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STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program

"It would be impossible not to learn and grow from a summer experience like this. My mind was opened up to so many new ideas and situations and I can feel the differences in me and how I relate to other people. For the summer, I escaped the reality of a college student and entered into an entirely different reality I had never before known about--that of the farmworker community--where I witnessed the incredible dignity and beauty that comprise the human spirit."

Jennifer Winston, Duke University, 1992 intern

Do something different this summer--something unusual, challenging, meaningful, and fun: work with and learn from migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families in North and South Carolina through a ten-week experiential learning internship and leadership development program.

This summer, you and other college students from a variety of backgrounds will have an opportunity to work with farmworkers and promote greater respect and justice for the hard-working people who supply food for our tables. You will provide much needed skills, energy and time to organizations serving farmworkers and will receive a life-changing educational experience in return.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY FARMWORKERS?

Each year, nearly 400,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents labor in the fields of North and South Carolina. The needs of this predominantly Latino and African American population, so often hidden from view, are tremendous. Some of the facts:

- Farmworkers are exempted from most workplace safety laws, although agriculture is the most hazardous profession nationally.
- Farmworkers suffer from a higher incidence of malnutrition and infectious disease than any other subpopulation in the country.
- The average income for a family of farmworkers is less than half the poverty line.
- Many farmworkers are new immigrants with limited or no English ability who are unable to access available resources.
- Discrimination, job insecurity, inadequate housing, and a lack of transportation are prevalent.

The above factors have largely prevented farmworkers in North and South Carolina from organizing to advocate on their own behalf. Meanwhile, the organizations--federal, state, local and private non-profit--which provide services to farmworkers have been hard hit by budget cutbacks and are desperate for help. Farmworkers and their advocates can benefit greatly from an increase in student awareness and involvement.

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I feel that I have learned so much through all this and it is only the beginning.

- Catherine Stickler, student intern

The internship experience revealed to me a world I never knew about that was right around the corner from me. I learned more than I ever did in any job or any class.

- Melinda Bogardus, student intern

I think it's a great program. It hasn't just been free labor; it's been a very active exchange of ideas and backgrounds.

- Christine Alvarado, Director, Migrant Head Start Center



photo by Mark C. Wasmer

SAF

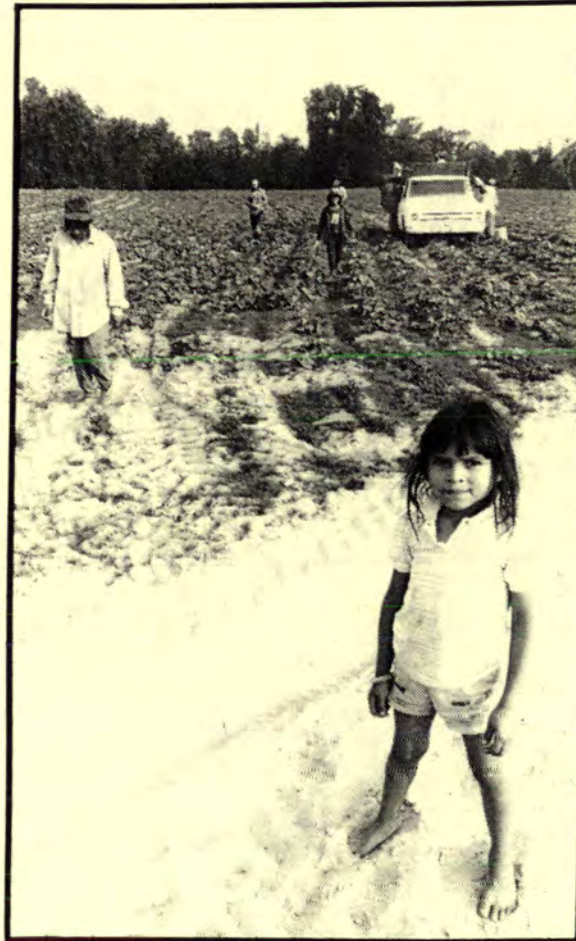


photo by Jeff Whetstone

STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

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MISSION

To improve the status of farmworkers in our society by educating and involving college students in farmworker service, advocacy and community groups.



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I have never had such an enlightening and incredible summer. The opportunity to witness and learn from the migrant farmworker culture changed and shaped my values and attitudes.

- Eric Jones,
student intern

This program provides students with hands-on experience with people who really make a difference: farmworkers. Everyone can benefit from it.

- Sharon Brown,
farmworker

□ WHAT IS □ SAF?

Student Action with Farmworkers is building a network of campus-based projects focusing on farmworker issues, through summer internships and year-round opportunities for direct service, community education, advocacy and organizing work.

