

AFSC

AMERICAN
FRIENDS
SERVICE
COMMITTEE



Quaker Service Bulletin

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
American Friends
Service Committee

Number 171 Vol. 73 No. 3 Fall, 1992

Native American projects

...a Montana youth camp, community gardens on Pine Ridge, and traditional religious services in California prisons



Young people learn to set up teepees at AFSC youth camp on Crow Reservation in Montana. Photo: Paul Dix

"First we had to set up the teepees. It wasn't so hard; we got the first one set up really quickly. I was surprised. Then some of the elders came over to help us with the second one. They worked with the poles, and it took quite a while. We thought they were really slow, but when they set it up the canvas was completely tight; there were no wrinkles; it was perfect."

— Bryan Schaeffer,
Dillon, Montana

In early July the Crow Nation in southeastern Montana hosted six white, six Crow, one Sioux and three Northern Cheyenne high school students, mostly from Montana and Wyoming. They were brought together by AFSC for a weeklong Intercultural Youth Camp — a 75th Anniversary event, to learn from each other and to look at the long-lasting impact of Columbus' voyage: cultural and environmental degradation, poverty, disease, prejudice, isolation.

Together the young people learned hand games and drumming. They hiked together to a dam and went swimming. They visited sites sacred to the Crow Nation over thousands of years and shared in a pipe ceremony; they learned about the history of the Crow and about the dynamics of racism and poverty.

"The most important learning, however," said Peter Isbister, a youth participant, "happened on a person-to-person level." For the first few days campers stayed in cliques: Indian males, Indian females, white males, white females. "No one talked to anyone else. Things weren't working," said a counselor. "We worried."

Wednesday the youth got together to protest the camp rules. They started to get to know each other. "Both Indians and whites learned about the other's present-day realities," Peter said. "We learned about the Crow culture and the difficulty of living in the dominant white society as a full member, while retaining cultural ties."

On Saturday the campers talked to the adults gathered for their own conference on the Quincentennial. "Our presentation about our youth camp was extremely heartfelt," said Peter. "We were well received and given tremendous attention and encouragement. A white woman asked us, 'What do you need from us?' It was a moving question because it showed she was ready to give what she could and felt a responsibility to give it. We will

Continued on page 7.

AFSC aid for Somalia and Mozambique

"S"erious mass starvation continues in Mogadishu and surrounding areas," reported Mohamed Abdirahman, the AFSC's representative in Somalia in August.

The magnitude of the suffering and death has caught world attention, but civil strife and a virtual state of anarchy created by fighting among political factions and family groups have hampered relief efforts. In spite of a ceasefire agreement between two of the major warring factions, there has been widespread banditry and looting by young men toting weapons largely left from the period of US and former USSR superpower interest in the strategic Horn of Africa region.

Working under the most difficult conditions and at great personal risk, Mohamed Abdirahman and his staff have managed to procure food, medicines and other essential supplies for two orphanages in Afgoi outside Mogadishu. They have also arranged the services of a physician and a nurse for the orphanages, serving some 700 girls and boys plus staff.

In the capital, AFSC has facili-

Continued on page 8.

4 Homeless families gain shelter



Photo: Terry Foss

4 AFSC files petition against border abuse

6 News in brief

7 Campaign against militarism in schools

7 Letters from Vietnam

SOUTH AFRICA: The Struggle Continues

Two recent visitors to South Africa remind us in stark terms that the struggle to end apartheid is far from over.

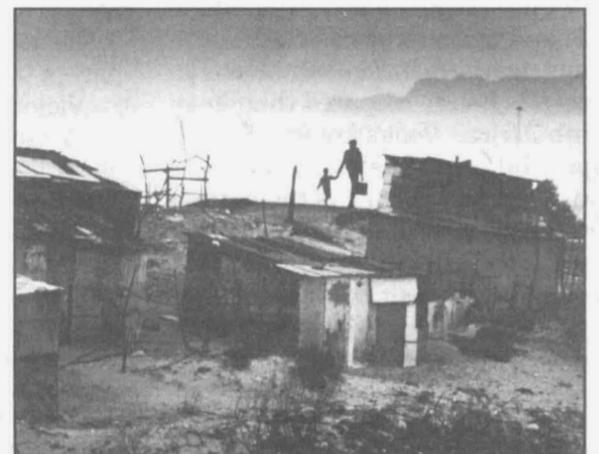
Edythe M. Jones, Esq., director of the Southern Africa Project of AFSC's Middle Atlantic Region, visited many schools and talked with educators across South Africa and in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Jamie Tyson, a member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends and a consultant with the AFSC's National Peace Education Division Southern Africa Program, lived and

worked with mediators in the townships in South Africa. The mediators are the local people to whom neighbors come with their problems.

Each woman tells the same story of struggle and hope from a slightly different perspective.

"The present system is benign in appearance and masks continued apartheid in all structures of society," says Edythe Jones. "Generally, I learned the



A man and child walk at dusk through the squatter camp, Khayelitsha Township, Cape Town. Photo: Susan Winters

Continued on page 2.

Rebuilding America

BY DAVID GRACIE, SECRETARY,
PEACE EDUCATION DIVISION

Facing the longest economic downturn since World War II, soaring unemployment rates, and a deteriorating infrastructure, it is no wonder that so many are raising the demand to rebuild and reinvest in America. We can only welcome the shift away from military spending and the reforms in taxation that this growing demand may be able to bring about. But the danger of isolationism and nativism in simple slogans like "Rebuild America" or "Reinvest in America" cannot be overlooked.

When a worker in Pennsylvania cheered on Harris Wofford in his successful run for U.S. Senate by shouting out "It's time to take care of our own!" he struck such a

responsive chord that the phrase was used in campaign advertisements. What it seemed to say was "Let's rebuild America and forget about the rest of the world." Senator Wofford has since felt obliged to write articles making clear that is not his intention. But he also explains the anger of voters that creates such sentiment—anger "that we seem to have unlimited resources to defend the oil and sovereignty of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia but cannot find the means to defend the health and welfare of American working families."

Not only political campaigns but peace movement campaigns run the risk of allowing this anger to turn people away from the needs of the rest of the world and from paying close attention to what the U.S. is doing in the rest of the world. I hear

of conferences where workshops on U.S. foreign and military policy are cancelled or undersubscribed. I read strong, well-written arguments for deep cuts in the military budget and investment in domestic needs with little or no mention of foreign aid, and lacking analysis of a foreign policy so reliant on military means that any real peace dividend becomes impossible.

