

MANO EN MANO
2017

HAND IN HAND
ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS OF MANO EN MANO,

2017 was a remarkable year for Mano en Mano and we want to reach out to personally thank you for your support.

Some highlights from 2017 include:

- An expanded partnership with the Maine Department of Education to provide services to migrant children and youth statewide – from Kittery to Caribou.
- A new initiative to welcome and provide resources to migrant workers during the wreath-making and tipping season in Washington County.
- Growing membership in Nuestra Voz en La Comunidad (Our Voice in the Community), a group of resident leaders in the Milbridge area.
- Expanding partnerships with organizations across Maine to meet the needs of farmworkers and immigrants.

Immigrants and farmworkers are an integral part of our communities. Their contributions are particularly important to rural parts of the state, like Washington County, where the population has been shrinking for decades. At a time when public schools are closing and consolidating, local elementary schools are full of children from different backgrounds, speaking different languages, learning, and growing hand in hand.

We are committed—now just as 20 years ago—to building a stronger and more inclusive Maine. Thank you for your support in 2017 and we hope you'll join us in 2018.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian".

Ian Yaffe
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura".

Laura Thomas
President of the Board



OUR 2017 - 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN



OUR VISION

A stronger, more inclusive Downeast Maine where the contributions of diverse communities are welcomed, access to essential services, education and housing are ensured, and social justice and equity are embraced.

OUR MISSION

To work with farmworkers and immigrants so that they may settle and thrive in Maine.



THE ROAD AHEAD

Our strategy is based on self-determination and working alongside individuals and families to build communities where their voices are heard, their needs are equitably met, and they can thrive. For us, success means having community members at the forefront, advocating for their needs and dreams with Mano en Mano as a facilitator, not the lead voice. We set specific goals towards our long-term vision and collaborate with local and state institutions, non-profit organizations, and others to equitably serve immigrants, farm workers, and communities of color.



OUR PRIORITIES

1. Support immigration in Downeast Maine.
2. Ensure access to language services and increase affordable housing.
3. Increase educational and economic opportunity.
4. Foster community leadership, social justice, and equity.
5. Build organizational and financial capacity to achieve Mano en Mano's goals.



Members of Nuestra Voz en la Comunidad (Our Voice in the Community) meet to share ideas about the changes they wish to see in their community. Decisions made by this group of local leaders inform all aspects of Mano en Mano's work.



ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Mano en Mano's **Access to Essential Services Program** is a combination of a welcome center, referrals made to partner agencies, and home visits that support immigrants and farmworkers in accessing resources in their local community. These services are designed so that immigrant and farmworker community members can live and thrive in Downeast Maine.

315

From September through December 2017, staff responded to 315 requests from community members for support in areas including financial assistance, healthcare, housing, and legal support.

85%

85% of these encounters took place in Spanish. Because many community members face language barriers, we make referrals to Axiom Adult Education for English classes, GED preparation, and other educational opportunities.



Families enjoyed a homecooked meal at the Welcome and Resource Center.

The **Julia Robiola Gigena Memorial Scholarship** provides \$20,000 over four years for Latinx college students from Hancock and Washington Counties. Supported by an anonymous donor, the 2017 scholarship was awarded to Ameena Sbaibi (Suffolk University), Zyanya Holman (UMaine Farmington), and Juana Rodriguez-Vazquez (UMaine Machias).

19

Hand in Hand Apartments represents an opportunity for families to exit the migrant stream and have year-round affordable housing in the community. In December 2017, 19 people resided in the six Milbridge apartments.

400

In October and November, we hosted 400 people at our welcome and resource center for seasonal and migrant workers. We distributed 350 boxes of groceries, served 140 hot meals, and nearly all 400 attendees received winter clothes. This event was made possible with the support of 55 volunteers.



Members of Nuestra Voz en la Comunidad at a potluck in February.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

The goal of Mano en Mano's **Community Advocacy Program** is to empower immigrant, farmworker, and Latinx communities in Downeast Maine to have a voice in challenging and changing systems that often silence them. Ultimately, our shared goal is to facilitate visioning, ownership, and involvement in the kind of community in which individuals and families want to collectively thrive.

