Munoz, EWF Outreach Associate
Brian O'Shaughnessy, Advocacy Consultant
Jeannine Otis, Music Director
Grady Parks, EWF Outreach Associate
María del Mar Piedrabuena, Long Island Associate
Regional Coordinator
Noemi Sanchez, Long Island Regional Coordinator
Tara Thibault-Edmonds, Overnight Camp Director
Yadira Vazquez, EWF Outreach Associate
The Rev. Richard Witt, Executive Director

OUR IMPACT

In 2024, RMM spent a good deal of time strengthening and reorganizing our internal structure, creating two key staff positions – Chief Operating Officer and Chief Program Officer – in order to maximize the impact of our main program areas. We also worked to strengthen the impact of our communications efforts, initiating the launch of a new website to exponentially increase engagement among our program participants, volunteers, allies and donors.

As we braced for the uncertainty that the national elections and the ensuing year would bring, our focus, first and foremost, continued to be serving rural and migrant communities across New York State – people living in fear under an increasingly hostile political climate. With that in mind, we adopted a new mission statement: **We create hope, justice, and empowerment with farmworking and rural families in New York by building community and developing leaders through advocacy, education and the arts.**

Our Rural Academy of the People and Youth Empowerment Program – both of which are at the core of our network of emerging leaders – continued to flourish. Participation was up and program offerings increased across the board, made possible in part by a one-time, \$1 million gift from Yield Giving, the foundation of philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Likewise, our Rural Women’s Assembly was a phenomenally empowering experience for women, from teens to elders, across New York State. Our summer Seminarian Fellowship Program also grew in 2024, under the leadership of a year-round Program Coordinator.

We remain deeply committed to our partnership with the Clinton Global Initiative and our work in creating financial equity. Last year, we dug ever deeper into our work in launching a credit union that will serve farmworkers across rural New York.



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 Wilmer Jimenez, Chief Program Officer, at wilmer@rmmny.org or 315-806-7338, or Gittel Evangelist, Communications Coordinator, at gittel@rmmny.org or 585-353-4313.



THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL DONORS!

In 2024, 506 individual donors contributed a total of \$587,621.21 to RMM. While it has been our practice in years past to publicly thank every individual donor in our Annual Report, we have decided not to list donors by name this year, due to the current political climate. Please know that each and every donor is dear to us. Thank you to everyone who supported the work and Mission of RMM last year. Without you, none of this would be possible.

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. Dan Burner; our Executive Director, the Rev. Richard Witt; or our Director of Individual Giving, Elizabeth Grese, 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
Barbara & Dick Deming
Helen Haller
Nancy Lapp
Brian O'Shaughnessy & Maureen Casey
T. Richard & Carole Snyder
Rene Thiel
Connie Valk
Ann Lyn Witt
Richard Witt & Tracy Leavitt

FOUNDATIONAL & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Atran Foundation, Inc.
Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust
Community Foundation of the Hudson Valley
Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan
Dyson Foundation
ECLI-VIBES
Edward & Verna Gerbic Family Foundation
ESL Federal Credit Union
Hispanic Federation, Inc.
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Justice for Migrant Women
Long Island Community Foundation
Long Island Unitarian Universalist Fund
M3 Technology, LLC Millbrook Tribute Garden, Inc.
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund

M&T Charitable Foundation
New York Community Trust
New York State Council on the Arts
NOVO Foundation
PayPal Giving Fund
Ralph E. Ogden Foundation
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Samuel Freeman Foundation
Sodus Central School District
Stewart's Foundation
Trinity Wall Street
The Umberto & Clorinda Romano Foundation, Inc.
Wayne County Community Endowment
Worker Justice Center of New York, Inc.
Workforce Development Institute
Yield Giving

LABOR SUPPORT

Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation
United University Professions

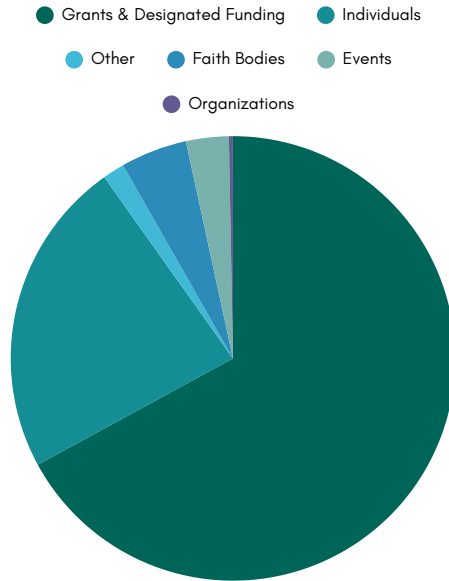
DENOMINATIONAL & CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

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 - Cragsmoor
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
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 2024 INCOME & EXPENSES

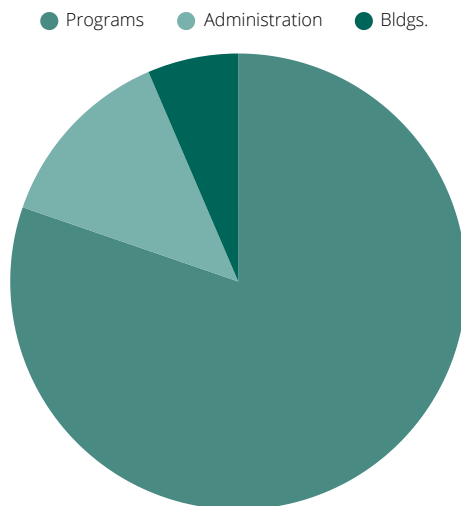
INCOME

- Grants & Designated Funding
 - \$1,705,659.79
- Individuals
 - \$587,621.21
- Other
 - \$40,597.22
- Faith Bodies
 - \$123,048.18
- Events
 - \$78,982.85
- Organizations
 - \$7,480.00



EXPENSES

- Programs
 - \$1,826,916.55
- Administration
 - \$302,201.54
- Buildings
 - \$146,657.81



Total Income: \$2,543,389.25

Total Expenses: \$2,275,775.90

BY THE NUMBERS

450 Participants in our Youth Empowerment Program activities

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

1,000+ Participants in Rural Academy of the People workshops and trainings

1,000+ Allies who attend presentations by Rural & Migrant Ministry

200 Participants in our annual Rural Women's Assembly

100+ Families who receive direct service support across our four centers

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



MISSION STATEMENT

We create hope, justice, and empowerment with farmworking and rural families in New York by building community and developing leaders through advocacy, education and the arts.



HOPE, JUSTICE, & EMPOWERMENT IN RURAL NEW YORK

ADVOCACY & POPULAR EDUCATION



JUSTICE FOR FARMWORKERS



RURAL WOMEN'S ASSEMBLY



LAS CHEFS LATINAS COOPERATIVE



COMMITTEE FOR EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



JUSTICE ORGANIZATION OF YOUTH (JOY)



SUMMER OVERNIGHT LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM



YOUTH ARTS GROUP (YAG)



YOUTH ECONOMIC GROUP (YEG)



VOICES OF LONG ISLAND YOUTH (VOLNY)