As an organization rooted and grounded in an international vision and international experience, we have our work cut out for us. We have to model ways of educating and organizing that show how we can be citizens of the world and very much citizens of our own communities at the same time. An interesting and perhaps unexpected example can be found in our centerfold feature on AFSC's Homeless

Organizing Project in Oakland, California, and the history of AFSC work in self-help housing in both the U.S. and Africa.

Those doing the building in Oakland, the homeless and the AFSC staff who work with them, have a history of protesting war and challenging the U.S. military budget, to free up public resources for projects like theirs. They know that their fate is connected to those made homeless by war, whether in Panama or Iraq. Learning from the experience of AFSC housing projects in California in the '60s and with squatter families in Zambia in the early '70s, they rebuild their corner of America, symbolizing what could be possible for many others throughout a demilitarized world.

South Africa

Continued from page 1

DeKlerk regime has no commitment to abolish apartheid in education. The majority population continues to lack the essentials for a decent education."

Classes are overcrowded (the average student-teacher ratio is 54:1), teachers are inadequately prepared, rote learning is the norm, there are no libraries, textbooks or teacher manuals, and lighting is inadequate, Edythe said. Students are dropping out in great numbers. The poverty is so great that almost no one eats more than one meal a day, and that one late in the evening. Transportation from the townships to school or work costs R 6.50 each way, while the average salary for Africans is R 65 a month.

The contrast with schools she observed in Zimbabwe showed her what could be attempted in South Africa if there was the will to do it. The Government of Zimbabwe is committed to eradicating the vestiges of the separate education system of the former Rhodesia.

While struggling against great odds and in overcrowded classrooms, teachers in Zimbabwe are generally better prepared than in South Africa. Books are in short supply but they do exist. Interactive, not rote, learning is the norm, and the overcrowding results from a continuing belief that education is the key to success. Education is



A teacher leads children in song at an alternative school in Nyanga Township, Cape Town. It was established by local residents because there was no other school available in the area for their children. Two hundred children are taught in this 12 x 18 prefab building. Photo: Susan Winters

free through the primary grades and proposals are being considered to extend free education for the academically excellent.

Edythe Jones attended the funeral for the Boipatong massacre victims and witnessed the tension, frustration and anger of the people. Their anger is due to lack of progress in the talks that are supposed to lead to democratic government, she says, and to the violence which seems to have become an integral part of their lives.

Violence was the most frequent word used by Jamie Tyson in telling about her stay in South Africa. She saw violence in the early deaths of so many children due to diarrhea and in the signs of kwashiorkor evident in so many others living in



A man digs more graves in the children's section of Gugulethu Township Cemetery, Cape Town. Photo: Susan Winters

the townships.

A cemetery in Gugulethu was filled with markers that told her that the persons buried there had not seen their second or third year of life.

She saw violence in the policies

of the government. With no minimum wage law, mothers and fathers work full time and still cannot adequately feed and clothe their children—never mind provide for their health and education.

But in the face of all this structural violence and the killings which cause people to put bars on their windows and grates on their doors she still found hope. Here is how she describes it:

"We hear so much in our media about 'black-on-black' violence, but we don't hear about the work of the civic associations and the kind of democratic leadership they bring to virtually every African community, no matter how poor. We do not hear about how these communities come together to meet and try to resolve their problems in an environment where many different voices can be heard. We do not hear how every block in these townships will have a mediator to whom neighbors can come to solve their dilemmas.

"I was teaching a conflict resolution class to these mediators at the time that 200 shacks went up in flames in Nyanga—the police laughing over their loud hailers [bull horns] as they burned. Before class, we began to wade through some of our feelings of despair and I began to feel that familiar stone stuck in my throat. One of the mediators gave me a name for this stone: hope. This stone of hope became a symbol of the presence of God to me amid much despair."



QUAKER SERVICE BULLETIN

Editor: Beth Binford
Design: Gerry Henry

Published by the
American Friends Service Committee

National Office:
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
1501 Cherry Street

AFSC Regional Offices:

Southeastern Region

Atlanta, Georgia 30303
92 Piedmont Avenue, N.E.

Middle Atlantic Region

Baltimore, Maryland 21212
4806 York Road

New England Region

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02140
2161 Massachusetts Avenue

Great Lakes Region

Chicago, Illinois 60605
59 E. Van Buren, Suite 1400

North Central Region

Des Moines, Iowa 50312
4211 Grand Avenue

New York Metropolitan Region

New York, New York 10003
15 Rutherford Place

Pacific Southwest Region

Pasadena, California 91103
980 N. Fair Oaks Avenue

Pacific Mountain Region

San Francisco, California 94121
2160 Lake Street

Pacific Northeast Region

Seattle, Washington, 98105
814 N.E. 40th Street

'...My CDs are maturing. I don't know what to do with them, they earn so little interest. I heard about an AFSC plan where you can give a gift to the Service Committee and get a high rate of return? Is this so?'



Concerned about his investments, a contributor phoned Lyn Back this summer in AFSC's Office of Planned Giving. Lyn told him about an AFSC Gift Annuity which would guarantee him a fixed income for life, and support Quaker Service projects around the world.

"The rate of return would depend upon your age," she told him, "but I suggest the Gift Annuity because the older you are at the time you make the gift, the greater the annuity. And you are entitled to a generous charitable deduction as well."

For more information please fill out the coupon below. We welcome your interest and assure you of confidentiality.

To: Lyn Back
Office of Planned Giving
American Friends
Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Please send me more information about an AFSC Gift Annuity.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ zip _____
Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Quakers launch appeal for people of Iraq

Quaker relief workers were among the first non-military westerners to enter Iraq after the cessation of fighting in March 1991. Since then our message has remained the same: non-military sanctions should be removed. International voluntary agencies cannot supply sufficient aid. Iraq can afford to supply its own basic humanitarian needs, if it is allowed to trade....

Even though the Iraqi government's stance is weakened by its own human rights record, the world should not stand by and watch Iraqi children die while waiting for the government in Baghdad to do the right thing.

We believe that military sanctions should be maintained, and that effective international monitoring of civilian trade should be established to ensure that Iraq's resources are devoted to peaceful purposes....

[When] sanctions are applied to a country such as post-war Iraq, with an economy already devastated by war and dependent on imports for its basic sustenance, it is primarily civilians who suffer and die while the political and military elite remain relatively immune.

—Excerpts from *Sanctions & Suffering: A Quaker Appeal for the People of Iraq*



An Iraqi child's drawing reveals the horrors of the war.

As news headlines warn of renewed military conflict in Iraq, Quakers around the world are working to draw attention to the crisis in that country brought about by continuing economic sanctions against Iraq.

Civilians, especially children, elderly people and other vulnerable groups, are dying in Iraq as a direct result of the 1991 Gulf War and the non-military sanctions in effect for the past two years.

