

2013 Work-in-Progress Grant Application Form

Form must be completed in full. Only ONE SCBWI WIP grant may be applied for during any calendar year.

Name: Jennie Anderson McLaurin	
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Phone: 360-319-1135	Email: jmclaurin@migrantclinician.org
Have you ever had a children's or young adult book published? NO	
Have you ever received an SCBWI grant? NO	
Were you the principal recipient or runner-up? Recipient Runner-up	
Which grant and in which year?	
Which grant are you applying for? <input type="checkbox"/> General Work-In-Progress Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Nonfiction Research Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Grant for Contemporary Novel for Young People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-Cultural Grant	
PLEASE NOTE: The Barbara Karlin Grant and Don Freeman Grant have specific application forms available at SCBWI.org. The Grant for an Unpublished Author cannot be applied for as it is chosen from all submissions received.	
Career Summary or Background (you may use extra space): See attached papers	
Plans for use of Grant Money (you may use extra space): See attached papers	

Career Summary or Background (you may use extra space): Continued

This is my first attempt to write a children's book. I have a lifelong love of writing and reading. I have written creatively in poems, essays, and newspaper columns published for an adult audience. My published work is generally categorized as pertaining to bioethics, faith and science, or spiritual formation. This work has been greatly strengthened by the completion of a Master's degree a few years ago which included creative nonfiction classes and children's literature classes. I was awarded the EPA first place prize for creative short articles in 2010. I also had a monthly newspaper column for two years in a national Canadian publication.

This book project represents the integration of my medical world and my creative writing journey. My staff has been supportive as it is meant to raise money to assist the health costs of migrant children. I see it as a legacy project. I love children's stories, especially fairy tales and magical stories such as *The Enchanted Castle* and *The Princess and the Goblin*. There is a big gap between my writing and these examples, but it is my dream to help these children and then go forward in developing a more sophisticated story-telling voice. I'm not sure where this road will take me, but I am committed to completing this book and getting it into the hands of the public. I hope it will give the farmworker families dignity and support while educating all Americans about the lives of these children of the fields.

Plans for Use of Grant Money

Migrant Clinicians Network is a non-profit dedicated to serving those at the intersection of poverty, mobility and health. Our work relies on grant funds and on volunteer time. All author proceeds from the ultimate publication of this book will go to assisting children who are among America's most marginalized. We anticipate migrant children will receive a book, thereby promoting literacy and dignity. They also will benefit from an increased financial base to support their health care needs.

Grant money will be used to develop prototypes of the final book. Dr. McLaurin is still investigating possible publishing sources. A few samples of the book would help to test markets for the final product. Purchases of photographs are necessary as are permissions for use by any families used in photographs. Documentary photographers have asked for \$500 per day of work and have various fees for photos to be used. Travel to discuss book promotion or endorsement by grocery chains, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and other potential sponsors is needed. Printing costs have already been an expense to MCN, and we anticipate further costs of color copies. The author has attended one conference for writers related to this book but would also like to attend the SCBWI conference in her region. The author also desires to explore the cost of a Spanish language version. This grant would allow the book production to proceed at an increased pace with increased quality in resources used. An initial budget showed a one-time production cost of \$30,000 in book completion, and this grant would offset some of that uncompensated cost. Thank you for your consideration.

Book Synopsis

My Papa Picks Apples: An ABC Celebrating Farmworkers' Children

by

Jennie A. McLaurin, MD MPH

There is a strong emphasis in public thought about food sources, healthy weight, and cultural diversity. Despite a number of resources for children and adults on such things as growing your own garden, eating well, and valuing our global community, a significant sector of American children remain unnoticed and at-risk in regard to these topics. These are the children of America's four million farmworkers families, present in every state and representing at least one million rural children. *My Papa Picks Apples* promotes the well-being and dignity of these children through both content and sales, while offering all Americans a chance to consider not just the agricultural sources of their food, but also the human experiences in its production.

Through illustrations and family vignettes, readers are invited to meet a farmworker family through the voice of a child. The farmworker child presents a common food grown in the US and harvested by farmworker families. Apples in Washington, Blueberries in Maine, and Cherries in Michigan are a few examples. Not only will children link the alphabet letters with healthy foods, but they will also be introduced to regions where many of these foods grow, the plants or animals from which the foods come, and the kind of work it takes to gather the products from the farm to the table. As the book goes through the alphabet, separate strands of farmworker life are gathered together to present a whole. With pride and dignity, the children share brief stories of moving, changing schools, living in farm communities, and sometimes sharing in the crop work.

