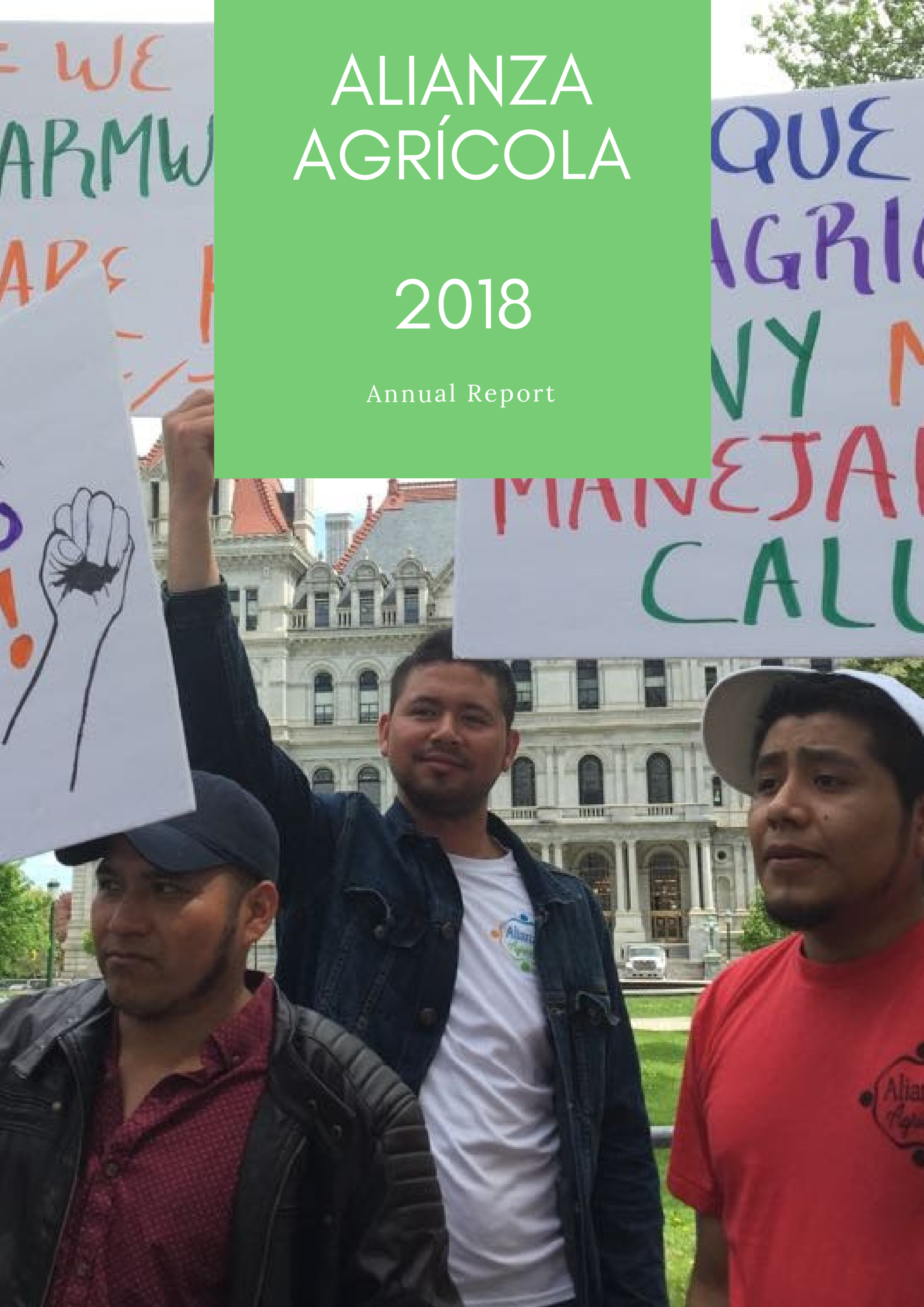


ALIANZA AGRÍCOLA

2018

Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

The Alianza Agrícola, formed in 2016, is a group led by and comprised of immigrant farmworkers in the dairy-rich regions of Western and Central New York. The group came together to create a better future here in New York for immigrant farmworker families and communities. Through participation in the group, Alianza members are empowered to advocate on their own behalf and gain valuable leadership skills and access to opportunities. Participants engage in efforts to educate the community about immigrant farmworkers and their aspirations. The Alianza Agrícola is supported by many groups of allies as well as individuals who work alongside us to fight for immigrants' rights. The group is currently focused on an effort to win driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants in New York as part of the statewide Green Light NY: Driving Together campaign.

