

## **Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship 2020**

**3rd place**

**Jackeline Rodriguez, Phoenix High School**

I lay in bed restless, just like the two previous nights. For the third day in a row, my father had no choice but to work in hazardous conditions. I begged my father to stay home; I showed him the air quality index, which was at a president 374 hazardous level; he had no choice he had to work to support our family. My father is a Mexican immigrant, working as an orchard farmworker for over 15 years, throughout this time he has worked under unjust conditions; such as pesticides, extreme temperatures and poor air quality. Southern Oregon's immigration population is rapidly growing; people are coming to work the agricultural jobs. Summers in Oregon have always been beautiful, but recently we have seen intense forest fires cause droughts and record-breaking heat waves due to climate change. In southern Oregon, immigrants and the LatinX community work agricultural jobs that expose them to these hazardous conditions. Living sustainably and having renewable energy are some of the solutions to reducing our greenhouse emissions, which cause climate change. We have the resources and tech to live sustainably, but it is not accessible to low-income communities. They do not have access to sustainable living practices and renewable energy, such as solar panels, organic food, and waste-free living. Through a climate justice movement, immigrant communities will have access to sustainable living and improved working conditions. When the dream of climate justice is realized, I will not have to worry like so many other people in immigrant communities, about loved ones sacrificing themselves to support themselves and their families.