Central to the book's production is the author's commitment to migrant child health. While their parents bring inexpensive foods to market, over 50% of farmworker children go hungry on a daily basis. Illiteracy and poverty are often generational legacies. Access to comprehensive health care is limited and educational resources are few.

Through fun informative storytelling that addresses developmental needs of young and early primary children, the special lives of farmworker children are highlighted, improving public awareness. All author proceeds will go to the Farmworker Child Health Fund, operated by the nonprofit Migrant

Clinicians Network (MCN). This fund will provide needed medical care and equipment to farmworker children through a grant program partnering with health professionals across the United States.

Each crop is introduced on a face page by a child who is identified with his/her family in a specific part of the US. To strengthen the theme, the child's first name starts with the letter of the crop being featured. Following this introduction, there will be a page spread devoted to the food product and farmworker activity. The crop page is done in rhyme to assist appeal and memory. The number of pages is approximately 56. Photos are available from Migrant Clinicians Network as well as documentary photographers. Illustrations will depict the actual process of hand farm labor as well as the daily life of the child.

The tone is a narrated story-telling coupled with simple rhyme. For example:

Face pages—[photo of Ariceli and her family, depiction of WA state]

“I live in Washington State where there are fields full of apple trees. In the Fall, wooden boxes are piled high at the roadsides. Soon the boxes will be filled with apples. I like the big juicy Jonagold apples the best. My papa likes the red Gala apples. What kind of apples do you like?”

Then spread—Apples. [Picture of apple pickers with ladders in trees, heavy aprons full, apple cartons full.]

My papa picks apples high up in the trees,
When his basket is full it hangs down to his knees.
All through the orchard the ladders lean
As the papas pick apples—yellow red and green.

The end of the book has a 2-page fact sheet on farmworker children in the US and a resource guide for parents who want to know more about this population. Conceivably, the book could have all sorts of special features available via a digital application. For the print version, a CD is a feature being considered. It could include music in Spanish and English, names of foods in Spanish and English, or other features.

Writing Sample from *My Papa Picks Apples*

Araceli

Fields and fields of apple trees. That's what I see when I look out my school bus window. My family lives in the state of Washington near a town called George. It is the only place in the USA where the town and state make the name of a president! Every fall, my papa picks apples for the farmers in our valley. I like the red crunchy Gala apples the best. Papa like the big juicy Jonagolds. What kind of apples do you like?

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Apples

My papa picks apples high
up in the trees,
When his bucket is full
it falls to his knees.
All through the orchard
the ladders lean,
As the papas pick apples—
red, yellow and green.

3

Bertha

Ohio to Maine. What a road trip!

Every summer we leave our home in Ohio

to pick wild blueberries in Maine. The trip is over

1000 miles long. My brothers and I can't wait to get out and

run when we finally arrive. Our parents and cousins harvest the

blueberries in August, and then we pack up and head back to

school in Ohio. Where do you go in
the summer?



4

Blueberries

Our papa rakes blueberries off
the low bush,

He has to be careful
so they don't smush!

He bends and he stoops

In the sun and the rain,

Millions of blueberries

Grow in Maine!



5

Carlos

The UP is the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. That's the place my dad and older brothers go every summer to pick cherries. Now I'm twelve, so I will go to work with them, too. We have to pick as fast as we can before the cherries spoil. My brothers will show me how to carefully twist the stems off the tree branches. At night we will all sleep together in a big bunkhouse with other workers. I am proud to be big enough to help my family.

6

Cherries

When the cherries are ready,
So ripe and red,
We rise before dawn
From our bunkhouse bed.
With a twist of the stem
The cherries we pluck
Fast filling up boxes
On the back of a truck.

7

Quana

My family lives in Colorado and we are members of the Comanche tribe. My name, Quana, means “pleasant perfume.” Native Americans have many special traditions and foods. One of my favorite celebrations is called a Pow Wow. We have fun dancing and meeting people from other tribes.

My mother helps to grow the Quinoa crop. It is an ancient grain that many tribes in South America ate. Now it is popular in our country because it is healthy and can be eaten by people with allergies to other grains.

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Quinoa

Quinoa makes seeds that are good to eat
Especially for people allergic to wheat.
Mama works hard pulling up weeds,
Then cleaning and polishing quinoa seeds.

35

Rosa

My family lives in Washington State near the Canadian border.
Our county grows more raspberries than any other place in
America! My parents work on the berry farms from April to Sep-
tember. In the summer we have a big fair where all the farmers
show their best animals. I love riding the Ferris wheel at the fair
and seeing the horses with braided hair. Do you have a fair where
you live?