Health studies show that disease and malnutrition are widespread, and that infant mortality rates have risen sharply. Iraq, in short, is a public health catastrophe.

In response to this human tragedy, thirteen Quaker Service organizations around the world, including the AFSC, have called on people of faith and conscience to urge their governments to advocate that the United Nations lift all non-military sanctions against Iraq.

Sanctions & Suffering: A Quaker Appeal for the People of Iraq is a new ten-page brochure outlining the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the Quaker response. It is a call to disentangle the political objectives of the United States and other governments from the real issues at stake in Iraq.

"The appeal flows from Quakers' 300-year-old testimony against war and our commitment to aid those who suffer as a consequence of war," said AFSC executive secretary Kara Newell. "We must continue to reach out to the people of Iraq who have suffered through human rights abuses by their government, two disastrous wars, and now the slow agony of economic sanctions. It is important to reach out now, when there are calls to move in the other direction: for renewed military action against Iraq." —Denis Doyon, Coordinator, Middle East Peace Education Program

Sanctions & Suffering: A Quaker Appeal for the People of Iraq includes suggestions for action, a model letter to the United Nations, and two detachable post-cards. It can be purchased (20 for \$5.00) from your nearest AFSC office or by writing: Middle East Peace Education Program, AFSC, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Native American

Continued from page 1.

need this deep support from people as we make presentations about this program back in our communities and plan for another—and even better—camp next year."

"I never used to know the white kids at my school. I didn't think I could really know the white kids here at camp either. But then I made some really good friends, and it makes me think maybe when I go back to school I can make some white friends there, too. I never thought of that before. Our responsibility is to pass it on. There's so much ignorance in our school.... I see my ignorance.... I want this world to be great. I want us to be there for each other."

—Mallory Venne, Hardin, MT
Jonis Davis, AFSC, Seattle

Community gardens on Pine Ridge Reservation

"When we were put on the reservation we were told we couldn't hunt, gather berries or plants, fish or plant. Our knives were taken away from us. 'Savages' after all shouldn't be allowed knives. So we just sat and waited for the food wagons to come and this deepened our dependence on the government.

Now, after generations, it's time we got back to the basics.... Gardening means food will not only be more nutritious, but more economical. I remember one day when I wanted to make slaw, the only cabbage I could find was turning brown from age and the price was \$2.50."

—AFSC Native American staff member, 1988, Pine Ridge

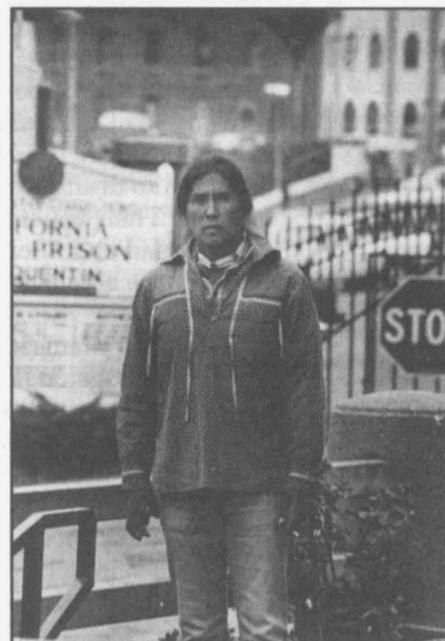
The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, measured by per capita income, is the poorest community in the country. The Oglala Sioux, part of the proud Sioux Nation who live on this second largest of all reservations, share other characteristics of poor communities including limited and unbalanced diets, made worse by starchy government surplus commodities which are an economic necessity—processed food in cans, white flour, lard.

In response the community has developed community gardens. Gerald One Feather, AFSC staff on the Pine Ridge Reservation since 1988, has helped organize the effort. He recruits families, puts them in touch with the resources they need. The aim, he says, is not only to provide nutritious food for family use, but to give children the experience of organic gardening and to revive the spiritual knowledge that

earth is mother, the source of all life, and that there is an interdependency of all living things.

There are about 20 family gardens in the Oglala and Porcupine districts of the reservation, and the number of families participating increases each year.

The largest garden is 50 by 100 feet in size. All make use of drip irrigation, a technique first used in Israel to maximize water use in dry



Isidro Gali, Coordinator for AFSC's American Indian Spiritual Visitor's Project, in front of San Quentin.

areas. The families grow everything organically, without any chemical fertilizers: tomatoes, onions, carrots, cucumbers, melons.

While the produce is now consumed locally, next year's plans call for marketing some of what is grown to provide added income.

Isidro Gali, Coordinator for AFSC's American Indian Spiritual Visitors Project in Northern California, conducts traditional religious ceremonies at seven men's prisons, three California Youth Authority facilities, and the California Women's Institution. Although a hard-won law suit ensures the right of prisoners to traditional spiritual guidance, the state Department of Corrections has funded only one full-time position to cover all the facilities in Northern California; Isidro occupies one-half of that position in addition to his AFSC work. To gain access to each youth facility he first has to acquaint the warden with the provisions of the law. He builds a sweat lodge at each site, travelling long distances to collect the required river rocks and sacred herbs. In addition Isidro helps inmates secure competent legal counsel and maintains contact with their families.

AFSC petitions OAS on behalf of border victims

The AFSC, joined by another U.S. organization and two Mexican human rights organizations, has petitioned the Organization of American States to intervene with the U.S. government to end violent and inhumane enforcement activities used by the Immigration and Naturalization Service at the Mexico-U.S. border.

The petitions were filed on behalf of victims of abuse who have exhausted available remedies through U.S. courts: six Mexican nationals and one U.S. citizen, all of whom were allegedly beaten, shot or otherwise abused by Border Patrol agents. In one case a pregnant woman died after being apprehended by U.S. agents. Her father was a witness in Washington as the petition was filed. A doctor has testified that his daughter suffered a heart attack brought on by stress caused by "coercive interrogation."

The petition, filed mid-August, received wide news coverage, including an editorial in the *Los Angeles Times* which applauded raising the issue to the international level. "That international perspective is important. And it is at the most obvious of global meeting grounds—the border—that immigration policy is best carried out with sensitivity and common sense."

Joining the AFSC were the League of Latin American Citizens and two Mexico-based human rights groups, the Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos and the Academia Mexicana de Derechos Humanos.

The substance of the petition draws on the work of AFSC's Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project (ILEMP) which since 1987 has monitored law enforcement practices at five points along the 2,000 mile border and in southern Florida. Its findings were last published in February in a report titled "Sealing Our Borders: The Human Toll."

