Addison Allies Network (AAN) is working to build a stronger, more diverse and inclusive community in Addison County, Vermont. We provide needed services to and social integration with migrant farm workers who are forced into the shadows by barriers to inclusion, current policies and legislation. We have developed services in response to needs identified by farm workers. We teach English, provide transportation for shopping, medical and other appointments and help workers access existing services and daily living necessities. Many social exchanges flow from the work we do.

**Addison Allies Accomplishments**

**Started May 2017**

English Language Learning (ELL) and Other Educational Needs

* 76 Spanish-speaking farm workers have received ELL
* 43 current ELL students
* 22 have been students for 6 or more months
* 53 community volunteer teachers
* 30 current English language teachers
* weekly and (several) twice weekly classes with each student
* 8 training events for ELL teachers
* 12 additional volunteers have previously taught English, but are not teaching right now due to family or medical issues or inability to meet the required flexibility of the position; 6 of these have expressed a desire to resume teaching in the near future
* provided weekly rides to and from Vermont Adult Learning
* referrals to UVM Migrant Ed Program for GED and youth program

Transportation

* 10 volunteers (in addition to many teachers who drive) provide 4-12 rides weekly for
* grocery shopping
* medical appointments
* dental appointments
* cashing payroll checks
* remittances
* banking
* visits to friends/relatives
* purchase phone cards
* purchase/repair cell phones and other electronic equipment
* Migrant Justice events
* classes
* helped 5 farm workers get their driver privilege card
* helped 1 farm worker to buy a car and get insurance and in the process of helping another (possibly 2) with same
* networked with two used car dealers - Wimett Trading Co. in Leicester and Airport Auto in East Middlebury and one mechanic
* partnered with Middlebury College and ACTR to explore transportation partnering options
* proposed program for farm workers to buy cars through Good New Garage
* proposed program for workers to attend a bike repair workshop (3 hrs) to fix up used bikes in order to purchase and utilize for work and personal transportation

Essential Daily Living Needs

* developed info sheets for farm workers in Spanish
* how to get a driver privilege card
* how to get and use a pre-paid credit cards
* assisted 23 farm worker households access needed items: mouse and rat traps, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, winter clothing, work clothing, books, furniture, household items, electronics repair
* established a lending library where farm workers can access books in Spanish thought community volunteers
* working with local libraries to provide more books for Spanish speaking patrons
* helped 7 farm workers make online purchases
* responded to 2 requests for emergency food and clothing by newly arrived persons
* provided emergency food and clothing in winter
* provided assistance to 1 farm worker’s wife during her pregnancy, childbirth and post delivery needs for her and the baby
* facilitated the workers at Misty Knoll Farm access Bristol Fitness
* created regular social opportunities, e.g., fishing, salsa dancing at area venues, music events, out to lunch or dinner, gatherings at student or teacher homes, hiking, sightseeing, church, library, Holiday celebrations, non-routine shopping trips
* facilitated farm workers being involved with community events
* 1 farm worker made a presentation to a class studying international borders at Middlebury College
* 1 farm worker participated in a class presentation on farm worker transportation needs
* 1 farm worker participated in a high school cultural awareness gathering
* 1 farm worker made a presentation to a teacher class on cultural awareness
* proposed a farm worker housing program to Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
* facilitated a cooking class led by a farm worker’s wife
* developing an orientation manual for farm workers to help them better access community services and opportunities

Organizational Development

* recruited 5 prospective board members from the community, Kathy Comstock, Veronica Ciambra, Lauren Ross, Lise Anderson and Cheryl Mitchell (4 have met twice)
* recruited 4 farm workers for outreach and translation and as potential board members
* raised $4,850 to date in grant support
* $200 - St. Mary's Catholic Church- for supplies to teach ELL
* $150- Showing Up for Racial Justice- to be used for costs associated with incorporation
* $1,000- Ben & Jerry's Foundation - ELL materials purchase and teacher travel reimbursement
* $2,500- Resist Foundation - general support and training
* $500- Revolutionary Press- everyday living needs of farm workers
* $500- Coop Insurance- to support efforts to work with farm workers/greatest need with the farm community
* CVUUS agreed to be fiscal agent until February 2019
* farmer outreach-focused articles written and submitted to Agriview, Country Folks, VT Farm Bureau Newsletter (the article was published in Agriview)
* recruited volunteers through United Way and area churches
* network with organizations throughout Addison County and Vermont: Migrant Justice, Vermont Adult Learning, UVM Extension, Middlebury College, HOPE, United Way
* drafted bylaws, articles and policies in compliance with IRS 501(c)(3) requirements
* developing an orientation manual for volunteers
* helped organize Mexican Consulate visit
* planned meeting for June 27, 2018 to bring together all community organizations formerly involved with Addison County Farm Worker Coalition