



Enlace Community Link

Annual Report
2008



"In 2008, Enlace has managed to sustain operations and growth while staying in touch with the changing needs of migrants. We have our community partners to thank and our hard-working volunteers."

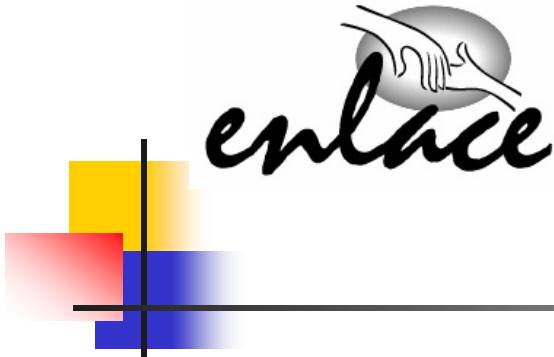
Petra Kukacka
President

Lourdes Borofsky
Treasurer/Co-founder

Myriam Morales
Secretary

ENLACE IS:

- Entirely volunteer-run, since 2001
- Entirely non-partisan and religiously unaffiliated
- Broad-reaching across 5 rural communities in southern Ontario
- A community-based organization that partners with other nonprofits, farms, municipal and regional professionals in schools, police departments, law offices and health units, domestically and abroad



ENLACE HELPS:

- workers **access** the services they are entitled to under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program
- workers **understand their rights and responsibilities** while in Canada
- Create social and recreational **spaces** for workers in partnership with communities
- Facilitate understanding, knowledge and appreciation of **Mexican culture** across Ontario



Enlace's events 2008



Bicycle Rodeo – Niagara on the Lake
- Niagara Community Police Department partner in this effort to donate bicycles to migrant workers, provide a cycle safety clinic, and provide a fun afternoon of BBQ, entertainment and a raffle. 150 workers of Mexican and Jamaican origin attended.



Father's Day Picnic – Bradford

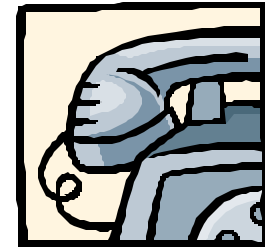
Enlace and the "EvenCool Foundation" of Newmarket organize a mini soccer tournament, as a show of appreciation for migrant farm workers. Community donors included John's No Frills and students of Pickering College. Over 140 workers attended, as well as Bradford's Mayor Doug White and his family.



More examples of Enlace's work...



Emergency Response - drawing on an entirely Spanish/ English bilingual volunteer base, Enlace offers emergency support, translation and advocacy for workers in crisis through our toll free hotline.



Enlace Inter-Regional Soccer Tournament – hosted in Niagara on the Lake, Enlace's biggest and most popular event, attracting upwards of 300 workers each year to a day in the sun playing for the trophy and an appearance in Enlace's newsletter *El Surco*. A Mexican BBQ is also served with delicious food from La Mexicana restaurant in Toronto. Donors to this year's event included the Mexican Consulate, the Lion's Club and Cien Mujeres Mexicanas. Pictured here are the 2006 winners from Bradford's Sommerville Nurseries.



Traditional Mexican Christmas Fiesta "Posada"



Facilitating understanding of Mexican traditions and heritage in Canada is an important part of Enlace's work. Our annual fundraising event, the Christmas Fiesta or *Posada*, is an opportunity to celebrate Mexican identity. As Enlace's major fundraising effort, it also serves the twin purpose of building a broader community of support for an often-forgotten and overlooked pillar of Mexican society – the migrant worker.

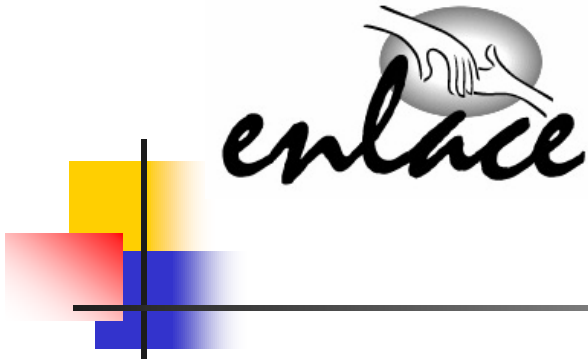




Reaching out and Speaking Up

- Throughout the summer and fall of 2008, Enlace participated in the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art's exhibit "Harvest of Memories: Days of the Dead" by helping the museum bring a ceramic arts workshop to farm workers in Milton. Enlace also participated on the panel discussion "Food for Thought: Mexican Agricultural Workers in Canada", organized by the museum.

- Enlace was invited by the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development to participate in a community engagement Meeting of Stakeholders in the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. Enlace brought concerns to senior officials of HRSDC and Citizenship and Immigration Canada about the lack of enforcement of migrant worker rights in Ontario, and a particular gap in adequate healthcare for migrant farm workers.



While many workers approach Enlace to express appreciation for Canada and the opportunity to work here, Enlace also hears from workers who experience abuse, isolation, fear, intimidation, exploitation and discrimination.





Through regular contact with workers, Enlace hears about some who:

- Fear reprisals and repatriation for taking sick days
- Are repatriated with no social security when they fall seriously or terminally ill
- Receive irregular wages
- Encounter systemic barriers when accessing benefits and services including healthcare
- Live in crowded housing conditions
- Have little recourse to arbitration when a labour dispute arises
- Are denied the right to move freely on and off farms
- Experience gendered, racist and classist discrimination



Enlace envisions a future in which:

- Communities express gratitude for the work that migrant farm workers do to keep local farms - and the cities that thrive on them - operational.
- The government of Canada recognizes that the Seasonal Agricultural Worker's Program, in its current form, is flawed when it comes to protecting workers.





Looking forward to 2009:

- Continued support for and partnership with farmers who safeguard the well-being of their employees
- Launch of a migrant sexual and reproductive health project in the Niagara region
- Campaign for the appreciation of food production
- Participation in the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers' migrant worker clinics
- Membership in the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Canadians, the Right to Healthcare Coalition and Women College Hospital's Coalition on Uninsured Workers
- Public education and awareness-building around guest workers
- Continued growth and expansion of Enlace's programs



Contact Us!

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