"My name is Ismael Castellanos, I was born in Mexico and am 26 years old. I arrived to the U.S. to work for a better life for my mother and siblings. I have worked on a dairy farm for the past 5 1/2 years. I am a founding member of the Alianza Agrícola, a group of farmworkers fighting for workers' rights and with the Green Light campaign to obtain expanded access to driver's licenses for all New Yorkers."

- Ismael Castellanos, Alianza Gabinete Member



CURRENT CAMPAIGN: GREEN LIGHT NY: DRIVING TOGETHER!

To ensure equal access to driver's licenses for all residents of New York State, regardless of immigration status. Our coalition brings together immigrant communities, advocates, allies, and other stakeholders throughout the state to coordinate a unified driver's license campaign. Together we urge New York lawmakers to give a green light to driver's licenses for immigrants in our state!

In Western New York, where it is essential to capture the support of state lawmakers in order to achieve a legislative victory, Alianza Agrícola is the only base-building organization working to mobilize directly impacted communities on this campaign. We selected this issue because it is one that profoundly shapes the lives of our membership and community, who are triply isolated by a lack of public transportation infrastructure, long distances to services such as grocery stores and medical centers, and the constant threat of detention and deportation due to the unrelenting immigration enforcement activities of Border Patrol in our region. We know from the experience of countless friends in our community that the deportation pipeline is often triggered when immigrant who are unable to show a state-issued form of identification during interactions with local law enforcement officials, prompting police to contact immigration authorities. This hit home for us very recently when, on August 30th, the Vice President of our group, Carlos Cardona, was turned over to Border Patrol during a routine traffic stop when he was coming home from his daughter's third birthday celebration. Due to our rapid response efforts and the help of our allies, Carlos was released on bond, but is now facing removal proceedings in immigration court.

The Alianza holds a leadership position within the statewide campaign, with members active in the decision-making body, the 'Consejo.' They work in partnership with other directly impacted community members in all regions of the state, as well as the Green Light 'Steering Committee,' which includes key organizations such as the Worker Justice Center of New York, Workers Center of CNY, NYIC, Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, Nobody Leaves Mid-Hudson, Make the Road NY and many others!

"We want to have freedom of movement and we want to go out and about without living in fear. We have to stop the separation of families. We have to stop the fear that exists in the immigrant community right now because we are the main agricultural workforce in this state." - Luis Jimenez, Alianza Agrícola Co-President

Alianza Structure & Membership

The Alianza Agrícola has been meeting on a monthly basis for now over two years and continues to grow and recruit new members. The group is led by a Steering Committee (called the “Gabinete”) of five farmworkers, which includes two co-presidents, two co-treasurers, a secretary of finance, membership liaison and liaison to the statewide Greenlight Consejo.

There are many requirements for membership in the Alianza Agrícola. The Alianza is comprised exclusively of low-wage immigrant workers – the majority of whom currently work in the dairy industry. Current numbers of membership (Autumn 2018) stand at 34 active members and over 200 members have participated in various Alianza activities.

Members make a commitment to attend regularly programmed Alianza meetings and participate in events throughout the month in between meetings. An individual becomes a member after attending three consecutive meetings and maintains consistent participation.

Marcos Martinez, Gabinete Member

“My name is Marcos Martinez. I’ve lived in this country for 11 years. Being in the Alianza Agrícola has completely changed my life. Now because I’m involved with the Alianza and our campaign to fight for driver’s licenses, I’ve met many people from all over the area. There are many friendships between the group’s allies and Alianza members.

I’m part of the ‘gabinete,’ as well as a founding member. Whenever I can, I’m out there supporting the group. That’s why my peers chose me to be a member of the steering committee. I enjoy orienting new people to the group and sharing knowledge about the campaign.”



