

DID YOU
KNOW?

- 100 families have participated in OFFM's parenting classes?
- 70% of students tutored by OFFM have improved their grades?
- Over 250 hours of group and individual counseling was provided for middle school students in 2004-05?
- 350 members of Pennies For Power Youth Credit Union saved \$50,000 for their future?

Hope CommUnity Center, Inc. Nears Reality

"Hope is a waking dream. Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things. And no good thing ever dies."

Tim Robbins

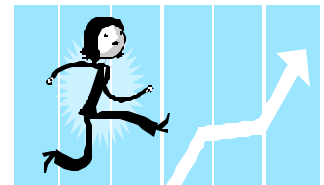
Hope is alive and well in Apopka. Hope CommUnity Center, Inc. has filed with the State of Florida as a non-profit organization. The Office For Farmworker Ministry gives thanks to Ultima Morgan, P.A. and Board member of Hope CommUnity Center, who is helping us with this very important step.

We are currently going through the final stages of architectural review with the Catholic Diocese of Orlando and the City of Apopka.

Our total project will cost \$1.7 million dollars. We celebrate having raised \$1.1 million from private donors like yourself, the farmworker and immigrant community, the Catholic Diocese of Orlando and the Federal government. The picture below provides you, our faithful supporters, with our vision of the new Center.



Hope CommUnity Center
1016 North Park Avenue
Apopka, Florida 32703



We still need \$600,000 to complete the project debt-free. We ask you to continue walking with us in the spirit of hope that initiated this dream twenty years ago.

We wholeheartedly believe and live the gift of hope as it was stated in the Princess Diaries, "Hope is like a bird that senses dawn and carefully starts to sing while it is still dark." Help us raise our voices as the bird does because dawn is approaching. Sr. Cathy Gorman

Local Teens Tell How Their Lives Were Changed

Fabio Borrayo, an Apopka High School senior, who came here speaking no English said, "I could have been struggling so much if Americorps weren't there to advise me and to make things easier and better. These people have to have a good heart to do what they do." David Barrigan, an eighth grader from Apopka Middle School

says, "My schoolwork has really improved and they've shown me life skills too." NDA members and other volunteers instill a culture of service in the youths they serve. Says David, "I want to help people the way Americorps has helped me." The service of NDA members is provided by the Office for Farmworker Ministry.



Fabio Borrayo is helped by new staff member, Sarah Downs, at Career/Learning lab

Today I Look Forward To Life! By Eva



Eva Trejo enjoying fall girls' retreat offered by OFFM

"Let us put our minds together and see what better life we can make for our children"

*Sitting Bull
(Lakota leader)*

Nathan Hoisington, Americorps member demonstrates that some snakes can be friendly!



My name is Eva Trejo and I am 15 years old. I used to be a girl who didn't care about anything, but since I've been involved with family classes, middle school girls' group and Americorps, I now have goals and look forward to life.

One of the ways it changed my life were the family classes. My family started to go to these classes. The classes changed the way my parents used to be. Now my parents and I actually talk and understand each other. My sister, my little brother and I changed. We used to come home and argue all the time but thanks to the family classes we argue a lot less than ever!

There's also the girls' group. WOW! I can talk forever about these classes. It's helped me and my homegirls A LOT! We get to talk about anything that is bothering us. The Girls' Group has helped me have confidence and make me feel good about myself which I really never felt. Now it is so different!

I thank Americorps volunteers too because they have helped so many people. I thank them so much because if it were not for them I don't know how I would be right now! Even people noticed how much I have changed. In the beginning of 8th grade I had a GPA of 0.3! At the end of the year my GPA was 3.5 thanks to all the people at the ministry!

By: Eva Trejo

Summer Activities Keep Youth Busy

Summer was a busy season for the Office For Farmworker Ministry and Americorps youth programs. Students completed school in late May and that meant it was time for summer fun which included trips to Wonderworks, Magic Kingdom, Orange County Sheriff's Office, the beach, and many craft projects, and lots of games. Here's a look at some of the offerings: **Third Annual KIDZ CAMP** - one week and more than thirty 6-11 year olds attended. **Middle School Boys and Girls Camp** - two weeks of fun and enrichment and a chance to ride in our brand new 15 passenger van generously given to the ministry by a private donor. The kids named the much needed van, T-Bone? Clifford (the old red troublesome van) is happy in retirement. **Peace Camp** - twenty-five students attended Peace Camp in Gainesville. (See story on page 3)

Make a Difference Join Americorps

Members receive an annual living stipend of \$10,600, health insurance and, after successful completion of the year, an education award of \$4,725, that can be used to further their education or pay off school loans. Notre Dame Americorps is a joint project of the Sisters of Notre Dame, the Office For Farmworker Ministry and Americorps. For more information call 407.886.5151 or visit www.offm.org.