Student Action with Farmworkers serves: students, who need opportunities to develop quality service-learning projects; farmworkers, one of the hardest working yet most marginalized populations in our society; and agencies and community groups serving farmworkers, who need greater human resources to carry out their work.

Student Action with Farmworkers developed out of a summer service-learning internship program at Duke and the University of North Carolina in which students work with farmworkers and their families through health, legal, educational, and other programs. The internship program seeks to provide support for farmworkers while promoting thoughtful action for social change through experiential education.

Student Action with Farmworkers works to expand student involvement with farmworkers through the development of similar campus-based programs. In 1993, the focus of outreach will be in North and South Carolina.

□ GOALS □

- To *provide* farmworkers with greater access to services and programs through the support of farmworker service agencies and community groups
- To *increase* interaction, communication and understanding among persons of different cultures
- To *encourage* student commitment to public service and social action
- To *help* students build internships and other volunteer projects that will be mutually beneficial for students and farmworkers
- To *serve* as a clearinghouse of information for student groups on farmworker issues, agencies and resources
- To *link* student groups working with farmworkers in order to share their experiences and ideas

For more information:
Carolyn Corrie
Student Action with Farmworkers
331 W. Main St., Suite 511
Durham, NC 27701
919-687-0486

□ PROGRAMS AND SERVICES □

■ *SAF Summer Internship Program*
Twenty students will be selected to participate in a ten-week internship and leadership training program. Students will work with farmworkers in North and South Carolina on a variety of projects, primarily in the areas of health, law and education, and will develop skills for initiating programs at their own campuses.

■ *Networking* existing campus community service programs which work with farmworkers in order to share information and ideas.



photo by Mark C. Wasmer

■ *Intern Referral Service* matches interested students with individual summer or semester-long internship opportunities at farmworker organizations.

■ *Technical assistance and resource materials* are available to schools interested in developing new projects involving students with farmworkers.

□ CLIP AND SEND □

YES!

- I want to be involved!
- Please send me more information and an application form for the SAF Summer Internship Program 1993.
- Please send me a list of SAF's available resource materials.
- Please contact me about setting up a Student Action with Farmworkers program on my campus.
- Please send me information on how my organization can sponsor an intern.
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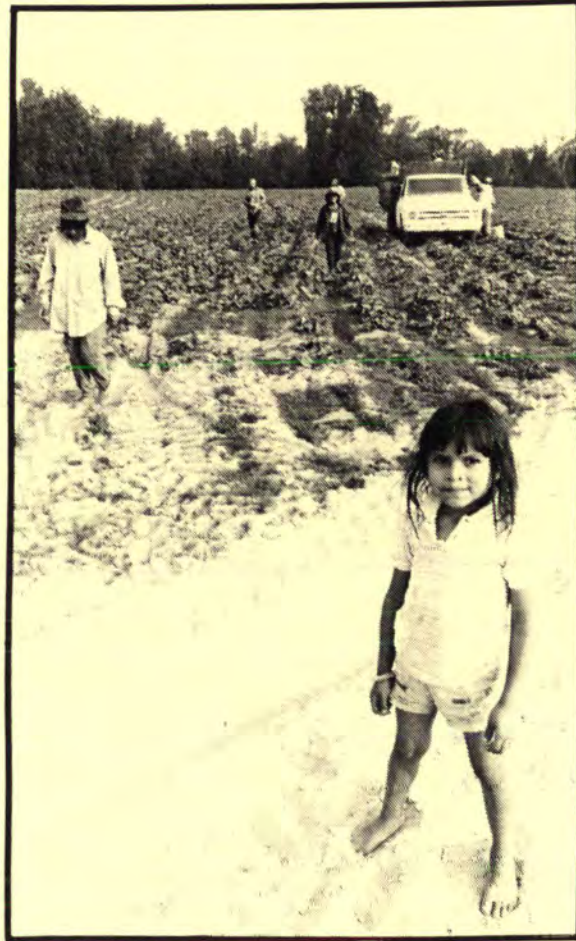


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SAF

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STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

Dear Mr. Segal,

I faxed this material to Gina Sanone in your office last week, but wanted to send some additional materials on to you. I think our innovative summer service-learning internship program can be a

331 West Main St., Suite 511, Durham, NC 27701 Phone: 919-687-0486 Fax: 687-0528

real model for national service plans.

Hope it's helpful! If you have folks contacting you who want to do service work this summer, please feel free to refer them to me!