Alianza Structure & Membership

Blanca Jimenez, Alianza Member

"We just want a better future and to be a part of the community. Through the Alianza we are achieving this, we are being recognized. We are coming out of the shadows and losing fear."



The Alianza Agrícola meets monthly and our meetings are a place to welcome and orient new members, review the activities we participated in the month prior and prepare for activities for the month to come. Typically, we spend a portion of the meetings addressing internal issues related to the health and well-being of the Alianza, such as strengthening member recruitment and participation.

Members make all decisions pertaining to Alianza organizing projects and related activities, including the allocation of funds. Some minor decisions are delegated to the co-presidents or the five-member steering committee. Major decisions are reached by consensus or a vote among the members who are in attendance at a given meeting.

Our monthly meetings are a chance for members to report on and assess activities, determine campaign strategies, as well as coordinate their efforts and plan for the well-being of the group. We have four subcommittees dedicated to different components of the group's work: communications, research, membership, and events.

Luis Jimenez, Co-President Alianza

"My name is Luis Jimenez, a Mexican agricultural worker in New York for 15 years. I have my wife and three children and I am a member of the Alianza Agrícola. The Alianza has changed my form of fighting for our rights as workers because it has made me realize that united we are stronger. For me it has been a very big benefit, I have known a lot of people who have offered their support and it motivates me to keep going forward fighting."

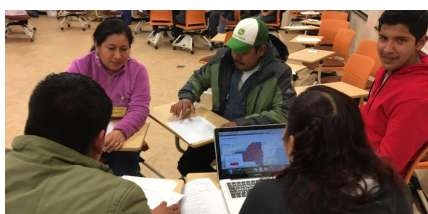


Capacity Building

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Alianza Agricola Awards

- Local White Dove Award Recipient 2018 by the Rochester Committee on Latin America at the 30th annual 'Rice and Beans' celebration.
- Award recipients at the annual ROCActs banquet in April of 2018
- Alianza were the recipients of the Ugly Duck Coffee 'Latte Art Throw Down'. Members connected with a young demographic to highlight the intersection between who produces New York States dairy and the coffee industry and 'cafe culture' who consume it.
- Alianza Agricola was honored at the 13th annual celebration of the Greater Good Project, chosen by the children and youth of the congregation at First Unitarian Church of Rochester. Funds given by the families of the church will go to the development of the Immigrant Voices media project.



2018 Activity Highlights

Alianza Agrícola and Familias Unidas por la Justicia Speaking Tour (March) **El Movimiento Campesino: De Norte a Sur, De Este a Oeste**

Presentations and discussions were held at SUNY Geneseo, University of Rochester and Cornell University.

The public events and meetings with local farmworkers were a part of a national movement by agricultural workers to organize on their own behalf and improve their working conditions.

Invited from the West coast was the Familias Unidas for la Justicia (FUJ), a union of independent agricultural workers and the only union led by more than 400 indigenous Mixteco and Triqui farmworkers.

Speaking at the time, Luis Jimenez, Co-President of the Alianza Agrícola stated: *"We are really looking forward to having the presence of such an important group who have been successful in organizing for farmworker rights in Washington State. The two groups have so much in common, and it will be a great opportunity for us to exchange ideas and share our work with the public."*

EL MOVIMIENTO CAMPESINO:
DE NORTE A SUR, DE ESTE A OESTE
THE FARMWORKER MOVEMENT: FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, EAST TO WEST

FAMILIAS UNIDAS POR LA JUSTICIA
WITH THE ALIANZA AGRÍCOLA
UPSTATE NY SPEAKING TOUR
TOUR DATES:
03/24- ALIANZA AGRÍCOLA TRAINING
03/25 - WORKERS' CENTER OF CNY + SUNY GENESEO
03/26 - UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
03/27 - CORNELL UNIVERSITY



RAMÓN TORRES
PRESIDENT FUJ



EDGAR FRANCO
COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

FAMILIAS UNIDAS POR LA JUSTICIA (FUJ):
THE UNION OF INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURAL
WORKERS FROM WASHINGTON STATE.
THE ONLY LABOR UNION LED BY OVER 400
INDIGENOUS MIXTECO AND TRIQUI
FARMWORKERS.

