



Association of Farmworker
Opportunity Programs



MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKER CHILDREN ESSAY & ART



World Day Against Child Labor





Every year, between
300,000-500,000 migrant and
seasonal farmworker children
work in the fields under extreme work
conditions in order to help support their
families, and yet they are not able to
afford the food they harvest.

World Day Against Child Labor





Through AFOP's Children in the Fields Campaign essay and art contest, we offer a safe platform to showcase their heartwarming and compelling stories and dreams on a national stage while empowering them as they find the power in their voice.



World Day Against Child Labor





Alexa Gonzalez

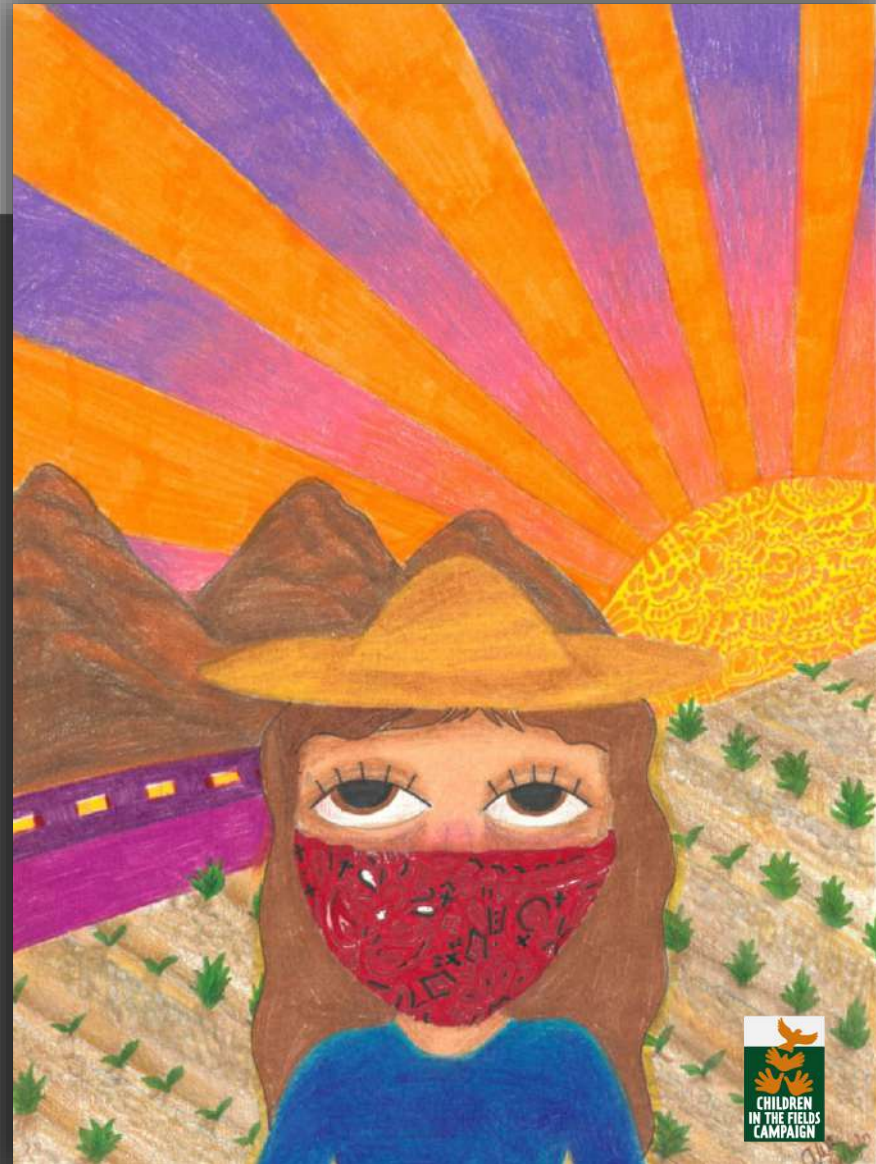
18 years old

Columbus, NM

Year 2020

Working in the field requires sacrifice and effort; include getting up early, traveling long distances, and tolerating extreme temperatures.

Working in the field motivates me to be a better person, to know other people's stories and thus be able to follow my dreams.





