

Health Screenings



Each day in Immokalee, we went out into the community to do health screenings. As part of these screenings we checked BMI, blood pressure, and blood glucose, and with the help of the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile we were able to check vision and hearing as well.

The health screenings were held at:

- Collier County Health Department
- A local church
- A local Soup kitchen
- The Amigos Center
- Lipman packing house



FSUCares Outreach: Preparing a Culturally Appropriate Workforce through Service Learning



Immokalee: My Home

Through FSUCares, a student run medical school organization, a group of us medical students—plus a group of law students—had the opportunity to experience life first hand in Immokalee. We came prepared and hoping to make a difference in the community. Not only did we accomplish that, but we too left as different people; impacted by the wonders of what is Immokalee. We hope to give you a taste of what we experienced so you can understand what “my home” is all about.

Immigration & Law



“The purpose of our trip was to provide...legal guidance on immigration issues. We learned that these are people who pick our food and do the job very few people are willing to do for the pay being offered, yet don't have the same breadth of legal representation that the rest of us enjoy. Most importantly, we experienced first hand what it was like to help people and the hard reality of having to tell someone that, no, we couldn't help them.”

— Jason Love, Third Year Law Student

“My time in Immokalee was eye-opening. I caught glimpses of both the way that the law can be used to fight for justice for the most vulnerable members of our society, and of its limitations in achieving that end in its present form. Farm workers are so important to our society at such a basic level. For all our great inventions and innovations, civilization crumbles without food. And these workers, especially the undocumented, are so vulnerable to oppression. I think a life devoted to working for justice and dignity for them, and other vulnerable people would be a life well spent. I want to live a life like that.”

— Sara Mangan, First Year Law Student

The Packing House



We were taken on a tour of Lipman's packing facility in order to get a glimpse of what happens after the produce is farmed. Aside from noting Lipman's “extraordinary factory and high standard of operation,” this also gave us a first hand account of the working conditions of the population we screened the week.



- Sitting on a stool for 14 hour days
- Sorting small tomatoes based on color variation and cosmetic blemishes hardly visible to the human eye

The packing house management agreed to let their employees take turns rotating through our health screening stations. We screened over 250 people in this day alone. A majority Haitian population was noted to be working within the packing house whereas a majority Hispanic population is known to be working mostly out in the fields. We concluded that a fluent Creole speaker will be a huge asset to next year's Immokalee group!



Home Visits

FSUCares & Collier County Health Department



We paired up with the Collier County Health Department Division of Environmental Health Services to go on home visits and learn more about the life of a farmworker. Among many things, they inspect and issue permits for Residential Migrant Housing; inspections include:

1. Hot water temperature of at least 110F
2. Refrigerator must be provided and kept at 41F or lower
3. Stove must be provided
4. 50sq ft/person –bedroom; 110sq ft/person in an open area as the living room

There are units not being inspected because they are not occupied by a minimum of 5 migrant farmworkers. A migrant farmworker is someone working in the field, doing hand-labor operations and who changes residence for employment purposes -> “following the crops”



Food & Culture



Food We Experienced:

- Guatemalan home cooking
- Fresh picked vegetables
- Cuban cuisine

The Culture of Immokalee:

We experienced many aspects of culture of the Immokalee community. During the Health Expo on our first day, many of us practiced our Zumba skills. Zumba is a form of exercise that combines Latin music and dancing into a great workout. We also spent one evening working on our own salsa dancing.



Coalition of Immokalee Workers



In the most extreme conditions, farmworkers are held against their will and forced to work for little or no pay, facing conditions that meet the stringent legal standards for prosecution under modern-day slavery statutes. Federal Civil Rights officials

have successfully prosecuted seven slavery operations involving over 1,000 workers in Florida's fields since 1997, prompting one federal prosecutor to call Florida "ground zero for modern-day slavery." In 2010, federal prosecutors indicted two more forced labor rings operating in Florida. www.ciw-online.org

