



February 21, 2019

Greetings Presbytery of the Genesee Valley,

On behalf of the members of the Alianza Agricola, we would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley for the grant you provided us in 2018 to carry out our organizing work. Below is a summary of our answers for the report you requested and attached is our 2018 Annual Report. Please let us know if you have further questions, and again, thank you for your generous contribution to our cause.

**What were you hoping to accomplish?**

The Alianza Agricola (Agricultural Alliance) is a group led by and comprised of immigrant farmworkers in Western and Central New York. The group came together in 2016 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 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 Driving Together campaign. The Alianza Agricola is supported by many groups of allies as well as individuals who work alongside us to fight for immigrants' rights.

In 2018 we hoped to grow our membership base, engage in leadership trainings, capacity building and further develop the organization. We also hoped to gain momentum for the proposed driver's license bill and use the campaign organizing opportunities to increase civic participation, voice and power within the immigrant community of Western NY. Finally, we hoped to gain increased support from individual allies and organizations and institutions who can support our cause. We accomplished all of this.

**Who was touched by your project or program?**

Immigrant farmworkers who became members and joined the Alianza and those who have been members from the beginning have been greatly impacted by the work we are doing to build power among directly impacted groups. Because we have become so visible and recognized for our leadership, there are increased opportunities to speak and be present in public about our cause.

**How did this grant energize or transform your congregation or community?**

The grant provided us with the necessary general operating funds to reimburse volunteer drivers for their miles, provide healthy and hot food at monthly meetings, pay for childcare and hire interpreters for meetings and events to open up access for all to participate in the meetings, and to give an honorarium to those who take time off work to travel and present on behalf of the Alianza. The result was that half a dozen universities in our region were able to learn about the

Alianza and begin to engage as partners. Congregations of all faiths signed on as allies to our cause and plugged into action to get the bill passed. And our ally groups grew as a result of the legitimate immigrant farmworker organized leadership group that gives guidance and validity to the cause.

**What did you learn from this project and what are your next steps?**

We learned that there's still so much to learn, and we will need to continue to find ways to invest in our political discourse, our leadership skills, intersectionality, power and privilege, sustaining the organizing and organization. Our next steps are to strengthen new university partnerships, engage in strategic planning to re-structure the ways allies engage in our work, to increase even more the base of members and work to transition new leaders into power. Of course, we will put a lot of energy into passing the Green Light legislation in the first half of 2019, and depending on what happens, we will assess what our next campaigns and causes will be.