150

Nuestra Voz en la Comunidad (Our Voice in the Community) is a community leadership group composed of 35 core leaders, 150 members directly involved throughout the year, and a growing virtual network of 90 members.

Our 2017 AmeriCorps VISTA members extended the scope and reach of the advocacy program through capacity building projects, including the creation of bilingual community resource guides and planning community member-requested workshops and events.

Members of the immigrant community and allies gathered in our Milbridge office on September 7th after the rescission of DACA was announced. This banner reads “We stand with the 11 million,” referring to the 11 million immigrants living in the United States without documentation or permanent legal protections.



80

On May 1st, more than 80 immigrant workers, students, families, and community allies came together in Milbridge for a march and rally as part of the national “Day Without Immigrants” to support and celebrate immigrant and Latinx communities.

8 + 4 + 3

In the Fall of 2017, we hosted 8 community meetings, 4 community events, and 3 educational workshops. Workshop topics year-round include voting, know your rights, sexual health, finance and credit, home buying, and non-violent communication.

Mano en Mano works with community members to engage with local and state politics in addition to discussing issues in Maine that affect them. We work to connect our constituents with a wider range of allies, resources, services, and opportunities.


324

Mano en Mano partners with the **Maine Department of Education** to provide supplemental support and educational services to 324 migrant children and youth who move to or within Maine each year.

5,650

From January to December 2017, Mano en Mano provided 5,650 unique services to 397 migrant children and youth across Maine.

These services included advocacy, mentoring, tutoring, college trips, cultivating parent engagement, and more. The MEP serves migrant children and youth with the goal of ensuring that migrant students are able to meet the same challenging academic standards as non-migrant students (ultimately earning a HS diploma or GED).

A photograph showing a group of students in a computer lab. A woman in a teal dress stands on the left, looking at a student at a computer. Several other students are seated at desks with computers, focused on their work. The room has multiple computer workstations with monitors and keyboards.

Students during a field trip to Bowdoin College, where they worked on a photography project.

THE MAINE MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

We also provide family educational programming. In 2017, parents and children attended an ice fishing trip, participated in a family math and literacy night, and traveled to the Maine Youth Action Network's Youth Leadership Conference together, just to name a few.

5 + 2

MEP staff provided support to five high school seniors throughout the state who successfully graduated with their High School Diplomas and two out-of-school youth completed testing to earn their High School Equivalency degree.

15

In November, 15 parents and youth attended the Statewide Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at the Discovery Museum in Bangor. Migrant parents have an important role in planning MEP programming and can formally provide input and guidance on the activities in which their children participate.



At "Living History Days" in October, students got to see and ride a working steam-powered log hauler.



Faculty, students, and parents meet each other and share their learning during parents' night.

THE BLUEBERRY HARVEST SCHOOL

The Blueberry Harvest School (BHS) is a partnership between the Maine Department of Education and Mano en Mano to provide a hands-on, interdisciplinary summer program that seeks to build self-esteem, reduce summer learning loss, and promote a lifetime love of learning among students.

691

The number of enrolled and served students decreased in 2017 due to a market crisis affecting blueberry producers. However, participation increased to a record 91% and the program operated for four and a half weeks instead of three. This resulted in 691 school days provided to 64 students.

This year, students explored the theme of *Learning from Each Other* in order to highlight the diversity of perspectives, experiences, and languages present in the BHS community. 100% of parents surveyed reported that they were satisfied with the BHS, that their children felt safe at school, and that they felt welcome at the BHS.

The Maine Outdoor School provided environmental education programming for all students at the BHS.



44

The BHS is a school without walls, serving students who cannot attend classes on campus. In 2017, 44 students from ages 0 to 2 and 14 to 21 received referrals to other organizations, tutoring, or literacy support at their homes or in worker camps.

1,958

Collaboration with the Maine Farm and Sea Cooperative and the Maine Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program led to 1,958 healthy meals served to BHS students. The BHS sourced 29% of its food from within Maine.

42

The on-site nurse completed 42 initial health assessments and 36 follow-up visits. 17 students received dental screenings and follow-up with the Maine Mobile Health Program and the Harrington Family Health Center.