“The first time I went to work in the fields, I could not believe how hard people worked for the little pay they received. When we got there, I thought it was going to be easy. When we finished, I was so tired that when I got home, I passed out from exhaustion. I slept until the next day.

The following day...I was so sore that I could not even get up from my bed and then sat in the sofa, I struggled to sit up. Yet my parents do it every day, from dusk till dawn. They never complain, they just do it. Nike should have a commercial for farmworkers.”

*– Jose Santos,
13 (Second Place)*





Norman Gonzalez

16 years old

Bakersfield, CA

Year 2017



The baby, the child, and the graduate student are one and the same as they represent a student enduring the exhausting journey of growing up in the fields.

The farm workers shown at the bottom represent the invisible community of migrant farm workers that feed the entire country.





"I remember my first day working in the corn fields thinking de-tasseling was extremely easy. Then a few hours later as the day progressed, and the sun was its peak, I wanted to get out of there immediately. The only thing that kept me going was the money I was earning...."

"Being out there and seeing the impact of hard labor on my father made me realize that working in the fields is not something I want to spend the rest of my life doing."

"During my third season....I got a really bad shoulder injury while working in cherries and I almost lost my arm. I knew that if I kept working in the fields there would many more injuries and I didn't want to put my body through that. If it weren't for that injury, I would still be working in the fields today."

– *Jesus Carrillo,
17; (Second Place)*





Julieta J. Cruz Flores

15 years old

Bakersfield, CA

Year 2019

The father of the girl in this drawing is trying hard and risking his life, all as long as his daughter gets to the other side where she can have better opportunities to achieve her dreams.





Julieta J. Cruz Flores

13 years old

Bakersfield, CA

Year 2017

The hand represents the field workers doing the job under the sun. The road represents the industry that depends on agriculture. The flag and the eagle represent our country.

The buildings and houses also represent the communities that depend on the harvest to survive.





“That summer I was in apple orchards, cherry orchards and blueberry fields. I wasn’t just there that summer, I have since been there my entire life.

I’ve worked with my parents and sisters in heat over 100 degrees and I’ve learned to pack very little, very quick because when you’re moving so much you quickly learn what the essentials are.”

*– Emily Camacho,
Age 11; (First Place)*





Dalianys Rivas

15 years old

Bakersfield, CA

Year 2020

The hands which have dirt on them, represent my family, me, and other agricultural working families that work hard every day to bring food to the table.

The thorns are the challenges that my family as agricultural workers face every day. For example health risks, lack of time dedicated to the family, and fear of ICE raids.





“My parents and siblings stood beside me. **The blazing summer sun was shining down on us as I looked out across the rows and rows of cotton plants. I took a deep breath, wiped sweat off my forehead, and began my day of hoeing weeds that were taller than I was...**”

“The work in the fields was hot and dirty. My older brother, sister and I worked with my parent to remove the weeds from the rows of cotton. It was rough work, but we had to do it to help with our family budget.”

– *Rose C. Martinez,
16; (First Place)*





Laura Dionelsi Castro

15 years old

Murphysboro, IL

Year 2020



Farmworkers labor in terrible conditions, they have to work every day in the sun, rain, and snow. They have to stand or kneel all day and cannot stop.