The petition is the first time that the OAS has been asked to look into charges of human rights abuses by immigration officers. It asserts that Border Patrol activities violate several international human rights instruments which the U.S. is obliged to follow.

Among the petitioners' requests are that the INS implement training programs, standards and policies to protect the human rights of those who come in contact with them and that the U.S. government conduct on-site investigation and take testimony with reference to Border Patrol human rights violations.

The OAS must now rule on the petition's admissibility. If the ruling is favorable, a letter will go to the State Department for response, followed by additional comment by the petitioners.

—Jane Motz, Associate Secretary,
Community Relations



Above: The Dignity Housing complex which includes playground and support services. Left: The courtyard area of the complex.

Homeless not helpless

AFSC and homeless people develop permanent housing solutions

From its inception in 1986, AFSC's Homeless Organizing Project/East Bay (HOPE) in Oakland, California has engaged in the time-honored tactics of the suffragist and civil rights movements: organizing marches, rallies and sleep-outs in Oakland city parks to raise public awareness about the crisis of homelessness. These actions received widespread, favorable media coverage and put great pressure on city officials to develop low-income housing.

In 1987 AFSC coordinated the founding convention of the Oakland Union of the Homeless where more than 600 homeless people gathered to draft a constitution and elect union officers. Their belief: that homeless shelters were a dead end; their goal: permanent housing through the activism of homeless people themselves.

Declaring themselves "homeless not helpless," the Union staged demonstrations, held vigils, and took over city-owned abandoned buildings. A news reporter noted, "These...actions are helping turn around society's perceptions of the homeless, and giving the Oakland Union a reputation for successful activism."

"People said to me then, all this protesting has a lot of heart, and it makes a point," says AFSC staff Terry Messman, "but all that's going to happen is we're going to go to jail. What's it going to get us? I kept saying, we're not going to get anything for two or three years. But at the end of that time we're going to get housing, and

lots of it."

Terry was right. Years of work by AFSC alongside homeless people bore fruit this summer with two housing projects which include life support services for homeless families: the new Oakland Multi-Service Center which is scheduled to open this fall, and Dignity Housing West, a non-profit housing corporation of homeless and formerly homeless people which is about to open its first 26-unit complex of permanent housing with major assistance from HOPE.

The Dignity Housing complex provides 2-4 bedroom units, plus a child care facility, a playground and support services.

The preceding years of highly visible nonviolent



Right to Left: Terry Messman, Bobbie Butler, and a service provider from San Francisco look over the floor plan for the new Oakland Multi-Service Center.



Above: The Dignity Housing complex which opened this fall provides 26 units, a child care facility, playground and support services. Left: The courtyard.



Homeless not helpless

AFSC and homeless people develop permanent housing

From its inception in 1986, AFSC's Homeless Organizing Project/East Bay (HOPE) in Oakland, California has engaged in the time-honored tactics of suffragist and civil rights movements: organizing marches, rallies and sleep-outs in Oakland city parks to raise public awareness at the crisis of homelessness. These actions received widespread, favorable media coverage and put great pressure on city officials to develop income housing.

In 1987 AFSC coordinated the founding convention of the Oakland Union of the Homeless where more than 600 homeless people gathered to draft a constitution and elect union members. Their belief: that homeless shelters are a dead end; their goal: permanent housing through the activism of homeless people themselves.

Declaring themselves "homeless not helpless," the Union staged demonstrations, held vigils, took over city-owned abandoned buildings. A news reporter noted, "These...actions are turning turn around society's perceptions of the homeless, and giving the Oakland Union a reputation for successful activism."

"People said to me then, all this protesting has no heart, and it makes a point," says AFSC staff Terry Messman, "but all that's going to happen is we're going to go to jail. What's it going to get us? I kept saying, we're not going to do anything for two or three years. But at the end of that time we're going to get housing, and

lots of it."

Terry was right. Years of work by AFSC alongside homeless people bore fruit this summer with two housing projects which include life support services for homeless families: the new Oakland Multi-Service Center which is scheduled to open this fall, and Dignity Housing West, a non-profit housing corporation of homeless and formerly homeless people which is about to open its first 26-unit complex of permanent housing with major assistance from HOPE.

The Dignity Housing complex provides 2-4 bedroom units, plus a child care facility, a playground and support services.

The preceding years of highly visible nonviolent



Right to Left: Terry Messman, Bobbie Butler, and a service provider from San Francisco look over the floor plan for the new Oakland Multi-Service Center.

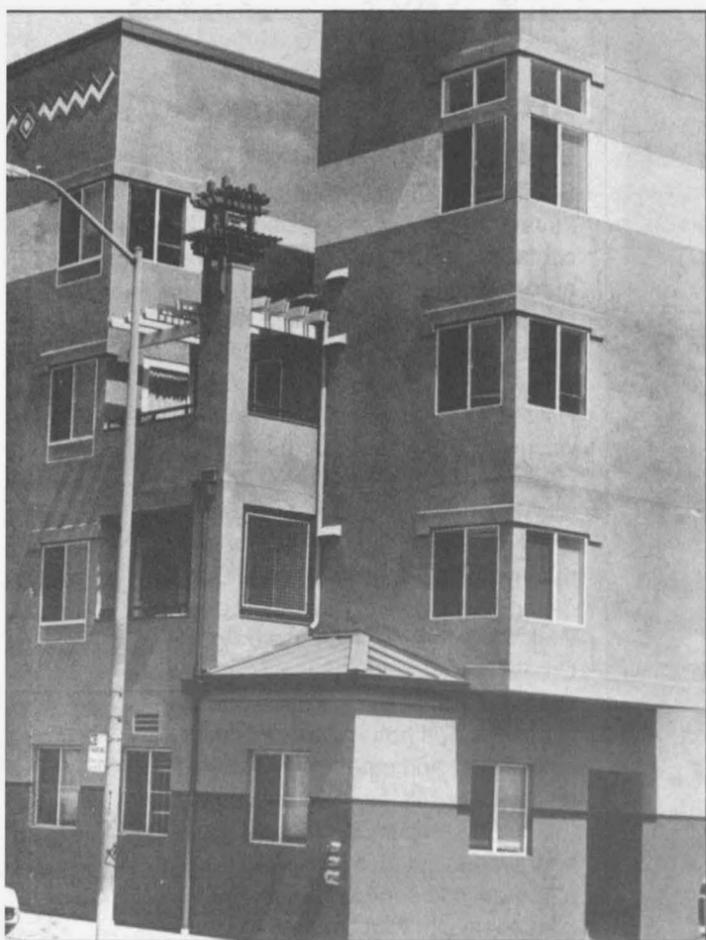
protest successfully forced the city to support and fund the Dignity Housing West programs, granting \$4.5 million to build the complex as an innovative model for housing homeless people, and to commit land, city funds and state tax credits for a second complex of 20 units.