MIGRANT EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS: WHALE WATCHING IN EASTPORT



“Parents not only found this opportunity relaxing, but they also had a chance to learn a bit more about how their children see the world.”

By Jay Skriletz
Migrant Education Program Regional Coordinator

When the 2017 wild blueberry harvest was curtailed because of a bad market for the berries, the MEP's Regional Coordinators in Eastern Washington County chartered a whale watching voyage on the waters between Eastport, Maine and Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada. Eleven elementary school students, two high school students, and eleven parents enjoyed the early morning sail, seeing Minke whales, porpoises, osprey, and eagles. The weather was cloudy and damp to begin with but cleared up nicely, and the only disappointment was with how quickly two hours can fly by!

This was the first time several students and even a few parents had been on the ocean. It was their first chance to see the aquatic mammals up close.

The Captain and his Mate were very knowledgeable about the animals' habits and behavior and showed the students how to use that knowledge to find them. The Captain also let a few older students pilot the boat and learn about the work of a commercial fisherman.

After the boat returned to shore, there was lunch and art in the Eastport Arts Center. There, the students and their parents used art to interpret their morning on the water. Some worked individually, painting scenes and images observed during the trip. Others worked as a group to recall the feelings they experienced and expressed them in one large painting. One student imagined a pink whale swimming in the sea and when her painting was photographed, a face magically emerged!

Several older students took the chance to try painting techniques they'd never been shown before. They "stippled" a grey morning sky with sponges and tried "additive mixing" of several shades of blue and green to create a wind-swept sea. Every family has its own routine, and the students and their parents enjoyed this chance to be together in an unusual way.

COMMUNITY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ALEXIS ANDRADE LARA



I'm from Honduras. It's been a long journey to arrive to live here in Maine. First, I lived in California, and later in Florida. From Florida, I moved to work in Maine and stayed for a year to work in the blueberry and apple harvests. Then I moved back to Florida to work in the orange harvest and in construction. Because I didn't have children at the time, I traveled a lot. In 2005 I settled in Maine, met a girl, got married, and had a family. I continued to work in irrigation in the blueberry fields.

I started to learn about Mano en Mano a long time ago, but for a while I didn't have a strong connection. In 2010, I started to learn more and heard that they helped a lot of people.

I decided to work with Mano en Mano because of the programs they have for my daughters and for all people.

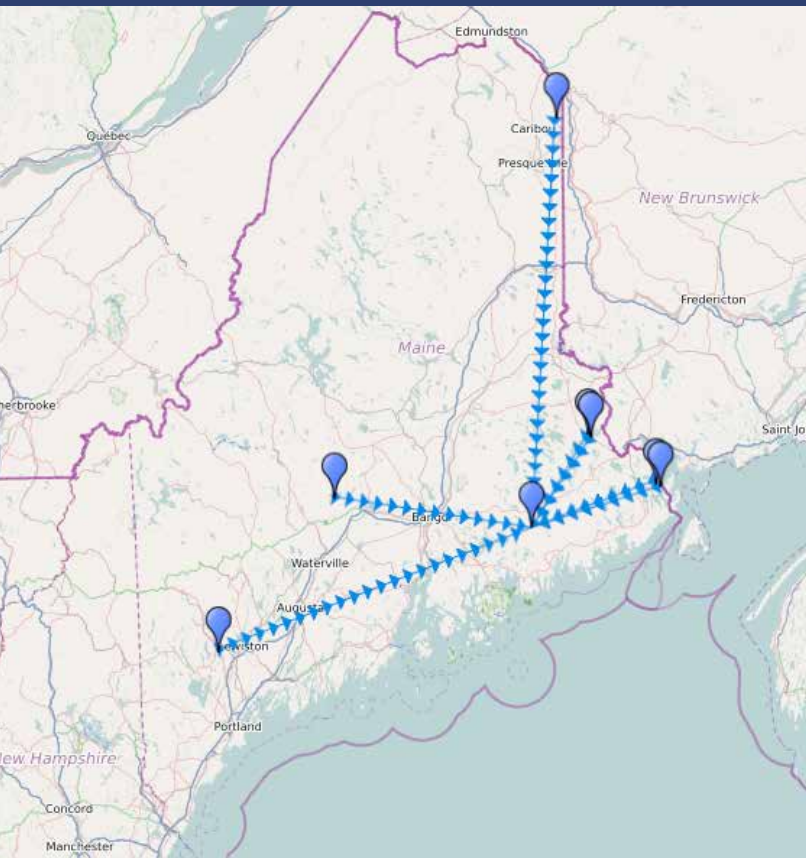
Once, I had a problem with my immigration documents and I needed a letter. Mano en Mano signed my paperwork and was a huge help. They really helped me a lot. That's how I started to have an even stronger connection with Mano en Mano. I started going to meetings with Nuestra Voz en la Comunidad (Our Voice in the Community). Today, I've been going regularly to meetings for over a year, and I also attend workshops. Mano en Mano is always attentive to the community. They help me a lot with my daughters with transportation, making appointments, or anything else we need.

