My name is Rebecca Fuentes, and I’m the lead organizer for the Workers Center of Central New York.

Our organization provides workers with education and support about rights, benefits and services available to them. More importantly it provides a sense of community -- a network of people who care.

We visit workers during their free time. Many don’t have time to learn English, and they appreciate we drive hours to see them and bring them resources.

New York farmworkers in rural areas are doing very important work. So many things that make this state great and bring money and nutrition come from farmworkers’ labor.

But these workers don’t have much support. And it’s a shame for this country that they’re excluded from one of our most important protections -- the right to collectively bargain.

Organizing can be as simple as two people getting together just to ask for improvements in their workplace. It doesn’t mean they have to be given anything.

At Marks Farms in Lowville, workers told me that farm owners asked them to sign papers saying they did not want me to visit their farm. They told workers that I was trying to close the farm. And even though workers said they knew we were there to help, and many are our friends, a few signed because they were afraid to lose their jobs.

That’s the extent the employers will go to have control.

This lawsuit is an avenue to get some justice. We believe that the Constitution says that we all have rights.

We’re happy we have courageous workers that are putting their faces out there and saying “We are not invisible, we are here. You are going to see us and you are going to hear our story.”

I see hope in the face of the workers, like Crispin, who is being represented in this case. He is working, supporting his family and fighting for justice. And he is one of hundreds of workers who keep going and see hope -- that change will come very soon to New York. Finally…Si se Puede