The Oakland Multi-Service Center is located in a former downtown hotel that was rehabilitated under county auspices using city and federal emergency funding. The center will feature a comprehensive social services program, including job training and placement, on-site medical personnel, showers and telephones for non-resident use, as well as transitional housing for about 350 homeless people for up to 18 months each.

Dignity Housing West and the Multi-Service Center both employed homeless workers with construction skills during construction and renovation, though only after a fierce struggle with the county.

"We never thought, at least I never did, that our protests would lead to the development of new housing," says Bobbie Butler, a formerly homeless woman who is now Coordinator of AFSC's Homeless Training Institute. "The most I thought was to get some of the vacant housing turned over."

AFSC staff are involved in most aspects of Oakland's policy-making and planning on the issue of homelessness. Terry and Bobbie hold two of the eleven seats on Oakland's Homeless Commission and serve on commission policy committees which are designing a new written policy on homelessness for Oakland. Bobbie serves on one Commission



opened this fall provides 26 units, a child care facility, and a courtyard.



Above: A construction worker on site; and Bobbie Butler, Coordinator of AFSC's Homeless Training Institute, counsels a client about sources of food. AFSC photos: Terry Foss.

Helpless

Permanent housing

protest successfully forced the city to support and fund the Dignity Housing West programs, granting \$4.5 million to build the complex as an innovative model for housing homeless people, and to commit land, city funds and state tax credits for a second complex of 20 units.

The Oakland Multi-Service Center is located in a former downtown hotel that was rehabilitated under county auspices using city and federal emergency funding. The center will feature a comprehensive social services program, including job training and placement, on-site medical personnel, showers and telephones for non-resident use, as well as transitional housing for about 350 homeless people for up to 18 months each.

Dignity Housing West and the Multi-Service Center both employed homeless workers with construction skills during construction and renovation, though only after a fierce struggle with the county.

"We never thought, at least I never did, that our protests would lead to the development of new housing," says Bobbie Butler, a formerly homeless woman who is now Coordinator of AFSC's Homeless Training Institute. "The most I thought was to get some of the vacant housing turned over."

AFSC staff are involved in most aspects of Oakland's policy-making and planning on the issue of homelessness. Terry and Bobbie hold two of the eleven seats on Oakland's Homeless Commission and serve on commission policy committees which are designing a new written policy on homelessness for Oakland. Bobbie serves on one Commission

subcommittee that is working to get a just-cause-for-evictions ordinance in Oakland. Both serve on the boards of Dignity Housing West and the new Multi-Service Center.

At the insistence of AFSC and the Union, both boards reserve a majority of their seats, and many of their staff positions, for homeless and formerly homeless people. Terry and Bobbie offer them training to fill these positions effectively.

Through it all, Terry continues to provide training in nonviolent organizing, and to help homeless people organize throughout the Bay Area. Bobbie recruits facilitators and trainers for AFSC's Homeless Training Institute scheduled to begin this fall in a local hospital with an introductory course in community organizing. Some of the homeless people completing this introductory module will move on to advanced courses in either non-profit housing management, social services, or housing development.

As important as housing and life support services are the organizing and facilitation skills that enable homeless people themselves to influence the policies and programs that affect them. "The Multi-Service Center will become a new organizing base," says Terry. "The Oakland Homeless Commission means that for the first time homeless people have direct access to city officials. A new voice for homeless people has been created in Oakland."

— Alina Trowbridge,
San Francisco

History of AFSC housing work

In the depths of the Great Depression, AFSC started a housing project in western Pennsylvania to enable unemployed coal miners to construct homes for their families. The community they built exists to this day.

Initially fifty families were part of Penn-Craft. They organized in crews to build each other's homes, with credit for the number of hours worked. AFSC hired a manager, provided training in carpentry and masonry, and arranged for low-interest financing.

Penn-Craft serves as a prototype of self-help housing—sweat equity and cooperative teamwork along with outside resources to enable people without funds to pursue their goal of decent housing.

The same principles have guided other AFSC self-help efforts in the United States, and also in Zambia where AFSC collaborated with local and national government in creating self-help housing and related income-producing cooperatives.

Out of AFSC housing work in Florida came a report, *Abuse of Power*, which exposed the racist practices of the Florida Farmers Home Administration and led to top-level changes in that agency.

Starting in the 1950s, AFSC spearheaded the struggle against housing discrimination, working at the local and national level. A Philadelphia program documented discrimination in the disposal of houses repossessed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and Veterans Administration (VA); its report, addressed to the President, brought about changes in the practices of these agencies.

Tenant organizing was another initiative. An experienced AFSC tenant organizer was freed to see if the time had come for a nationwide organization to emerge. The time was ripe and the National Tenants Organization was born.

Recently, as an active supporter of the 1989 March for Housing Now, AFSC received a challenge grant that enabled thousands of poor and homeless people from across the country to participate in the march, and to affect the character of the event, which led to passage of the first comprehensive legislation on low-income housing in more than a decade.

Current AFSC work in Oakland and Boston focuses on the scandal of homelessness in this country, and the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) syndrome that keeps the poor, people of color, and people who are disabled or chronically ill out of many urban and suburban neighborhoods. In December, AFSC will hold a national symposium on NIMBY and Housing Exclusion.

— Barbara Moffett, Secretary,
Community Relations



Self-help housing project, Zambia.

Welfare Watchdogs Take Action

What do the general public and government officials know about the realities of living on welfare? How can people receiving public assistance make sure they are getting the benefits they are entitled to?

Calling themselves the "Welfare Watchdogs," a group of six women with experience in the welfare system are raising these questions with assistance from staff in AFSC's Syracuse office. AFSC office manager, Linda Williams says, "The average person on welfare doesn't want to be on welfare and doesn't want to be made to feel degraded and low. I speak from experience—I've been on welfare.... Most people who are on welfare receive it as a sort of safety net, usually for less than two years."

The women's biggest project has been to mail a survey to 55 city, county and state officials that included an exam for people to calculate what their welfare benefits would be, and challenged them to simulate living on a welfare and food stamp allowance for 16 days. Only nine officials responded—four of them women. Several encouraged the group to keep working on the issue.

A news conference was held to report the survey's results.

AFSC area committee member Shirley DeHority tried to live on the welfare budget herself. She said, "I found it very demeaning. After we subtracted an equivalent amount for rent, we had \$18.25 left to cover utilities, telephone, transportation, laundry, clothes and all grocery items not covered by food stamps. Obviously we didn't make it. It's no joy ride in spite of what politicians would have us believe."