Thanks,
Carolyn Corne



STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

March 5, 1993

Mr. Eli J. Segal
Director
White House Office of National Service
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Rm 145 OEOP
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal,

I can hardly contain my excitement as I write this letter in response to President Clinton's speech on Monday at Rutgers University. It seems unreal, almost unbelievable, that the federal government is actually going to be a driving force in the national service movement. After working at the grassroots level for the past five years to bring college students out into the community and strengthen their commitments to working for social change, it is a welcome relief to finally have support from Washington.

I have witnessed many times the powerful effects of service-learning programs. These programs open the eyes and hearts of college students and connect them to those living in poverty in ways which have long-term impacts on both groups of people. These programs are critical to our country--not only in meeting serious immediate human needs, but in building better relationships among Americans from all walks of life.

I am a recent graduate of Duke University, where I worked for several summers in service-learning internship programs. After spending a summer in eastern North Carolina with migrant and seasonal farmworker families, I became committed to trying to improve conditions for this hardworking yet terribly impoverished and disenfranchised community. Surely we could inspire the energies of young people, already involved with so many other issues (the environment, hunger, homelessness, literacy), to join the fight for social justice for farmworkers. There are so many fronts where work needs to be done, so many opportunities for young people with varied skills, interests and backgrounds to make a real contribution. For example, legal services programs need bilingual volunteers to translate and educate workers on their legal rights. Health clinics need volunteers to provide transportation to patients living in rural areas. Migrant education programs need tutors and special subject teachers. Individual farmworkers need literacy and English as a Second Language tutors. Migrant children need role models to encourage them to stay in school.

A group of students, community agency staff and farmworkers joined together last summer to create Students Action with Farmworkers (SAF), a non-profit



organization dedicated to educating and involving college students in farmworker service, advocacy and community organizing groups. Our first target for outreach will be schools and farmworker communities in North and South Carolina, although eventually we seek to become a national organization.

Last summer, 11 students from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill worked for ten weeks at various agencies serving farmworker families. This summer, students from all over the country have been invited to apply to our program to work in North and South Carolina. So far, nearly 25 have accepted, from 10 different schools. Many others have called for information about the program.

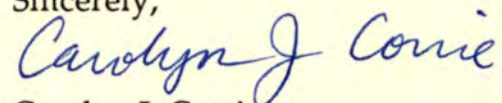
Our main limitation is our lack of funding and our inability to provide even a living expense stipend for students. Students work to raise their own funding from their campus and home communities, and many are successful in covering their expenses. Others are not, and are unable to participate. Our ability to attract a truly diverse group of participants, including those who come from a farmworker background themselves, will remain limited until we are able to provide living expense stipends and special assistance to students on financial aid.

I understand that the President seeks to place 1,000 students in service opportunities this summer. Student Action with Farmworkers has placements available for at least 50 students. We are planning an initial week-long orientation and training session, an evaluation retreat at half-way point and a final retreat to continue evaluation and training so students can return to their campuses and involve even more young people in community service work with farmworkers. I feel confident that we could recruit students for these placements if we were to have adequate funding. It seems a perfect opportunity for SAF and the Office on National Service to work together towards our mutual goal of providing students with service opportunities this summer.

I have enclosed a brief overview of SAF and our Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program. I would appreciate any further information you have developed about the national service plan and particularly plans for this summer. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions for SAF's work with students and farmworkers this summer. I can be reached at 919-687-0486 (w) or 919-382-8202 (h).

Thank you for your time and your dedication to involving America's youth in service work which improves community life for all of us.

Sincerely,



Carolyn J. Corrie

on behalf of Student Action with Farmworkers

Proposal abstract

<u>Student Action with Farmworkers</u>	<u>Durham</u>	<u>NC</u>
Name of applicant organization	City	State
<u>Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program</u>		
Title of program		

In the space below, briefly summarize the proposal including a description of the need for the program, how the program seeks to meet that need, the funds required, and other essential information.

Farmworkers, their support agencies, and college students all have needs. In North and South Carolina, nearly 60,000 migrant and 350,000 seasonal farmworkers and their dependents, who are primarily Latino and African American, face discrimination, language barriers, a lack of transportation and child care, health problems, low wages, and poor living and working conditions. Organizations which serve farmworkers have suffered from budget cuts and need extra help to increase their effectiveness, particularly during peak seasons, but do not have adequate means to contact and train interested students. Students need opportunities for experiential learning which contributes to the community, exposes them to people of different backgrounds and lifestyles, and increases their commitment to life-long social action. However, many students are financially unable to participate in summer internships because they must contribute to the increasingly higher costs of their education.

Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) seeks to meet these diverse needs through the ten-week Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program. We will raise awareness on university campuses about farmworker issues through mailings, presentations at conferences and campus visits. We will recruit thirty students from schools in North and South Carolina to work with farmworkers through health, legal and educational programs or on special projects. Students will first participate in a week-long training and orientation session and then spend the remainder of the summer at work sites in rural communities. Students will develop leadership skills through group meetings and retreats and return to their campuses ready to initiate local programs, thus reaching more students, community members, and farmworkers through awareness events and service activities. SAF will continue to offer support to these students and create a network among such programs through a newsletter and other resources. Student Action with Farmworkers is an educational program which benefits all involved: students, farmworkers and their families, the organizations which serve farmworkers, university communities, and society at large. Past participants in the program from Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill agree it was one of the most important experiences of their college careers.

Total program costs are \$64,045 to allow 30 students to participate, which includes special stipend support for financially needy students. The average cost per intern is \$2,135. SAF respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Cannon Foundation which will allow seven students to participate in this unique educational program.

"It would be impossible not to learn and grow from a summer experience like this. My mind was opened to so many new ideas and situations and I can feel the differences in me and how I relate to other people. For the summer, I escaped the reality of a college student and entered into an entirely different reality I had never before known about--that of the farmworker community--where I witnessed the incredible dignity and beauty that comprise the human spirit"

Jennifer Winston, Duke University, 1992 intern

Jennifer was able to have this life-changing experience through a unique summer internship program which utilizes student resources and skills to meet pressing human needs while at the same time sharpening students' leadership skills and strengthening their commitments to working for long-term social change. Student Action with Farmworkers invites the Cannon Foundation to become a partner in a new program to make this type of experience available to many more students and farmworkers across North Carolina and the nation.

Overview

Student Action with Farmworkers is a nonprofit organization created to improve the status of farmworkers in our society by educating and involving college students in farmworker service agencies and community groups. SAF seeks to build a national network of campus-based projects focusing on farmworker issues. These projects will include both summer internships and year-round opportunities for volunteerism and community education. SAF strives to link two broad national movements: the growing numbers of young people interested in performing public service, and the various individuals and organizations seeking to improve conditions for America's farmworkers. SAF will collaborate with many groups within these networks in order to achieve this goal. While SAF will link and support existing student volunteer programs from across the nation, the focus of outreach during the first year will be on schools in North and South Carolina.

Student Action with Farmworkers respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Cannon Foundation, which will support the 1993 Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program and will allow seven college students to participate in this innovative summer internship program which addresses the needs of North and South Carolina's migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

About SAF

Student Action with Farmworkers developed out of a service-learning internship project sponsored by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University during the past three summers. The project grew out of the interests of Dr. Robert Coles, a psychiatrist, writer, professor, and long-time migrant advocate, in combining college student service, migrant education, and documentary work. His ideas developed into a plan for a summer internship project in which students from Duke would be both classroom helpers and observers, documenting the existing conditions and needs in the lives of migrant children. In the fall of 1989 the Migrant Children's Education and Documentation Project was created with funding from the U.S.

Department of Education, and fourteen students were recruited to participate. The two main goals of the internship project were: first, to try to understand the lives of the migrant children and families who would be affected by government policy decisions, and second, to explore the possibility of using college student volunteers to improve migrant education.

When they arrived in eastern North Carolina, the public school program had been shortened due to funding cuts, and the students searched for other ways to become involved with farmworkers. They worked at a health clinic, legal services program, through churches and individual tutoring projects. As they went to migrant camps and accompanied families to social service agencies, they realized that there were many more factors than just the classroom that affected the education of migrant children. The issues were all intertwined. A parent's immigration status could determine if a child attended school. Health problems could interfere with learning. Low wages, unsteady work and lack of child care created an economic imperative for children to work in the fields. It was clear that students could not only be an important addition to a Head Start or public school program, but could assist migrant families in many other ways. Through their documentary work--a book of photographs, essays and poems, a photo and art exhibit, an oral history, and two videos--the interns' experiences were brought to people in the broader community, many of whom were unaware of the situations of farmworker families.

Students who have participated in the migrant internship program at Duke agree that the experience was one of the most important in their college career, one they carry with them as leave college and enter the working world. A group of participants from the original Duke internship project, along with partners from a new collaborative effort with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina Central University, have now come together to create Student Action with Farmworkers with the hope of bringing this successful program to other campuses and farmworker communities.

The Needs

Each year, nearly 400,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents labor in the fields of North and South Carolina. The needs of this predominantly Latino and African American population, so often hidden from view, are tremendous. Although agriculture is the most dangerous profession nationally, farmworkers are exempted from many workplace safety laws. They suffer from a higher incidence of malnutrition and infectious disease than any other subpopulation in the country. Migrant children are frequently forced to drop out of school to help support their families. The average income for a family of farmworkers is less than half the poverty line. Many farmworkers are new immigrants with limited or no English ability who are unable to access available resources. Most live in isolated rural areas without transportation. Discrimination, job insecurity, and inadequate housing add to the difficulties.