36

Raspberries

Raspberries are related to roses,
It's said they heal sore throats and noses.
They are red, purple, black or gold,
Pick them fast before they mold.

Blueberry bushes and raspberry vines
Cover fields in long leafy lines.
Mama pick berries with her red-stained hands
While Papa fills boxes for roadway stands.

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Samuel

Summer and strawberries go together. I have worked in the strawberry fields of Oregon every summer since I was 10 years old. My whole family works every single day when the berries are ripe so we can get the harvest in quickly. Strawberries grow low to the ground, so you have to stoop or squat for hours. We work rain or shine, racing down the rows with cartons full of berries. Think of me the next time you eat a delicious strawberry!

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Strawberries

Strawberry's the first fruit of Spring,
On low leafy plants the berries cling.
Stooping and squatting makes muscles sore
But picking berries is a daily chore.
The only fruit with seeds on the skin,
Las fresas are favorites of most children.

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Teresa



We live in Alabama. I have fun at preschool with my friend, Ana. We stay there all day long while our papas and mamas pick tomatoes. I am learning my colors. What are you learning? After the tomato harvest we will move. I don't know the name of the next place we will live but I hope Ana moves there too!

40

Tomatoes

Tomatoes are our number one vegetable crop,
Farmers drive tractors and sit on top.
They drop young plants in the field to grow,
While papas walk behind setting them in a row.

Pruning and stringing the plants on sticks
Checking for bugs and leaves that are sick,
Picking tomatoes more green than red.
Papa works hard to keep us fed.

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Xavier

I live in the chile capital of the world! It is just a little town, but Hatch, New Mexico, grows lots of peppers. Hatch has a huge chile festival every fall. There are many kinds of peppers. Most people know about the hot jalapeño. The traditional spelling is xalapeño. My brothers and I have contests to see who can eat the spiciest pepper. My lips burn after I eat them! Do you like hot spicy food?

48

Xalapeño

These spicy hot peppers first grew in Xalapa,
A city in Mexico, the land of my papa.
Papa picks peppers for Mama to string,
The dusty hot work makes eyes itch and sting.

49

Yolanda

My mother is a *promotora* in North Carolina. *Promotoras* teach people in their communities about health. The clinic in our town held classes for farmworker women who wanted to be *promotoras*. Now my mother teaches families about clean water, vaccines, diabetes, pesticides and many things. My mother understands all the worries of the migrant families since she was a migrant too. Everyone at the clinic likes my mother! I am so proud of her.

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Yams

Yams are from Africa and not the same
As sweet potatoes we call by that name.
Sweet potatoes are both orange and white
But about the name we won't fight.
The potato's unearthed so it pokes from the soil,
Papas dig them up, all fall they toil.
Harvest ends in early November
Papas cut Christmas trees in December.

51

Zachary

I live in the Sunshine State! Florida is really hot, so it is a good place to grow squash. My mom helps a farmer pick zucchini. We call them zukes for short. I stay home and watch my little brother and sister while my mom works in the summer. When she comes home at night, we all want to give her a big hug, but we have to wait until she changes clothes. Her farm clothes can have sprays on them that make us sick.

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Zucchini

Mom wears a bandana across her face
To keep out dust and harmful sprays.
Over and over she bends and she stoops
To fill up crates with yellow-green zukes.

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Migrant Child Fact Sheet for Adults

- Over 1 million US children live in migrant families
- Most migrant children are US citizens
- Migrant workers are employed in every state; CA, TX, FL, WA, NC and MI have the largest numbers
- Farmworker families may stay in “camps” that include campgrounds, trailers, farm property, sheds or bunkhouses.
- Transportation may be by family vehicle, farm-owned vehicle or crew bus. Most women don’t drive and families live in isolated conditions.
- The average migrant household lives well below the poverty line.
- Over half of migrant families are food insecure, with hunger a common problem
- Farmworkers typically have no health insurance, paid time off, unemployment protection or disability coverage. Agriculture is consistently the most hazardous industry in the US.

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Migrant Child Fact Sheet for Adults

- Most children live in substandard overcrowded housing
- Health care access is limited by poverty, isolation, mobility, and lack of insurance
- Fewer than 25% of migrant children have access to safe daycare
- Most child labor protections do not apply to farm work. Many children work adult jobs by age 11.
- School completion is hindered by migration, lack of family resources and cultural barriers. Many parents have limited formal education and lack literacy skills.
- Anemia, dental decay, unmet developmental needs and toxic exposures are chronic health conditions
- Migrant children have become health professionals, lawyers, politicians, advocates and successful business people but organized efforts at assistance are lacking.

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