Left to right: At a breakfast meeting, Welfare Watchdog members Jean Lynch and Millicent Collins and AFSC staff Linda Williams hear from a representative of Legal Services of Central New York (right) about how public assistance is allotted. The information will be passed along to other women.
Photo: Jan Phillips.

AFSC coalition gets justice in West Virginia

In the Winter issue of the Bulletin we reported on the raid against the home of



Mary Reynolds, in wheelchair, joins Logan, West Virginia march for "racial harmony, action and peace."
Photo: Terry Foss.

AWARDS and GIFTS

Joan Hairston, director of AFSC's New Employment for Women (NEW) Program in Logan County, West Virginia, was one of ten women honored statewide for Women of the Year in Business. Joan was recognized for the sensitivity workshops on racial issues she holds for teachers and principals, and for organizing Racial Harmony, Action, and Peace (RAP) Day last fall as a protest against racist incidents in Logan.

Jana Schroeder, director of AFSC's criminal justice program in Dayton, was inducted into the Developmental Disabilities Hall of Fame in Dayton on April 24 and given an award for community service. She was also filmed for a training video on adaptive technology for blind people.



Maria Jimenez testifies at House hearing on border violence. Photo: Terry Foss

Maria Jimenez, director of the AFSC's Immigration Law Enforcement Monitoring Project, received the National Lawyers Guild Carol King Award at the Guild's annual convention on August 9. The National Immigration Project of the Lawyers Guild presents the award yearly for distinction in the area of immigration rights. This is the first time the award has been presented to someone other than a lawyer.

In honor of AFSC's 75th anniversary, singer Bonnie Raitt gave AFSC 200 tickets to her September concert in Dayton, with the sales to benefit AFSC. She also held a reception for the AFSC ticket holders after the concert. She wrote the Dayton office: "...When I was a child, my uncle was Peace Secretary of the AFSC in Pasadena, California, and I spent one of my most valuable summers doing community organizing with an AFSC youth project in Indianapolis in 1967. ...[The AFSC's] wide range of programs encouraging better community and cross-cultural relations continue the commitment to the goals we grew up expecting to accomplish. Especially during these times of drastic cutbacks in federal and local funding, the AFSC is deserving of our support."



Mary Reynolds, a Committee member of the AFSC New Employment for Women Project (NEW) in Logan, West Virginia. The sheriff's deputies were ostensibly looking for drugs. When Mary Reynolds asked to see a warrant, she was attacked physically and suffered serious injuries. Mary Reynolds was charged with resisting arrest and her husband Andrew Reynolds was charged with drug offenses.

Joan Hairston, director of AFSC's NEW project, returned early from medical leave to respond to the crisis. She helped pull together a coalition across several state lines that helped to turn this situation around. She brought the case to the attention of state and federal officials, and came up with the idea for a march for Racial harmony, Action and Peace (RAP) which was a great success.

In February it was revealed the charges against Mary and Andrew Reynolds had been fabricated and in April were dropped. The sheriff resigned,

the chief deputy was fired by the new sheriff, and the person who injured Mary Reynolds was reassigned to a desk job.

Four deputies are now under investigation by the FBI, the Department of Justice and the State Human Relations Commission on charges of beating and torturing a Black man to force him to testify against Andrew. The former sheriff, to lighten charges against him, wore a "wire" as part of an investigation of a judge. In May the judge was found guilty of charges of racketeering, bribery and witness tampering.

Mary Reynolds is now able to walk with a cane. A civil suit on her behalf is pending. The FBI is still investigating the incident.

According to Mary Reynolds, "I'm just glad that all this is about over and that our names are being cleared. I really appreciate the way people from all over the country came together to help with this, to get the word out, and even came to Logan to march."

AFSC aids hurricane victims in Florida

Shortly after Hurricane Andrew hit south Florida, AFSC began working with its contacts in the immigrant farm and nursery worker communities in Homestead and Florida City to find ways to respond to the disaster.

AFSC set up a Fund for Emergency Relief and Reconstruction to aid the victims. To date \$35,000 has been received from a special grant and from contributions from individuals, churches and Friends Meetings. A portion of the money has been used to hire a Guatemalan and a Haitian outreach worker to work within the Spanish-speaking, Creole-speaking and Guatemalan Indian communities, helping tenants now living in condemned housing to know their legal rights, and others to know what disaster benefits they are entitled to.

On September 28, plans were approved to set up a non-profit housing corporation to serve as a vehicle for community participation in the reconstruction and construction of decent housing for low-income residents of South Dade. The corporation will involve the AFSC, the Miami Friends Meeting and the Iglesia de los Amigos.

The AFSC's Florida Undocumented Workers Program and Central American Political Asylum Project have worked with immigrant farmworkers in South Dade for many years, providing legal assistance, immigration legal rights information and aid to community groups in improving police relations.

Aid shipments sent to Africa

On May 26, to help meet the desperate need of people in Mozambique, AFSC shipped 15,977 pounds of clothing, household goods, shoes and hygiene kits. AFSC representative Bonnie Dalziell will use the hygiene kits in the maternal and child health program in Manica Province, the destination of the shipment.

This fall a shipment of 15,000 pounds of children's clothing, fabric remnants and hygiene kits was sent to Somalia where many people are in dire need and where AFSC has an ongoing service and development program.

In addition 15,000 pounds of clothing and hygiene kits were sent to Liberia where children are suffering because of last year's coup.

The Material Aids Program needs children's clothing for upcoming shipments. If you have donations they may be sent to the AFSC warehouse, 1515 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.



Loading bales for shipment at AFSC warehouse, Philadelphia. Photo: Terry Foss.

AFSC offers inmates course on AIDS, life skills

AFSC's Life Skills Workshops in the Essex County Jail Annex in Caldwell, New Jersey, are giving men and women inmates a chance to learn the practical skills needed for job hunting: how to fill out a job application form, prepare a resume, review help wanted ads, find job placement and training services, conduct themselves at an interview. Aptitude tests give students some knowledge of their strengths and interests. To encourage goal-setting they are asked to write an essay, "Where I Want To Be In Three Years."

Four of the workshop's ten classes deal with the subject of AIDS, taught by professional AIDS educators: how it's transmitted, the misconceptions and the ways to reduce the risk of acquiring the disease. A pamphlet entitled *Aids & Prisons, The Facts* gives answers to the most asked questions with addresses of where to write for more information.

At the end, inmates evaluate the lessons and make suggestions for improving the content. Certificates are awarded the graduates at a special ceremony. Because so many in the class have received little positive reinforcement in their lives, one result of the course is often new self-esteem.