I love living in Maine because it's a good place to live. I don't have plans to move to another state. I like the tranquility here.

Alexis enjoys a Migrant Education field trip with his daughter to learn how maple syrup is made.

WHERE ARE MIGRANT FAMILIES FROM?

People travel from across North America to work in Maine's blueberry and broccoli industries. The blueberry harvest in New Jersey is one major stop before families arrive in Maine for the summer. A significant number of families also travel to Washington County from their homes in M'ikmaq First Nation communities in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada. The map below shows some moves that took place in the summer of 2016.



MOVING WITHIN MAINE

Many families also travel from different parts of Maine during harvest seasons. The map to the left shows some of the towns in Maine from which families moved in 2016 to work in the blueberry harvest in Washington County. Major hubs include Passamaquoddy communities in Pleasant Point and Indian Township.

Data in these maps is based on families in the Maine Migrant Education Program during the 2016 harvest season.



FINANCES

The statements below are pending audit. Audited financial statements and copies of IRS Form 990 are posted at www.manomaine.org/finance

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Revenue	
	Annual fund contributions	55,762
	Grant and foundation income	150,243
	Government awards	926,789
	Hand in Hand Apartments revenue	75,992
	Other program service revenue	45,633
	Interest and office rental income	6,725
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,261,144
PROGRAM SERVICES	Expenses	
	Access to essential services	85,867
	Advocacy	30,516
	College scholarships	15,000
	Passamaquoddy language program	7,700
	Community bridges	3,476
	Migrant Education Program - Maine	606,716
	Migrant Education Program - Blueberry Harvest School	238,417
	Migrant Education Program - National	25,667
	Hand in Hand Apartments expenses	57,841
	<i>Total program services</i>	<i>1,071,201</i>
SUPPORTING SERVICES	Administration	183,483
	Development and fundraising	3,138
	<i>Total supporting services</i>	<i>186,621</i>
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,257,822

THANK YOU

Our work would not be possible without the generous contributions of our donors.

FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Jorge Acero
Joseph W. and Christine K. Alsop
Anonymous (3)
Carl and Ora Aselton
Carole Beal
Jean Beckley
Andrea Berry
Edith Birney
Lindsey Bryan
John Bullitt
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Executive Director, Mano en Mano



GET INVOLVED!

As a community organization, Mano en Mano appreciates the help and support of its community members in every aspect of our work. Volunteering is important, as it helps expand the scope of what we are able to do while making use of the wealth of expertise and experience that already exists here in Downeast Maine.

TO VOLUNTEER:

Visit manomaine.org/volunteer

TO DONATE:

Visit manomaine.networkforgood.com



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

Haidar Al-Freihy
Carole Beale
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Bea Solis
Jessica Stewart
Lisa Suarez
Marvin Tala
Adomaitis Valenzuela
Peter Wohl
...and more!



THANK YOU

We thank our staff for their dedication, creativity, and wisdom.

YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Amanda Anderson
Edith Flores
Rebecca Haydu
Maria Kennedy
Leslie Monroy
Christina Ocampo
Molly Ralph
Eli Redfern
Juana Rodriguez-Vazquez
Jay Skriletz
Ian Yaffe

2 Maple Street
PO Box 573
Millbridge, ME 04658
(207) 546-3006
www.manomaine.org
facebook.com/manomaine



SEASONAL AND PART-TIME STAFF

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Ana Blagojevic
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