

Nuevo South Communication Brief # 4
Mujeres Sin Fronteras
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Mujeres Sin Fronteras is a group of migrant women from Lenoir County that have recognized specific problems and challenges within their community and have decided to take a course of action to help solve and overcome these challenges. One of the main problems within the community of migrant farm workers is that often family units do not have the capabilities of providing food for themselves. *Mujeres Sin Fronteras* has decided to make this basic need part of their mission. They have received a piece of land from a church in the community and have begun their own organic community garden and food bank. I have been working with them for three months and have watched the organization and garden grow.

At the end of May we began planting for the summer season on four beds and by the end of July the garden was overflowing with nine beds of produce. With some outside help the garden was able to be organized again. They are now gearing up for the fall and winter seasons. These are the seasons for which the garden is really vital. During the spring and summer most of the people are working and cannot donate time to help cultivate and garden. Also, they are able to afford food during this time. These next seasons are crucial for the group and the garden. There are other organizations that have volunteered to help make sure that *Mujeres Sin Fronteras* is able to flourish.

There is quite a diverse canopy of assistance of organizations and resources that are available to help *Mujeres Sin Fronteras*, from individuals to nonprofit organizations and businesses all across the state. A few of which are Nuevo South, Lenoir County Migrant Education, Grace Fellowship, AFOP (Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs) and Toxic Free NC. Many of these organizations have written grants to help jump start these upcoming seasons and are donating their time to make sure that the greenhouses will be up and running in time. There is also a man certified in sustainable agriculture from Raleigh who will be offering classes to the community and *Mujeres Sin Fronteras* about organic gardening. It is very important to *Mujeres Sin Fronteras* to not only benefit themselves and the garden, but to benefit and bring knowledge to the community to empower them. Just as in planning the garden there needs to be some organizational help.

While working with *Mujeres Sin Fronteras*, I have seen some areas that are lacking within the organization. Through conversing with the group, we have laid out a goal sheet over the next couple of years. This sheet contains immediate and long term goals in the categories of the garden, community involvement, organization and finance. This sheet will help provide direction over the next few years. What really needs to be the focus over the next few months, besides, the garden is organization. The group hopes to obtain their nonprofit status within the next couple of years; thus, there is much planning and organization required in the near future. Also, in order to raise

some financial support they have begun doing small catering jobs. There is a church in the area that wants to hire them for most of their events which can include up to 300 people! With assistance from many sources, *Mujeres Si Fronteras* improve the lives of the migrant workers.