The Re-Entry Services Project is led by AFSC's Life Skills Educator Alan Swenson. He also offers follow-up social service assistance to clients who are released, and their families, to help the clients make the transition back into society.

Alan is assisted by bi-lingual social worker Rod Sanchez and student social work interns from Kean College. Alan gives special credit to the Jail Annex staff saying, "None of this would be possible without their excellent cooperation."

Linda and David Blair, co-directors of AFSC programs in Vietnam, write about AFSC's support for Vietnamese development projects in that country's northern provinces of Thanh Hoa and Son La.

Linda writes: My recent trip to Thanh Hoa was during the harvest season. The hardtop road was strewn with rice straw, with folk threshing and winnowing an arm's length from the car windows. Farmers, wading chest-deep in the fields, were towing small "basket boats" to load with rice.

We have been involved in many new activities. Another pumping station is underway at Hai Linh, to benefit about 1,000 poor farming

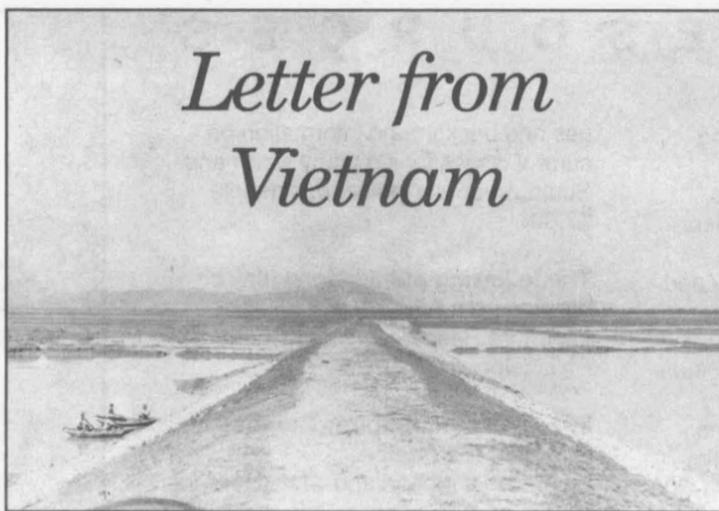


The dike in Thanh Hoa Province was broadened and new stone work laid at sides, a project that made use of revolving loan funds. AFSC photo: Lady Borton

families by enabling them to irrigate their second crop of paddy rice.

We have arranged for Vietnamese project holders to get training in designing and operating revolving loan funds. Families repay their loans into a fund held by the Women's Union or commune which then lends the sum out to other families. We have organized more of our donations along this line so that benefits accrue to the community year after year. We are doing two saltpan repair projects with revolving funds (repairing dikes that let in sea water for evaporation into salt), and financing 50 fishing families who want to buy nylon, looms and weights to make fishnets to sell.

Another revolving loan fund project which we will begin this fall is shrimp raising.



Sea water is evaporated to provide salt in Thanh Hoa Province. AFSC photo: Roger Rumpf

One of our new projects in the town of Cam Thuy is an irrigation pumping station to improve the water supply to the rice paddies for a better yield. Construction of the station is moving along smoothly. Meanwhile Dr. Ke, our veterinarian, is going to Cam Thuy to collect data on our pig vaccination projects. Our best to you.

David Blair writes about his visit to a village in northwest Vietnam:

...This trip began yesterday, nine hours in a jeep to Son La town. Three hours more this morning, and now this four-hour trip up the Da River to reach the village where last year we helped to rebuild a dam washed away by floods. The dam supplies water to irrigate the paddy rice, and we've also built a drinking water system that supplies clean water through pipes and cement storage tanks.

As I sit on the porch of our host's house I look out over the thatch roofs below to the green of the paddies. Full of seedlings, they promise food in abundance. But last year the rice was higher at this time. The farmers tried a new, high yield variety of paddy. The seedlings died in the cold of January. They've replanted, and no one knows what to expect.

In any case the hungry season, the time before the harvest, has come again, as it does every year. A little girl grates cassava on the porch of the house below. Cassava has become the staple food. Perhaps next month her parents will have to go to the forest to dig roots

as they did last year, or the family may eat the inside of the banana trunk.

Last year we gave rice to try to help people over the hungry season. This year we're experimenting with an agroforestry project, planting some tree species (tung, coffee, longan) that will one day yield a good cash income along with the cassava, corn, and upland rice that people must eat this year.... This may prove a way for farmers to use their land more productively, to shorten the time of the hungry season.

The scene from the porch is idyllic, but I am learning to look behind appearance and to know better. The promise is there. However, the next few months will be hand-to-mouth at best.

Vietnam is still at war. The U.S. trade embargo on aid to Vietnam, which denies Vietnam access to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is a form of economic warfare. A favorite question to an American, "When will the embargo end? When will relations be normalized?"

The Vietnamese keep going, hoping for the end of the embargo, and yet changing and growing in spite of it. I have admired the grace of the Vietnamese, their sense of balance, the way they ride so effortlessly on the back of a bike, perched sidesaddle, holding on to nothing. I have the feeling they're going to keep their balance through these hard times, too.



Three Hmong girls enrolled at the new school AFSC has built.

Campaign against militarism in schools

A letter from an incarcerated Gulf War military resister to the AFSC contained \$5 to support the Committee's Youth and Militarism Program. "We wish that every gift, small or large, could be motivated by a similar spirit of resistance to war," said David Gracie, Secretary of the Peace Education Division. In a post-script, the young C.O. said that he was getting in touch with groups in his home state who are challenging the military presence in the schools. When he's released from prison, he plans to do youth

outreach with them in his spare time while going to college.

AFSC feels a responsibility to work with young people in the schools. With all the headlines about military personnel cutbacks, it is important to note that \$1.9 billion has been requested by the administration for military recruitment efforts for fiscal year 1993. The military will continue to be present in junior high and high schools. Even some elementary schools are being "adopted" by military units.

Beyond counter-recruitment, AFSC seeks equal access for groups

like the ones the imprisoned donor hopes to join, and to raise a demand for the complete demilitarization of our schools. To this end, AFSC's Youth and Militarism Program has been playing an important part in building the National Campaign to Demilitarize our Schools (NCDOS).

NCDOS is a coalition effort which emphasizes local community initiative and youth leadership. Working at the local school board level to limit recruiter access to the schools and to the lives of our young people, the 41 participating groups develop educational programs to present their own message to

school-age youth. Some have already won some partial successes, such as reducing school funding for Junior R.O.T.C. programs. All groups benefit greatly from knowing they are part of a nationwide effort.

