

GREENFIELD

A day of honor for farm workers



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE CALIFORNIAN

Couples dance to the music of Salinas band Los Mercenarios on Sunday at the El Día del Trabajador Agrícola in Greenfield's Patriot Park.

Event puts laborers in touch with services

Idea is to thank those who help bring food to people's tables

By Elia González
The Californian

GREENFIELD — Hundreds of farm workers gathered at Patriot Park on Sunday to celebrate Agricultural Worker Day, or El Día del Trabajador Agrícola, with music, games, food and prizes.

The event, sponsored by the South County Outreach Efforts (SCORE), combined education with fun, bringing more than 30 agencies together to share information about their services.

"About 10 years ago, we established El Día del Trabajador Agrícola to honor the farm workers for their great work that brings food to

What it means

Every year, on the last Sunday of August, the nonprofit organization SCORE celebrates "El Día del Trabajador Agrícola" (Agricultural Worker Day) in Greenfield. The event honors thousands of agricultural workers who toil in the fields and processing facilities to bring food to millions of people.

the table of millions of people," said Emma Bojorquez, a member of the SCORE committee. "The idea of doing this celebration came out of the need to bring the services of the agencies to all the migrant workers of the area, and it was also a way to say thank you for their great work."

About 1,000 people attended Sunday's event, down from about 14,000 last year, said Bertha Alfaro, president of SCORE.

"We had a conflict of schedule with a march of farm workers to Sacramento to ask Gov. Davis to pass a law, and this affected the number of people coming," Bojorquez said.

Pablo Jiménez, 21, was at the celebration in Greenfield with his wife, Enriqueta Melo, 27, and their 18-month-old baby, Edwin Jimenez.

"Both of us work in the fields," said Jiménez of Greenfield, sitting on the grass and listening to a band play.

The celebration was supported by the city of Greenfield, businesses and area employers. SCORE is a nonprofit coalition of outreach workers that provides information about medical, social and financial services to migrant laborers.

"This is a very nice event, and it is very good that they do this for us," Aramando Neri, 30, of Greenfield, said in Spanish.