



## Background

There are approximately 1500 migrant workers that sustain Vermont's iconic dairy farms and turn profits for Ben & Jerry's, Cabot Cheese and other famous Vermont brands.

Workers typically work 60-80 hours per week and endure

extreme isolation, often without a clear sense of where they are. Workers are subjected to racial profiling, highly restrictive living and labor environments, and are overly dependent on employers to meet their fundamental needs including access to health care, food, and housing. The great majority of workers lack basic freedoms like freedom of movement, ability to gather as a community, go to the hospital, or go to the market. Due to this isolation and marginalization workers struggle to access essential resources and some experience human and worker rights abuses. Additionally, many workers migrate here because their own agricultural communities have been decimated by corporate-driven agriculture, enabled by policies such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Ironically, upon arriving to Vermont, many migrant workers find themselves working side by side with dairy farmers who are on the verge of extinction due to unfair prices of milk. Meanwhile corporate CEOs such as Greg Engels from Dean Foods, which monopolizes 80% of the Northeast Dairy Market, earn record-breaking salaries driving income inequality to unprecedented levels across the country. *Migrant Justice launched the Campaign for Human Rights and Food Justice to engage the whole range of these interconnected problems by building a movement for lasting systemic change.*

# *Migrant Justice*

www.migrantjustice.net; info@migrantjustice.net; 802-658-6770

*"Migrant Justice has changed my life since I joined. I am proud of all our achievements and feel joy in being part of this struggle to change the world we live in."*

-Over Lopez, Migrant Justice Member

## **Campaign for Human Rights and Food Justice**

**Migrant Justice builds the voice, capacity and power of the migrant farmworker community and builds community partnerships to organize for human rights and food justice.** We believe lasting systemic change requires changing not just how our food and economic systems work, but also changing who is at the table leading. Through Migrant Justice, migrant farmworkers have organized and mobilized the farmworker community to: create one of the best Bias-Free Policing Policies in the country; partner with the VT Worker's Center to ensure undocumented workers access Vermont's universal health care; and move VT towards equal access to driver's licenses regardless of immigration status.

In 2012, after a year of farmworker meetings and surveys reaching over 150 workers, Migrant Justice launched the **Campaign for Human Rights and Food Justice**, a multi-issue campaign to defend a farmworker community-defined agenda for human rights and food justice. **We believe there is no Food Justice without Human Rights!**

**Join the campaign to defend EVERYONE'S human right to:**

- 1) Freedom of movement and access to transportation;**
- 2) Dignified and safe work, quality health care and adequate housing;**
- 3) Equal treatment and recognition before the law;**
- 4) Freedom from discrimination and arbitrary detentions;**

We have been prioritizing the '**Driving Towards Human Rights**' initiative in 2012 packing the state house with farmworkers and farmers who testified side-by-side rallying broad support **for equal access to driver's licenses for undocumented VT residents.** Access to food, healthcare, and dignified work all depend on mobility and this means we need access to a driver's license in our rural state. In order to win access to driver's license in 2013 we will need to keep the momentum rolling!

**We need your solidarity!**

**Join the Movement for Human Rights and Food Justice!**

***Check out the 10 things you can do to support the campaign on the other side!***

# 10 Things you can do to support the Human Rights and Food Justice Campaign

"Those of us who work in the food system, as farmers, farm worker, food service, or in supermarkets...need to unite for good jobs, dignity, and justice from farm to plate."

*-Bernardino Hernandez, Migrant Justice May Day Speech, 2012*

To follow up on all of the below go to [www.migrantjustice.net](http://www.migrantjustice.net), call 802-658-6770; or email [info@migrantjustice.net](mailto:info@migrantjustice.net)

**1. Donate to Migrant Justice.** Migrant Justice has quickly become one of the state's most effective and dynamic organizations and we do it all on a **shoestring!** Nobody puts resources to use more efficiently than Migrant Justice! Join us as a monthly sustainer, organize a fundraiser, or let us know what you can do to sustain our work!

**2. Sign & Share the Petition in Support of Driver's Licenses for Undocumented VT Residents.** Sign and circulate our on-line petition. Volunteer to build our base by gathering signatures in your community or organization!

**3. Join our Solidarity Transportation Network & Sponsor a Human Rights Promoter.** Drive a farmworker to our events! Organize your family, friends, or organization to create your own solidarity transportation phone tree. Drive a **Farmworker Human Rights Promoter** to conduct outreach in your area!



**4. Invite Migrant Justice to speak at your organization, church, or school.** We are on the road raising awareness about our work to win the Driving Towards Human Rights initiative. We'll work with you to build the event and follow-up actions!

**5. Write a letter to the editor! Join our Media Watch team!** Since Migrant Justice got off the ground our media work has been key to our success. Follow us in the news. Write letters to the editor in support of our campaigns. Challenge hate and ignorance! Send us copies of your letters!

**6. Organize your faith community by signing on to the Inter-faith Solidarity Statement.** Our faith community partners are building solidarity and support for immigrant rights as human rights! Organize your faith community to sign on and show your support!

**7. Join our Migrant Justice legislative ally team this session.** We will be holding trainings before and throughout the legislative session to build the campaign. Join us!

**8. Work to End Racism: Organize for Bias-Free-Policing and Take the "I" word pledge!** Migrant Justice led a groundbreaking campaign directing State Police Troopers to not use resources for immigration enforcement! Our work is not done. Help organize and pass a Bias-Free-Policing policy in your community or county! AND...PLEASE learn more about and take the "I" word pledge!

**9. Volunteer in our office or from your home!** We always need support for phone calls to members, educational projects, petition drives, data entry, translation, video editing, web support, or hotline shifts!

**10. Join the Human Rights Movement on January 8, 2012 IN THE STATE HOUSE FOR THE 2013 PUT PEOPLE FIRST CAMPAIGN KICK OFF!**

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