Youths Attend Peace Camp in Gainesville

Along with the camp programs sponsored by OFFM and Americorps, seventeen 10-14 year olds and seven 15-18 year olds from Apopka went to Peace Camp. Peace Camp is sponsored annually by the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice. The Coalition's goal is to give kids from Florida the opportunity to come together to participate in a camp where peaceful living and environmental awareness are modeled.

Counselors Team Up With Migrant Program

During the past two years middle school girls from the migrant program have been offered day retreats, lunch talks with counselor, Mary Carroll (Ms. Mary) and afternoon Girls Group with counselors, Diane Pilatovsky and Mary Carroll.

This fall 39 girls attended a retreat to set goals for the new school year and to have an opportunity to discuss teenage concerns and issues. Read, "The Sky's The Limit!"

Did You Know ?

OFFM recently received a grant from the Able Trust Fund to set up a career/learning lab? Seminole Community College provided OFFM with five computer stations, desks and a filing cabinet?

Middle School Girls "The Sky's The Limit!"



Girls have fun getting to know each other!

On October 6, 2005, 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls from Apopka Middle School had an Empowerment Mini-Retreat at St. Francis. Five 9th grade girls heard about the retreat and asked to attend. The girls and OFFM's supporting staff had a fantastic time. There were tears, laughter, great food, singing, and tremendous connections. Facilitators helped girls to

realize the importance of finding or building a "bridge" towards their dreams and goals.

Some of the comments from the girls were, "I felt so close to everyone," "I didn't know how much people cared," and one of our favorite comments, "When can we break the Piñata?" Hope to see everyone there at the next one which we plan to do in December!

OFFM

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Our Vision

Where Needs

Are Met and

Lives Are

Changed

New Americorps Team Begins Serving Community



In September, coming from as far away as Thailand and as near as 10th Street in Apopka, twenty new Notre Dame Americorps (NDA) members started their year of service. They continue the legacy that began eleven years ago when the first two NDA members began collaborating with the Office For Farmworker Ministry. Over 150 NDA members have gifted this community with more than a quarter-million hours of service to youth and adults and in the process, were themselves gifted with the richness and generosity of this low-income and immigrant community. Today, local partnering sites include; elementary, middle and high school, after-school tutoring programs, family and work place literacy, Apopka Family Learning Center, Pennies for Power Youth Credit Union, OFFM, and the Farmworker Association.



OFFICE FOR FARMWORKER MINISTRY

Phone: 407-886-5151

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www.offm.org

Our Mission

To strengthen farmworker and low-income families through faith, advocacy, education, and economic development programs

Christmas Toy Sale at St. Francis, Dec 16

Dinner Dance and Silent Auction, Jan. 14

We're on the web!

Apopka Recognizes Grandmothers

Two wonderful staff people of the Ministry were recognized by the City of Apopka this week for both their care of their families and for their care of the people of God. Both women work for the Office For Farmworker Ministry. Ms. Rossie Thomas has been a friend of the Ministry since 1973. Mrs. Minerva Colon has worked for us for twenty-seven years.

Rossie, who is both a grandmom and a great grandmom, and Minerva, both received a special plaque and recognition from Mayor Land and the City Council. They are truly women of courage who continually bring hope in the face of dark days for the poor marginalized farmworker and immigrant communities. Thanks for all you do, but mostly for being women warriors!



Ms. Rossie Thomas



Mrs. Minerva Colon

Take Time; Be Attentive and Receptive



A wise teacher learns to be a good listener. Empathy can only come from truly hearing and understanding what the student thinks. (Nagel)

So we begin our year of after-school tutoring receiving middle and high school students at St. Paul's Center, our temporary home for our tutoring program. This year our goal is to have one tutor to two students. Ask Shelia Zahn if interested in helping. (407.886.5151)