The newsletter of NCDOS is available by writing to: AFSC Youth and Militarism Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. Also available is a packet on militarism in the schools providing basic information for individuals wishing to get involved in their own neighborhood schools. (Cost \$4.00, includes postage.)

NEW RESOURCES

1992-93 Alternative Gift Catalog

This shopping list for the world, produced by the non-profit group Alternative Gift Markets, Inc., offers gifts for people facing disasters, presents that nourish self-dignity and build understanding. This year's catalog features the AFSC-supported women's gardening project in Guinea-Bissau. For a copy of the Catalog write: Alternative Gift Markets, Inc., 9656 Palomar Trail, Lucerne Valley, California 92356, or call toll free 1-800-842-2243.

Asia Health Conference Report:

A summary of the AFSC-sponsored conference, "Health Care Under Especially Difficult Circumstances," held in Bangkok, Thailand in March 1992. For a free copy write the International Division, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102

The following two publications are available by writing Third World Coalition, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102:

500 Years is Enough Study/Action Packet This packet is prepared by the Third World Coalition of AFSC for the 500 year anniversary of the arrival of Columbus. It contains educational materials that can inform communities about the "legacy" of Columbus and the Europeans who followed him. It describes the impact this had on the indigenous population, and on the land and its resources. It challenges the myths about colonization. The packet includes a history chart of perspectives of Native Americans, Africans, Asians, Latinos in this hemisphere from 1492 until the present, a manual for cultural activism, a calendar of national and international events in relation to the "500 Years" and original articles reflecting on the Quincentenary. \$5.00

Indigenous Land Rights Reader, published by AFSC Third World Coalition, describes the land struggles of Native peoples and gives summa-

ries and background information on current issues facing many North and South American indigenous people. \$7.00

The following publications may be ordered from AFSC National Office, Literature Resources, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102:

The Course of Empire: The United States in the Pacific

by Frank Brodhead and Christine Wing describes U.S. expansion in the Pacific and the new challenges to U.S. hegemony in the region. \$2.00 plus 50 cents postage

Reconciliation in the Post Cold War Era: Challenges to Quaker International Affairs Work

by AFSC's International Division, reflects on Quaker International Affairs Representatives' experiences in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, the Middle East and the United Nations. The 35-page booklet contains the proceedings of the January 17, 1992 Quaker International Affairs Colloquium. \$2.50

The Bridges series of Quaker International Affairs Reports provides timely analysis of political, economic and social developments worldwide. Two new reports:

Earth Summit: Forging Tools for Change, by Quaker United Nations Representative Stephen Collett, highlights some of the gains and shortcomings of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, focusing our attention on its most important aspect—follow-up;

Thailand's Struggle for Democracy—It All Takes Time, by Asia International Affairs Representative Donna Anderton, describes increasingly effective attempts by Thailand's pro-democracy movement to curb military power.

A preview issue of either of these "Bridges" is available for \$2. An annual subscription—8 issues—is \$25



A nurse weighs a baby at one of the AFSC-supported mobile clinics in Mozambique. AFSC photo Bonnie Dalziel

Somalia/Mozambique

Continued from page 1.

tated inter-agency cooperation for several communal kitchens.

South of Mogadishu, AFSC continues to support the Omaria agricultural cooperative, where construction of a cattle shed is underway and where a grinding machine was recently installed. AFSC has enlarged the local dairy herd by 30 cows and provides veterinary services and training. These efforts follow more than a decade of development work in Somalia which has focused on improving water supplies and food production.

Following a recent field visit to Somalia, David Funkhouser, Interim Assistant Coordinator of the Africa desk, reported that in spite of continued concern about looting and banditry, AFSC's work moves forward and will be expanded during the coming year. Four additional kitchens will be set up, and AFSC will provide desperately needed food to the Lafoye College of Education near Afgoi. AFSC staff envision expanding the relief and development work in Omaria to surrounding communities.

The picture of a nation at war with itself and struggling to survive the ravages of mass starvation defies imagination. The efforts of Abdirahman and staff bring hope to an overwhelmingly complex and tragic situation

While Somalia has become a prominent media focus, the situation in Mozambique is virtually unknown. Mozambique has not only been severely affected by the worst recorded drought in its history, but, since independence from Portugal in 1975, a long and brutal civil war has claimed up to one million lives. In August 1992 a ceasefire agreement was finally negotiated between the government and the South African-backed insurgency known as RENAMO, but was not to be in place until October.

For almost twenty years, AFSC has been on the ground in Mozambique, providing food, clothing, tools and building supplies, and promoting improved health care, literacy, income-generating projects and community organization. Today, in the extreme crisis of drought and the ravages of war, AFSC has been focusing on emergency relief for refugees and displaced people, particularly women, infants and children.

By supporting mobile outreach health clinics in Manica Province, AFSC helps provide basic health services and food rations to several thousand children and their mothers. The mothers are also trained in healthcare. AFSC staff are also helping to provide new wells, introduce drought-resistant crops, and support community gardens and income-generating projects.

Describing her work in Manica recently, AFSC field representative Bonnie Dalziel said, "When I see weak babies getting healthier and their mothers gaining strength and confidence, I feel hopeful. That keeps us going."

Against the grim backdrop of drought, war, hunger and thirst, Mozambicans struggle to survive the most challenging stage of their history. "Without water there is no life," said a Mozambican woman who faces many more months before rain is expected.

The AFSC is urgently seeking funds to support relief efforts and development in both Somalia and Mozambique.

The AFSC Holiday Gift Card Plan and Calendar



"It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives. Nourish it then, that it may leaf and bloom and fill with singing birds."
— Black Elk

This holiday season honor your friends and family members who care about others with the beautiful AFSC gift card or 1993 AFSC calendar. At the same time your gifts will help alleviate suffering and work for justice, reconciliation and peace.

Through the Holiday Gift Card Plan you send friends and relatives a gift card with the message that you have given a contribution to AFSC in their names. This year's card features a linocut bordered in rose and turquoise with a quotation by Black Elk. Please note the requested minimum is \$7 per card.

The AFSC's 1993 11 x 17 wall calendar makes a year-long gift for yourself or a friend. Each month's black and white photo portrays the people with whom AFSC works around the world accompanied by an inspirational quote. Holidays and holy days of all major religions are shown.

The \$10 price includes postage.



To: American Friends Service Committee
1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19102

Please send _____ gift cards and matching envelopes.
(The requested minimum is \$7.00 per card.)

Total for cards \$ _____

Please send _____ 1993 calendars each \$10.00

Total for calendars \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to the AFSC. Contributions are deductible for Federal income tax purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____