

## PROGRAMS FARMWORKERS HAVE MADE FOR THEMSELVES

The farmworkers' long struggle for justice is most visible through strikes and boycotts. But out of the initial contract victories of 1966 and 1967, the United Farm Workers began to build a series of programs, by and for farmworkers. As more contracts are won, these programs will grow in strength and spread geographically. What follows is a brief summary of programs that are in existence at this time:

National Farm Worker Service Center, Inc.: Financed by tax-exempt donations, this entity operates and/or supports various social, educational, and legal service programs for farmworkers, including the following:

Farm Workers Credit Union: One of the oldest of all the farmworker programs, the credit union was established in 1962. To date more than \$2 million has been paid out in loans to farmworkers at an interest of 1% per month on the unpaid balance.

Campesino Centers: Eleven centers in California and one in Arizona, located in farm worker communities, to provide campesinos (farmworkers) with social, economic and legal services. No charge is made for assistance. The centers are run by farm workers. Style of operation is to go out to (and with) the people, not wait for them to come. Staff functions as advocates in dealing with governmental agencies and conducts "campaigns" to teach people about their rights.

Paulo Agbayani Retirement Village: Long a dream, the completed village opened in Delano March 1, 1975. Individual rooms (joined by shared baths) for 58 retired farmworkers, men and women. First consideration given to the elderly Filipino brothers, the original strikers of 1965, who have no families due to discriminatory immigration and anti-miscegenation laws of the past. The village is named for one of the Filipino strikers, who died of a heart attack on the picket line in 1967. Dining and recreation areas, collective garden, area for animals, work available in the village itself and the other operations at "Forty Acres", where the Delano UFW field office and clinic are located.

Day Care Centers: Two presently in operation: one for children of staff at the administrative headquarters in Keene; another housed in a Delano church, with eventual plans for a building near Agbayani Village so the retired workers can relate to the children.

Martin Luther King Farm Workers Fund: Created in December 1973, this fund comes from grower contributions of 5¢ per hour per worker under contract. A board of trustees made up of two UFW representatives and two employers will have as permanent chairperson Msgr. George Higgins. This fund will be used to conduct educational and training programs for farmworkers, such as those described below, and hopes to provide summer camp for farmworker children and legal services.

La Paz Education Center: Renovation of a former county TB sanitorium for purposes of an education center, to be a part of the complex at Keene, Ca. where the union and other entities maintain administrative offices. Architectural drawings have been completed for a labor-intensive remodeling of the North Unit at La Paz, planned so that farmworkers themselves can do the work during the off season. Renovation plans include a fence, fronting, bell tower,