A preliminary survey, conducted in the fall of 1991, of organizations which work with farmworkers in North Carolina, Florida and nationally, indicated tremendous

interest in involving more college students in their work. These organizations have suffered from budget cuts and need extra help to increase their effectiveness, but lack the means to contact and train interested students. Farmworkers and their advocates could benefit greatly from an increase in student involvement.

All too often, a college student's education remains removed from the real world and in particular lacks discussion and action on issues related to poverty and injustice. Although there are increasing numbers of student volunteers, few work with migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and experiential summer internships which include group-building and leadership training remain uncommon. Students need opportunities for service work which contributes to the community, exposes them to people of different cultures and lifestyles, and increases their commitment to life-long social action. Unfortunately, many students are unable to participate in community service summer internships at all because they must contribute to the increasingly higher costs of their education. Most students on financial aid could not even consider such a program without some type of scholarship assistance or living expense stipend. SAF hopes to provide such support in order to increase our ability to recruit a diverse group of student interns.

The Response: The SAF Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program

In 1993, SAF will respond to the needs of these various constituencies--students, farmworkers, and farmworker agencies--through two main programs. SAF's board and staff will provide assistance for a collaborative class and internship program for students from Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill and NC Central University. In addition, we will plan and implement the SAF Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program, a service-learning internship experience for up to thirty students from schools across the country, although we will recruit most heavily from North and South Carolina.

Program specifics

Student Action with Farmworkers will raise awareness on other university campuses about farmworker issues and recruit a diverse group of interns through presentations at conferences and campus visits and mailings. SAF will assist students in personal fundraising efforts for a stipend to cover their basic living expenses for the summer. Students on financial aid who would otherwise be unable to participate will be eligible for direct financial assistance in the form of a \$1500 stipend.

Students will first participate in a week-long training and orientation session and then spend the remainder of the summer in small groups at work sites in rural communities in both North and South Carolina. Students will work in education, health, legal services, or other programs to expand their capacities to reach migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families. In addition, new projects will be developed according to the needs of the farmworker population in each area after we consult with community organizations and farmworkers. For example, we plan to create a College Connections project to reach out to farmworker youth and encourage them to finish high school and continue on to higher education by

providing information about application processes and financial aid. Students will document their experiences and will meet regularly for reflection and discussion.

Throughout the summer, students will develop leadership skills and return to their campuses ready to initiate local volunteer programs, thus reaching more students, community members, and farmworkers. SAF will continue to offer support to the campus-based programs and create a network among such programs through a newsletter and other resources.

Program Goals

- to provide farmworkers and their families with greater access to existing services and programs through students' work at various agencies and organizations
- to utilize student resources to develop new projects, such as English as a Second Language classes and college recruitment activities, which will respond directly to the interests of the farmworker population
- to help create a supportive environment for the efforts of farmworkers themselves to improve their status in our society
- to link college students and farmworkers in order to develop better communication, understanding and support among people of different cultures and backgrounds
- to share and develop the skills and knowledge necessary for campus and community organizing
- to increase student commitment to public service work
- to lay the foundation for a strong network of college student groups working with farmworkers for greater social justice.

Program Outcomes

SAF's Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program is different from most internships because the focus is on both providing service to members of a community while at the same time providing structured opportunities for a group of students to learn and grow from the experience. Above all, SAF is an educational program in which "education" takes many forms.

Students, farmworkers, the organizations that serve farmworkers, the university, and the society at large will all benefit from Student Action with Farmworkers. In this mutually beneficial relationship, college students can assist farmworkers by helping with transportation, serving as translators, teaching English, doing outreach work with a health screening team, and providing extra teachers in a migrant Head Start center or public school program. Farmworkers, in return, have much to teach college students about a different way of life and the importance of work for social justice. Students' experiences will be enhanced and their cultural understanding increased when they meet farmworkers who come from other countries and cultures, such as Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The overburdened and financially-strained organizations that work with farmworkers, such as Migrant Head Start, health clinics, schools, and community-based groups, can benefit from the energy and talents of student interns. In return, the staff of such organizations can help students learn and encourage more young people to enter careers in public service. The university benefits when students return to campus and share what

they have learned, encouraging others to join in community service. The society benefits when migrant children receive a better education, when health care is available to more farmworkers, when the rights of minority populations are better protected, when people of different backgrounds and cultures interact and develop greater respect for one another, and when students and farmworkers both move on to socially responsible leadership roles.