THE ALIANZA AGRÍCOLA IS A WESTERN NY
FARMWORKER-LED, GRASSROOTS
ORGANIZATION THAT IS ADVOCATING FOR
LEGISLATION TO RESTORE ACCESS TO
DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR UNDOCUMENTED
IMMIGRANT NEW YORKERS. (GREEN LIGHT
NY: DRIVING TOGETHER)



ALIANZA AGRÍCOLA

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FAMILIAS
UNIDAS
POR LA
JUSTICIA



WORKER JUSTICE
CENTER / NEW YORK
Community to Community



Alianza
Agrícola



2018 Activity Highlights

Alianza celebrates the intersections of queer identity and immigration status during the Rochester Pride Festival & Parade (July)

We know that in the United States, 3% of undocumented immigrants are LGBTQ+ and 85% of them face workplace and employment discrimination. Due to the lack of driver's licenses for undocumented New Yorkers, UndocuQueer folks are isolated from the community as are many members of the Alianza. The Alianza proclaimed that fighting for immigration justice means fighting for queer justice as well.



2018 Achievements

Rochester City Council signs a resolution in favor of Green Light NY (August)
Successful efforts by the Alianza Agricola and allies to educate and advocate for the needs of driver licenses for New York immigrants and win a major city-wide victory of support.

Alianza wins the official support of the Ontario Farm Bureau Association (November)

Alianza Agricola becomes an official member of the New York Immigration Coalition (December).

Membership within NYIC will offer the Alianza leadership development, human capital development, technical assistance, and leads to financial resources going into the new year.

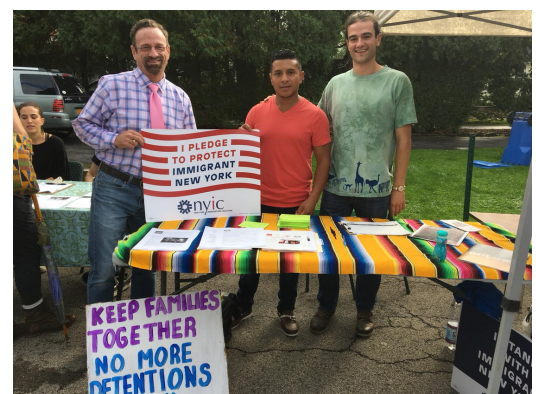


Presentations

- Educational presentations at SUNY Geneseo, University of Rochester, Cornell University, University at Buffalo, and The College at Brockport
- 'Immigration and the Impacts on Farmworkers Health' Presentation as part of the University of Rochester's National Latinx Heritage Month Discussions.
- Congress on Occupational Health and Safety in Baltimore, MD
- Co-sponsored event for Indigenous People's Day hosted by The Native American Cultural Center and other community partners.
- Presentations at Temple Emanu-El of Rochester and Unitarian Church of Canandaigua
- Presentation at Rural Migrant Ministry Annual Gala
- Tabling at 2nd annual South Wedge Autumn Roots Festival and Rochester Public Market

15

Community Presentations



Advocacy

- Call in Days to Cuomo for the Green Light NY Campaign and in response to the detainment of Alianza co-president after a routine traffic stop.
- Lobby Day Mobilizations in Albany
- Meetings with Rochester mayor, Farm Labor Organizing Committee President, Chobani Vice President, Brockport mayor and Chief of Police, Monroe County Sheriff
- Alianza presented at the 2018 Annual Outreach Training Conference 'Dare to Dream: Without Walls or Borders'.



"My name is Carlos Cardona: father, Guatemalan immigrant, and dairy worker for the past decade in NY. Today I went to Immigration court in Buffalo and had to face the separation from my daughter due to the fact that undocumented people do not have access to drivers licenses in the state of NY.

Today I am calling on the democrats who have control of the Senate and the Assembly and the Governor to pass the Green Light Legislation as soon as possible.

We want peace, to live with dignity and freedom and part of that is to pass drivers license legislation so that we do not have to face deportation and being separated from our families."