Norelee Pruneda

16 years old

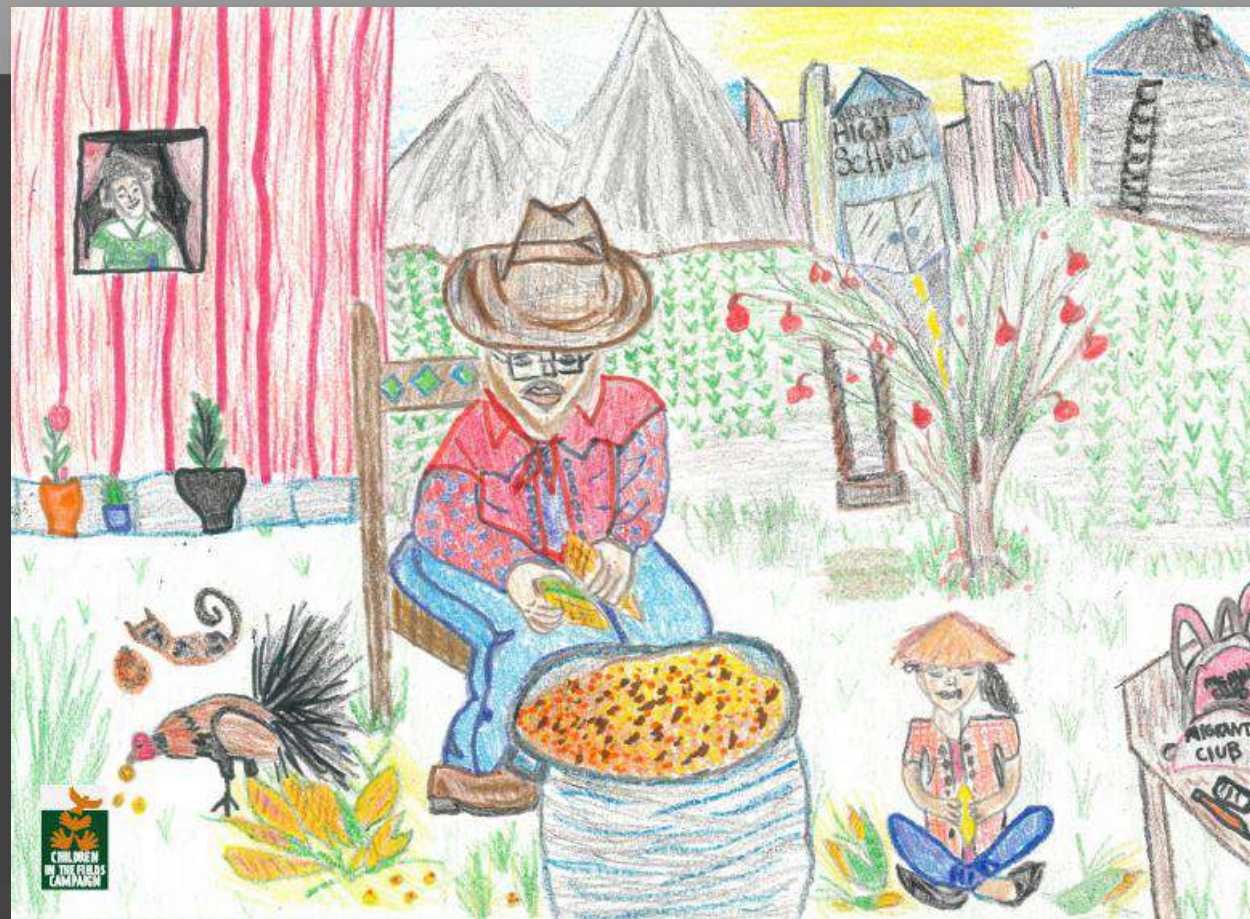
Argyle, MN

Year 2015



My poster submission depicts a father and his child shucking corn, with a field of sugar beets in the background.

The child is assisting her father before she attends school. Which is common for migrant children to help out before and after school.





My parents, and I have struggled throughout our whole lives being a farm labor worker...I wish children of farmworkers like myself didn't have to go through this. We have worked many crops from Sugar Beets, Beans, Potato, and Wheat fields. **Summer days meant waking up at the crack of dawn, working in the fields and having to withstand the mosquitoes and sun in our faces. All the pain and aches from walking, and bending was and will always be the worst days of my life....My mother always tells me, 'Get an education so you will never have to work in the fields again!'....**

"Being a child farmworker is not easy. Sometimes I feel discriminated against....I feel people judge me for what I look like and not for what I know. Migrating is something we don't choose to do but must do to survive financially."

– *Annahi Garza,
15; (Third Place)*





Julieta Cruz

16 years old

Bakersfield, CA

Year 2020



The hands represent hard work and the injuries sacrifice. They also represent my family because most we all work in the fields.

I believe "los campesinos" deserve more appreciation because they are the ones that work the most and sometimes get sick from working there or even die to support their families.



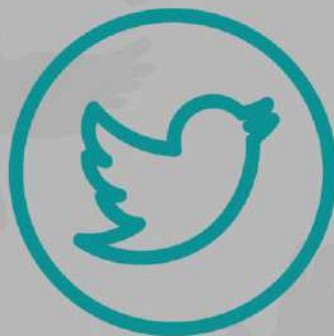
**WHAT WILL YOU
DO TO STOP
CHILD LABOR?**





TO LEARN MORE
FOLLOW US:

@CIFCAMPAIGN



VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.afop.org/cif

