



Pledge to Support the “Year of the Farmworker Child”

Agriculture is the most dangerous industry in the United States open to children, in terms of injuries and fatalities, according to the Centers for Disease Control’s National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Boys and girls as young as 12 years old are legally allowed to labor in agriculture for an unlimited amount of hours outside of school, using dangerous farm equipment and working in an environment that continually exposes them to pesticides—conditions deemed illegal in every other industry and that can lead to serious injury or even death. Farmworker youth are also excluded from the “hazardous work” protections imposed in all other industries, allowing children as young as 16 to operate heavy machinery and perform other dangerous functions that are strictly reserved for adults in every employment field except in agriculture.

Farmworker children pay a very high price for the little amount they actually earn by working in the fields. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that farmworker children earn less than \$1,000 per year on average, while often sacrificing their physical well-being and education. It is estimated that more than half of migrant farmworker youth drop out of high school.

In an effort to draw more attention to this underserved constituency, AFOP and supporters of the “Year of the Farmworker Child” will devote 2011 to raising awareness about the hardships faced by migrant farmworker youth. Through events and activities aimed at improving federal standards concerning child labor in agriculture and promoting the importance of educational opportunities, it is our goal to engage the public in a way that will inspire changes and brighten the futures of America’s migrant and seasonal farmworker children. Supporting organizations and individuals, pictures, ideas to create events and activities as well as information on those already scheduled by AFOP staff and other supporters can be found on www.afop.org. **Sign on now to become a partner in this year-long drive in support of migrant and seasonal farmworker children.**

We support the “Year of the Farmworker Child” and its goal of improving conditions for migrant and seasonal farmworker children in America.

Specifically, we pledge to (*check either or both, as applicable*):

Stage, or actively participate in, an event or activity in support of the “Year of the Farmworker Child.” (See AFOP’s website for sign-up details.)

Make a charitable donation to AFOP in support of the “Year of the Farmworker Child” that will be used to continue AFOP’s advocacy for migrant and seasonal farmworker youth and families.

Signatory

Organization

Date

E-mail address

Phone number

Signatory must have the authority to make this pledge for the organization listed. Please fax completed form to AFOP at 202-828-6005 or email it to parks@afop.org.