Evaluation

The program will be evaluated by the student participants, the organizations which sponsor interns, and the farmworkers involved in special projects. Each will complete an evaluation form at the middle and end of the summer. The evaluation will determine if and how: students are expanding organizations' capacities to serve farmworkers, students are providing a means for new and innovative programs, students are becoming more sensitive to this population and more committed to working for social change. Some of the questions students will come to grapple with are: What are the underlying causes for the continued problems facing farmworkers? What changes can be made? What is my connection to someone so seemingly different from myself? How can we break down the barriers of race, religion, culture, class and gender that are so persistent? What role can I play in making changes that will improve our society?

Fund Development

We will work to develop a strong financial base with support from various public and private funders. SAF has been awarded a \$10,000 challenge grant from the Kathleen Price and Joseph M. Bryan Family Foundation, to be matched one-for-one. We are pursuing other foundation, corporation, church, individual and federal monies.

Staff

Carolyn Corrie, the director of Student Action with Farmworkers, was recently awarded a Young Career Prize from the Lyndhurst Foundation in recognition of her community service work. As an undergraduate at Duke University, she participated in and helped to coordinate service-learning internship programs working with the homeless, at-risk children, and migrant and seasonal farmworkers. During her senior year she wrote a history honors thesis on the problems of farmworkers in North Carolina and reform efforts over the past thirty years. After graduation, she completed the final report on the Center for Documentary Studies Migrant Children's Education and Documentation Project and wrote a resource manual on initiating student volunteer projects with farmworkers (see attached materials). Through her work she has gained the necessary experience and has made contacts within the student service network which will enable her to effectively carry out the programs of Student Action with Farmworkers.



STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

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Christine Alvarado

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Cathy Callahan, Treasurer

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SOFA-UNC (Students Organized for
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Chapel Hill, NC

*** Carolyn Corrie**

Director
Student Action with Farmworkers
Durham, NC

Pam DiStefano, Chair

Attorney
Farmworkers Legal Services
Raleigh, NC
Newton Grove, NC

Kim Lawson, Secretary

Coordinator
SOFA-UNC
Chapel Hill, NC

* Non-voting member



Harvard University
University Health Services
75 Mt. Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

December 13, 1992

To Whom it May Concern:

I recommend SAF (Student Action with Farmworkers) with all my heart and soul — an extraordinary effort of morally energetic young college people to connect with migrant farm families. I have been involved with this initiative from its beginning and have been enormously impressed by what it has come to be — a major achievement: children educated; families brought in contact with health facilities; a range of other services made available to needy, vulnerable workers and their sons and daughters. I know of no rural "service" program run by college students that can match this one for its thoughtful, dedicated, sensitive work with people as marginal as any in our country.

Sincerely,

Robert Coles, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Humanities

FAX Cover Sheet

To: Jena Sanone
White House Office for National Service
Fax #: 202-456-6420

From: Carolyn Corrie
Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF)

Memo:

I've enclosed a letter to Eli Segal regarding our innovative summer service-learning internship programs for college students to work with migrant and seasonal farmworker families. Liz Baumgarten at VA COOL gave me your name and number as a good person to contact for more info. on the national service plan.

Please call me when you get a chance to look over these materials. I can be reached at 919-687-0486. Our fax number is 919-687-0528.

Thank you!!

SAF

STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS

March 5, 1993

Mr. Eli J. Segal
Director
White House Office of National Service
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Rm 145 OEOB
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal,

I can hardly contain my excitement as I write this letter in response to President Clinton's speech on Monday at Rutgers University. It seems unreal, almost unbelievable, that the federal government is actually going to be a driving force in the national service movement. After working at the grassroots level for the past five years to bring college students out into the community and strengthen their commitments to working for social change, it is a welcome relief to finally have support from Washington.

I have witnessed many times the powerful effects of service-learning programs. These programs open the eyes and hearts of college students and connect them to those living in poverty in ways which have long-term impacts on both groups of people. These programs are critical to our country--not only in meeting serious immediate human needs, but in building better relationships among Americans from all walks of life.

I am a recent graduate of Duke University, where I worked for several summers in service-learning internship programs. After spending a summer in eastern North Carolina with migrant and seasonal farmworker families, I became committed to trying to improve conditions for this hardworking yet terribly impoverished and disenfranchised community. Surely we could inspire the energies of young people, already involved with so many other issues (the environment, hunger, homelessness, literacy), to join the fight for social justice for farmworkers. There are so many fronts where work needs to be done, so many opportunities for young people with varied skills, interests and backgrounds to make a real contribution. For example, legal services programs need bilingual volunteers to translate and educate workers on their legal rights. Health clinics need volunteers to provide transportation to patients living in rural areas. Migrant education programs need tutors and special subject teachers. Individual farmworkers need literacy and English as a Second Language tutors. Migrant children need role models to encourage them to stay in school.

A group of students, community agency staff and farmworkers joined together last summer to create Students Action with Farmworkers (SAF), a non-profit

organization dedicated to educating and involving college students in farmworker service, advocacy and community organizing groups. Our first target for outreach will be schools and farmworker communities in North and South Carolina, although eventually we seek to become a national organization.

Last summer, 11 students from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill worked for ten weeks at various agencies serving farmworker families. This summer, students from all over the country have been invited to apply to our program to work in North and South Carolina. So far, nearly 25 have accepted, from 10 different schools. Many others have called for information about the program.

Our main limitation is our lack of funding and our inability to provide even a living expense stipend for students. Students work to raise their own funding from their campus and home communities, and many are successful in covering their expenses. Others are not, and are unable to participate. Our ability to attract a truly diverse group of participants, including those who come from a farmworker background themselves, will remain limited until we are able to provide living expense stipends and special assistance to students on financial aid.

I understand that the President seeks to place 1,000 students in service opportunities this summer. Student Action with Farmworkers has placements available for at least 50 students. We are planning an initial week-long orientation and training session, an evaluation retreat at half-way point and a final retreat to continue evaluation and training so students can return to their campuses and involve even more young people in community service work with farmworkers. I feel confident that we could recruit students for these placements if we were to have adequate funding. It seems a perfect opportunity for SAF and the Office on National Service to work together towards our mutual goal of providing students with service opportunities this summer.

I have enclosed a brief overview of SAF and our Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program. I would appreciate any further information you have developed about the national service plan and particularly plans for this summer. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions for SAF's work with students and farmworkers this summer. I can be reached at 919-687-0486 (w) or 919-382-8202 (h).

Thank you for your time and your dedication to involving America's youth in service work which improves community life for all of us.

Sincerely,



Carolyn J. Corrie

on behalf of Student Action with Farmworkers

Proposal abstract

<u>Student Action with Farmworkers</u>	Durham	NC
Name of applicant organization	City	State
<u>Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program</u>		
Title of program		

In the space below, briefly summarize the proposal including a description of the need for the program, how the program seeks to meet that need, the funds required, and other essential information.

Farmworkers, their support agencies, and college students all have needs. In North and South Carolina, nearly 60,000 migrant and 350,000 seasonal farmworkers and their dependents, who are primarily Latino and African American, face discrimination, language barriers, a lack of transportation and child care, health problems, low wages, and poor living and working conditions. Organizations which serve farmworkers have suffered from budget cuts and need extra help to increase their effectiveness, particularly during peak seasons, but do not have adequate means to contact and train interested students. Students need opportunities for experiential learning which contributes to the community, exposes them to people of different backgrounds and lifestyles, and increases their commitment to life-long social action. However, many students are financially unable to participate in summer internships because they must contribute to the increasingly higher costs of their education.

Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) seeks to meet these diverse needs through the ten-week Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program. We will raise awareness on university campuses about farmworker issues through mailings, presentations at conferences and campus visits. We will recruit thirty students from schools in North and South Carolina to work with farmworkers through health, legal and educational programs or on special projects. Students will first participate in a week-long training and orientation session and then spend the remainder of the summer at work sites in rural communities. Students will develop leadership skills through group meetings and retreats and return to their campuses ready to initiate local programs, thus reaching more students, community members, and farmworkers through awareness events and service activities. SAF will continue to offer support to these students and create a network among such programs through a newsletter and other resources. Student Action with Farmworkers is an educational program which benefits all involved: students, farmworkers and their families, the organizations which serve farmworkers, university communities, and society at large. Past participants in the program from Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill agree it was one of the most important experiences of their college careers.

Total program costs are \$64,045 to allow 30 students to participate, which includes special stipend support for financially needy students. The average cost per intern is \$2,135. SAF respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Cannon Foundation which will allow seven students to participate in this unique educational program.

"It would be impossible not to learn and grow from a summer experience like this. My mind was opened to so many new ideas and situations and I can feel the differences in me and how I relate to other people. For the summer, I escaped the reality of a college student and entered into an entirely different reality I had never before known about--that of the farmworker community--where I witnessed the incredible dignity and beauty that comprise the human spirit"

Jennifer Winston, Duke University, 1992 intern

Jennifer was able to have this life-changing experience through a unique summer internship program which utilizes student resources and skills to meet pressing human needs while at the same time sharpening students' leadership skills and strengthening their commitments to working for long-term social change. Student Action with Farmworkers invites the Cannon Foundation to become a partner in a new program to make this type of experience available to many more students and farmworkers across North Carolina and the nation.

Overview

Student Action with Farmworkers is a nonprofit organization created to improve the status of farmworkers in our society by educating and involving college students in farmworker service agencies and community groups. SAF seeks to build a national network of campus-based projects focusing on farmworker issues. These projects will include both summer internships and year-round opportunities for volunteerism and community education. SAF strives to link two broad national movements: the growing numbers of young people interested in performing public service, and the various individuals and organizations seeking to improve conditions for America's farmworkers. SAF will collaborate with many groups within these networks in order to achieve this goal. While SAF will link and support existing student volunteer programs from across the nation, the focus of outreach during the first year will be on schools in North and South Carolina.

Student Action with Farmworkers respectfully requests \$15,000 from the Cannon Foundation, which will support the 1993 Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program and will allow seven college students to participate in this innovative summer internship program which addresses the needs of North and South Carolina's migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

About SAF

Student Action with Farmworkers developed out of a service-learning internship project sponsored by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University during the past three summers. The project grew out of the interests of Dr. Robert Coles, a psychiatrist, writer, professor, and long-time migrant advocate, in combining college student service, migrant education, and documentary work. His ideas developed into a plan for a summer internship project in which students from Duke would be both classroom helpers and observers, documenting the existing conditions and needs in the lives of migrant children. In the fall of 1989 the Migrant Children's Education and Documentation Project was created with funding from the U.S.

Department of Education, and fourteen students were recruited to participate. The two main goals of the internship project were: first, to try to understand the lives of the migrant children and families who would be affected by government policy decisions, and second, to explore the possibility of using college student volunteers to improve migrant education.

When they arrived in eastern North Carolina, the public school program had been shortened due to funding cuts, and the students searched for other ways to become involved with farmworkers. They worked at a health clinic, legal services program, through churches and individual tutoring projects. As they went to migrant camps and accompanied families to social service agencies, they realized that there were many more factors than just the classroom that affected the education of migrant children. The issues were all intertwined. A parent's immigration status could determine if a child attended school. Health problems could interfere with learning. Low wages, unsteady work and lack of child care created an economic imperative for children to work in the fields. It was clear that students could not only be an important addition to a Head Start or public school program, but could assist migrant families in many other ways. Through their documentary work--a book of photographs, essays and poems, a photo and art exhibit, an oral history, and two videos--the interns' experiences were brought to people in the broader community, many of whom were unaware of the situations of farmworker families.

Students who have participated in the migrant internship program at Duke agree that the experience was one of the most important in their college career, one they carry with them as leave college and enter the working world. A group of participants from the original Duke internship project, along with partners from a new collaborative effort with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina Central University, have now come together to create Student Action with Farmworkers with the hope of bringing this successful program to other campuses and farmworker communities.

The Needs

Each year, nearly 400,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their dependents labor in the fields of North and South Carolina. The needs of this predominantly Latino and African American population, so often hidden from view, are tremendous. Although agriculture is the most dangerous profession nationally, farmworkers are exempted from many workplace safety laws. They suffer from a higher incidence of malnutrition and infectious disease than any other subpopulation in the country. Migrant children are frequently forced to drop out of school to help support their families. The average income for a family of farmworkers is less than half the poverty line. Many farmworkers are new immigrants with limited or no English ability who are unable to access available resources. Most live in isolated rural areas without transportation. Discrimination, job insecurity, and inadequate housing add to the difficulties.

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- to provide farmworkers and their families with greater access to existing services and programs through students' work at various agencies and organizations
- to utilize student resources to develop new projects, such as English as a Second Language classes and college recruitment activities, which will respond directly to the interests of the farmworker population
- to help create a supportive environment for the efforts of farmworkers themselves to improve their status in our society
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- to share and develop the skills and knowledge necessary for campus and community organizing
- to increase student commitment to public service work
- to lay the foundation for a strong network of college student groups working with farmworkers for greater social justice.

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SAF's Summer Internship and Leadership Development Program is different from most internships because the focus is on both providing service to members of a community while at the same time providing structured opportunities for a group of students to learn and grow from the experience. Above all, SAF is an educational program in which "education" takes many forms.

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Evaluation

The program will be evaluated by the student participants, the organizations which sponsor interns, and the farmworkers involved in special projects. Each will complete an evaluation form at the middle and end of the summer. The evaluation will determine if and how: students are expanding organizations' capacities to serve farmworkers, students are providing a means for new and innovative programs, students are becoming more sensitive to this population and more committed to working for social change. Some of the questions students will come to grapple with are: What are the underlying causes for the continued problems facing farmworkers? What changes can be made? What is my connection to someone so seemingly different from myself? How can we break down the barriers of race, religion, culture, class and gender that are so persistent? What role can I play in making changes that will improve our society?

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SAF

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Coles', written in a cursive style.

Robert Coles, M.D.

Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Humanities