— Carlos Cardona
Vice President of the Alianza Agrícola

#NiUnoMas
#NotOneMore
#DriversLicensesNow



300

**'Allies' added to Alianza
listserv to call on for
support as needed.**




480

**Total participants in
Alianza events.**



40+

**Alianza presentations to
organizations, universities
and community groups.**



\$14K+

**Individual community
donations raised.**



2,000+

**Postcards signed in support
of the Green Light Campaign**



962

Social media followers

Community Partnerships

We within the Alianza Agrícola recognize that our immigration status can make organizing and public visibility risky. In order to minimize risks and maximize the power of our work to build immigrant power in New York, we engage in ongoing efforts to build support and solidarity alliances. We do this with individuals and with a range of groups who have the resources and skills to support our efforts and to act as a protective buffer for our work.

Alianza Agrícola is supported by the staff of the Worker Justice Center of New York (WJCNY) and dozens of community allies. Allies assist in several ways, including providing rides to meetings, attending and taking notes at meetings, cooking food for meetings, providing childcare during meetings, and facilitating connections with other community groups where Alianza Agrícola members can speak to the public about the driver's license campaign and immigrant rights more generally. Allies also help with English-Spanish interpretation when Alianza members speak in public forums, to community organizations, or to journalists and politicians.



Community Partnerships

Four ally groups have formed in Rochester and Geneseo, NY to work in solidarity with and support the Alianza Agricola:

The Rochester Green Light Allies Committee works to advance the driver's license campaign while working in partnership with the Alianza Agricola and following the members' leadership. Green Light allies stay abreast of the statewide campaign, meet monthly, and have a steering committee which attends to the group's strategic direction and health. The work of the group is focused on public education around the Green Light campaign and gaining support from local stakeholders.

The Secure and Just Communities Alliance works to minimize local police collaboration with federal immigration enforcement.

The Rochester Rapid Response Network addresses emergent cases of immigration enforcement and helps immigrant families prepare in case of a detention or deportation. The network is guided by the Alianza Agricola and has regular participation from members.

The Geneseo Student Coalition for Migrant Workers is a SUNY Geneseo student-run group whose mission is to support and collaborate with Alianza Agrícola based on the three pillars of cultural and community engagement, social justice and advocacy, and the MILC English-tutoring program.



Community Partnerships

2018 Highlights



Families Belong Together and Free Rally (June)

Ally organizations of the Alianza organized a massive rally alongside several organizations and co-sponsored by 20 more, in response to the separation of families and attacks on immigrants and migrants from the southern border to the northern. Speeches were read aloud on behalf of the Alianza Agricola, and made by the Student Coalition for Migrant Workers, the Rochester Rapid Response Network, directly affected community members, and Alianza allies. Over 1,000 people attended the rally, which was covered in nearly all local media outlets.

Immigration Forum: Education For Action (August)

Several of the ally groups set up to support the Alianza coordinated and hosted a forum for public education on topics of immigration on the heels of social and political turmoil at the southern border in the summer of 2018. Alianza members helped to guide the structuring of the regional forum for public education on issues that Alianza members face, experiences as immigrants in WNY and locally based efforts for solidarity. About 100 community members attended and participated in eight workshops, including 'Theory, History, and Politics of Immigration' and 'Get into Action! How to Support Immigrant Communities Under Attack'.



EVENT DETAILS:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22
6 PM - 9 PM
FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER
150 SOUTH CLINTON AVENUE

REGISTER:
[BIT.LY/IMMFORUM](https://bit.ly/immforum)
OR RSVP TO
ROCRAPIDRESPONSE@GMAIL.COM
SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$5.00
FB EVENT:
[BIT.LY/IMMFORUMFBEVENT](https://bit.ly/immforumfbevent)

IMMIGRATION FORUM: EDUCATION FOR ACTION

Join us for an evening of Immigration Education for Action!
Learn about the issue's history, how immigration's national context affects our local communities; hear WNY (im)migrants' experiences, and how you can work in solidarity with them by joining high-impact, locally-based efforts.

CO-SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:
ROCHESTER RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK
ALIANZA & ALLIES OF THE ALIANZA AGRICOLA
ROCHESTER GREENLIGHT ALLIES
WORKER JUSTICE CENTER OF NY
NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION

**BUILDING IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
FOOD & CHILD CARE PROVIDED
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
INTERPRETACIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE**