



Number 174 Vol. 74 No. 2 Fall, 1993

Open door to a community in need

THE SECTION of Pasadena with the densest population and lowest household income is its northwest sector, bordering on the city of Los Angeles. Problems of this predominantly African-American and Latino community include poor housing, under-employment and unemployment, inadequate health care, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, and a lack of quality education.

AFSC has been a long-time resource for this community. With the appointment of program secretary Karen Hooks-Roon, and in the wake of the Spring 1992 uprising, community organizing work rapidly expanded and the AFSC has become involved in a range of projects.

Helping build a tenants' union
King's Villages is the largest low-income housing project in Pasadena. AFSC hired a bilingual Latino organizer to increase Latino participation in the King's Villages Tenant Union. As a result, the gap between Latino and African-American residents closed considerably. For the first time the residents now collaborate as they confront management with their problems.

Providing safety for kids
In April, 1993 AFSC assumed the administration of Project Safe Time,

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3 Helping children deal with grief

4 Summer projects in Mexico



5 El Salvador revisited

6 A week with Pablo Espinoza

7 News in brief

AFSC helps with flood recovery



An Iowa farmer examines flood debris on his fencing. This acreage was covered by about six feet of water in the immediate aftermath of the Raccoon River flooding in July. AFSC photo: Kay Whitlock

DES MOINES

"I opened my back door and heard the water coming," a farm woman who lives near the Raccoon River in Iowa told AFSC. "It sounded like a wave of thunder. I saw my cattle swim for high ground."

The Midwestern rain and flood crisis of 1993 was a natural disaster of almost incomprehensible magnitude. The American Friends Service

Committee is mounting a flood relief program to address long-term needs of people who do not or cannot get outside help.

The slow-motion disaster began in the spring, with heavy rains that saturated the ground. Many farmers were late putting in crops, while others could not get crops in the ground at all.

As the rains continued, heavy flooding began along many rivers

and creeks. Families were displaced and jobs were lost as homes and businesses suffered flood damage.

In cities, the hardship was felt most keenly by poor people who are without insurance, savings or, in some cases, access to disaster relief assistance from government or voluntary agencies.

Undocumented workers, an officially "invisible" population, are among those who have lost jobs, particularly low-paying service jobs. These workers and their families cannot apply for emergency food stamps or go to agencies which require identification.

For low-income people who live paycheck to paycheck, any loss of income, however temporary, is catastrophic. For those who have lost housing, the situation is sobering. Most flood-affected cities faced acute shortages of affordable rental housing before the disaster; now the situation is worse. A number of working-class and poorer communities built on flood plains face especially expensive reconstruction costs and, in some cases, probably relocation.

"The AFSC sees a need to balance some acute, unmet short-term needs with longer-term recovery

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Exchanges aid development

IN HONDURAS, Gabriel Sanchez, from Mexico, walked down the hill from the soil conservation demonstration with a group of campesino leaders. As they paused to mend a damaged fence, Sanchez explained how peasant farmers in his village in Mexico have begun to encase wooden fence posts in plastic bags, extending their life an estimated 12 to 15 years, thus saving precious trees.

It was a typical moment in the five-day visit by Sanchez and Columba Ramirez to the headquarters of ADRO, a large peasant organization drawing members from



A group of campesino leaders in Honduras and their Mexican exchange visitors, pause after a soil conservation demonstration to repair a fence. AFSC photo by Dick Erstad

communities throughout the mountains of western Honduras.

Previously, AFSC Central America staff had arranged for five ADRO members to attend a course on soil conservation and appropriate

technology in Tlaxcala, Mexico. Now, in a reciprocal visit, the two Mexicans were sharing their skills with 50 Hondurans.

The exchange laid the ground work for a long-term relationship between key peasant organizations in Mexico and Honduras that share an urgent need to develop soil conservation and other necessary skills for sustainable development.

Over the last several years, AFSC, in cooperation with kindred organizations, has facilitated dozens of such exchanges, trainings and seminars. For example:

- ♦Eight women from Honduran and Guatemalan groups that train community health promoters visited Chile to learn from the experience of AFSC's long-term project in Santiago.

- ♦AFSC program staff facilitated the first-ever gathering of South American Gay and Lesbian organizations in a retreat center outside Santiago, Chile.

Continued on page 6

Voices of Native Peoples

By ED NAKAWATASE

DIRECTOR, NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

The fate of the original inhabitants of this and other lands is increasingly the subject of concern and scrutiny. There is little dispute that great wrongs have been done to the Native peoples who stood in the way of the expansion of the United States. And nowhere are those wrongs more strongly articulated than in the voices of Native people as they grapple with survival and justice. A case in point is the Native Hawaiians.

In 1893, the independent, internationally recognized government of Hawai'i was overthrown by a few plantation owners with the active participation of the United States marines. Annexation to the United States soon followed along with various cultural and political assaults.

The lands of Native Hawaiians were taken; their customs denigrated and later commercialized by the demands of mass tourism; and their identity constantly attacked. Though those assaults remain powerful realities to many Native Hawaiians, they are unknown to most of us.

The current movement for Native Hawaiian sovereignty reflects this history and provides a look into another future for the people of those islands. *He Alo A He Alo: Face to Face / Hawaiian Voices on Sovereignty*, just published by the AFSC Hawai'i Area Office, offers a broad inside look at that movement from a range of Native Hawaiian perspectives. Using various means of expression including art and poetry, the book reflects AFSC's extended involvement and

concern with Native Hawaiian issues. The voices affirm Native Hawaiian identity and sovereignty as well as the ongoing dialogue about how these concepts can be realized.

For many, the concept of Native Hawaiian sovereignty is unsettling. Its critics see it as yet another form of nationalism adding to the sum total of political fragmentation in the world; a potentially dangerous yearning for a nostalgic past. But the voices from Hawai'i, reflected in AFSC experience, say something else.

Native Hawaiians, as Native peoples elsewhere with whom AFSC works, remind us that land belongs to us all; that nature is not our enemy; and that people, even the poorest and most patronized, can envision and construct their future. As the book makes clear, Native

Hawaiians were subjugated but not conquered. The Hawaiian incorporation into the Union was executed without any real discussion with the Hawaiian people, much less any consent.

The Native Hawaiian movement once again has become a strong political presence seeking, at the very least, to renegotiate the terms of that union. Many within the movement seek to affirm, in the fullest form, Hawaiian nationhood. In either case, major changes will be needed in the relationship between Hawai'i and the United States. The speed, extent and quality of those changes will depend on all of us. Much needs to be discussed and understood. But first we must listen to the Native Hawaiians. *He Alo A He Alo* is a good place to start.

Philippine medical mission aids internal refugees

From 1990 to 1992, more than 4,500 civilians were displaced in the Zamboanga Peninsula of Mindanao, the Philippines, because of military operations by the government against the New Peoples Army. AFSC staff visited the Peninsula in spring a year ago and again in summer and reported the people had immediate need for food, clothing, temporary shelter, medicines and even toys.

This past June a medical-relief mission was organized to try and reach some 300 displaced families that were reported to be in the remote villages of Katipunan town. AFSC staff member Dr. Tess Burgos was invited and volunteered to go although she was unsure she could make the 7-hour, 25 kilometer hike. (But she did!) Excerpts from her diary follow:

"Fifty-one of us traveled first by bus over rough roads to a convent where we spent the night. We received rice cooked in coconut leaves as our packed meals for the hike.

"Before sun up, an old dilapidated bus took us as far as it could go, then the hike began through forests, up and down mountains, across three rivers. A group of 12 men met us to carry the medical supplies, sacks of rice and other foodstuff. The first hour or so our spirits were still high, our backs still straight, and the pace okay. But as the day wore on, we

grew increasingly weary. At one point the men volunteered to carry the packs of some of the women, including mine. What a relief.

"At noon we finally glimpsed our first destination, the village of Carupay, nestled in a valley along a river and surrounded by steep mountains. At last we could finally rest. The 200 families included some 30 refugee families who were our first priority.

"For two days we saw 88 patients in Carupay and 76 in neighboring Femagas. The cases were mainly tuberculosis, anemia, intestinal parasites, skin diseases. There were many goiters among women...a lot of muscle aches from carrying heavy loads...and stress-related illnesses. We quickly ran out of our drugs, but we had ample herbal prep-



A community health worker listens as the individual villagers talk about their medical problems and then dispenses the required medicines and instructions.

arations for fever, cough and skin diseases. One out of two preschoolers was underweight. Government health services never reach them. They had never seen a doctor. No one had ever been immunized.

"The clinic was mostly staffed by the community health workers who accompanied us; it was a good opportunity for them to practice their skills. I assisted in diagnosis and treatment. We also gave out relief goods consisting of rice, dried fish, salt, mung beans, soap and clothing.

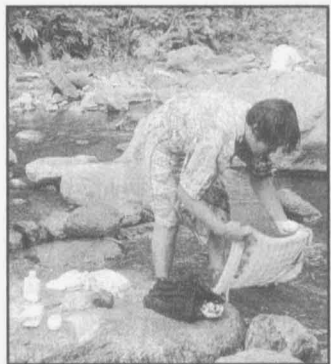
"In the early evening, at the end of the clinic, there were dancing, games and candies for the kids. For us there was the relaxation of a bath in the river.

"Early in the morning we started our 3-hour hike to the next village, Dabiak. The local officials were hos-

tile to us, but we wanted to reach the reported 23 refugee families in that village. We succeeded. That night we slept on the ground. The next morning we hiked downhill to catch that old bus, then back to the convent for a rest, breakfast, laundry and a bath.

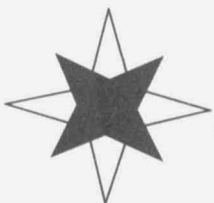
"We reflected on the problems in our evaluations. Besides the usual language barrier and illiteracy, we had discovered a disconcerting fact: The refugees eat only one meal a day and have no drinking glasses or teaspoons, so we could not instruct them to take a tablet after meals three times a day or take one teaspoon of antibiotics."

Tess reported that a congressional inquiry into the Subanen situation took place in August. Local groups came down from the foothills of Mount Paraya; the officials did not make the difficult hike.



Time out to wash a few clothes after the long trek into the mountains.

AFSC photos:
Tess Burgos



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Helping children deal with grief

To you Grandfather:
I did not know you but so long.
But I knew spring was your season,
and the thing I remember the most
is that you loved the Flowers as
they bloom. So what I did to remember
you is let my heart bloom every
season for you.

Melvin

When I think of my grandfather-- I
think about how my grandmother feels.

— Student participant in AFSC
grief workshop

BALTIMORE

The epidemic of violence across the country leaves children as its casualties. An AFSC program—part of an AFSC/school partnership at a Baltimore Middle School—is helping young people deal with grief and anger.

Fran Donelan, director of the Youth and Militarism Program, explains how this work began:

"The principal at the school had been listening to the kids talk about all the people they knew who had been killed. An alarming number of these children, she told me, had experienced the violent death of family members or people close to them. I offered to try and set up a program to offer support to the students."

Fran contacted Rosetta Graham, a Friend and psychiatric social worker who had established the first bereavement center in the country for family members of victims of murder. The school's guidance counselor identified children who had experienced death in their immediate families or the death of their friends.

Rosetta and Fran began meeting with them one day per week. "The first day, we had 60 sixth graders. We asked for only the neediest cases and wound up with two groups of sixth graders and one group of 20 seventh graders," Donelan said.

Much of the grief program's first year, Fran says, was spent in building trust and "presenting a safe place where it's okay to talk." She adds that some of the children in the grief program had lost family members through natural causes, but for children, sudden loss of a parent or grandparent is very traumatic.

Fran recalls one boy who she knew had lost his mother to AIDS. It wasn't until April that he

that children growing up in violent situations experience the same kind of post-traumatic stress disorders."

At the end of the year, Fran and Rosetta had the young people each do a page about the person who had died, and the pages were made into a notebook "Memories and Reflections of Bereaved Teens" with the title page reading: "From our hearts to them." Tommy printed on his page in the book:

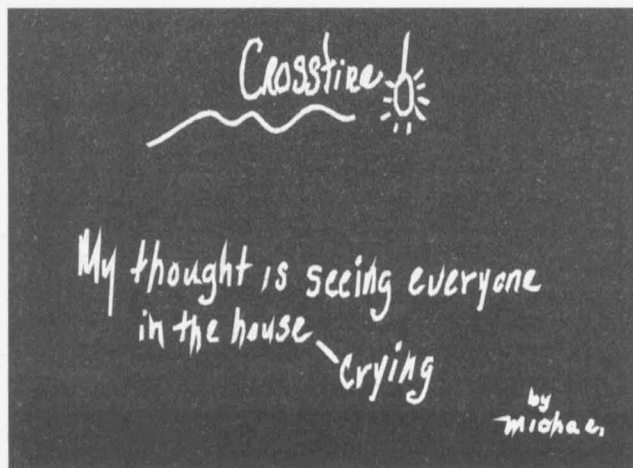
My Mother

She was going to get me something from the store, and all my brothers and I heard a shot--and we looked out the door. I said that was my mom! Me and my father, and my brothers ran up the street--my father was getting mad.... the man came down the street and said: "I'm sorry,"...my father was fighting him. I love the Both of you.

—Tommy

The boy who had lost his mother to AIDS drew a picture of a swan, saying his mother loved birds.

Change comes slowly and is hard to measure. "Sometimes it seems like we're doing great to keep everyone's attention for five minutes," Fran notes. "You can't gauge the effect, but you feel somehow it's made a difference. With some, we've seen a lessening of anger, at least within the group. With others, there's still a lot of aggression to work through. But the love these children have in them does shine through. The most important effect of the group is the support and help they give each other in the healing process. In one instance, when one member of the group, 11-year old Ted, lost his mother, they all made cards and wrote messages and sent them to him at his grandmother's where he was staying. His grandmother said they were moving to read."



even confided to the group that it was his mother who had died.

Fran says that many of the children experience a lot of free-floating anger and aggressive outbursts. Part of that, she speculates, comes from unexpressed feelings of grief, rage and anger. "Their behavior reminded me of Vietnam veterans I've worked with. Psychiatrists now say

Brazil workshops change teen attitudes

"I'm not afraid of AIDS—if I get it, I get it. It doesn't make any difference."

A teenager made this statement during an AFSC workshop on sexuality in Sao Paulo, Brazil, held for teens from one of the poorest neighborhoods where the threat of AIDS seems insignificant compared to the violence of the streets.

Helping teens realize they have a right to survive, and can make choices to gain some control over their lives, is the aim of AFSC's new workshops held weekly for young people. Staff cover such topics as sexually-transmitted diseases, AIDS, pregnancy, family planning, responsible parenting and couples sharing decision-making.

The teen workshops offer young people a chance to talk candidly about a subject rarely discussed in their society. They are given information about the prevention of sexual problems; plus they have a chance to reflect on how such problems can have an impact on their lives individually, and to consider this critically with their peers.

Over a period of a just a few weeks, the AFSC trainer of health educators, Cida Araujo, sees changes in attitude. In this supportive environment the teens learn to trust themselves and each other, and in so doing create an atmosphere of ease. They can put forth their ideas without fear of judgement.

Staff conduct an exercise in which young women are told to pretend they are going to be interviewed on television and to take on the personality, feelings, hopes and anxieties of a woman of any age, race or economic condition who finds out she is pregnant. They must think

through how they would react if they were that woman, what the implications would be. This helps the young women to envision the reality of becoming teenage parents. They usually reveal their own fears for their future if they were pregnant. These include abandonment by their child's father, being thrown out of the house by their own father, being unable to go to school or find a job and finding little support anywhere.

Once these fears are brought into the open, the young people discuss the practical steps they can take to "change the script." They talk about their responsibility for their own sexuality, and consider the options of abstinence and pregnancy prevention. They realize the importance of choosing a partner who also respects the need to take responsibility for the consequences of sexual activity. They practice ways of saying "no" without offending a partner. Finally, they identify people in their lives to whom they could turn if they were to get pregnant.

The AFSC-trained health educators are helping teens increase their capacity to contribute to real change not only in their own lives, but in society.

The program is an expansion of the Sao Paulo Health Education Program begun in the mid-1980s. The program trains women as community health agents to work in their own communities—the sections of the city where people lack the most basic services, including adequate medical care. The work with young people takes place in an area of the city where the population of 300,000 is expected to reach 457,000 by 1996, where in 1991 the birth rate and mortality rate were the highest in the city.

Dear Friend,

Are you wondering how the
1993 Tax Law will affect you?

Do you know that you can take advantage of the new law to benefit yourself and the Service Committee?

Write to me here at the Office of
Planned Giving to learn more about:

- ☐ Increased Tax Rates
- ☐ Reduction in Itemized Deductions
- ☐ Capital Gains and the AMT
- ☐ Increased Taxes on Social Security Benefits
- ☐ Estate Tax Rate Changes

I think we can help you in your financial
and estate planning for 1993.

Sincerely,

Lyndon S. Back
Lyndon S. Back, Director

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

Please send me more information about the
1993 Tax Law and charitable giving.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Phone _____

Fall 1993

Pasadena projects

continued from page one

an after-school program that provides a crucial service to the parents of King's Villages by offering a safe environment for approximately 100 "latchkey" children between the ages of 5 and 15. At Project Safe Time, the youngsters can talk about their fears and frustrations. Staff—with help from parents and community volunteers—provide exposure to different cultures, tutoring, self-esteem workshops, recreation, field trips, and a secure space after school and during the summer.

Promoting youth economic development

Pasadena, like Los Angeles, has become notorious for its gang problems. AFSC staff serve as close advisors to SWIRL (Serious World in Real Life), a group of young men, ages 17 to 33, all previously unemployed. The group includes former gang members and high school drop-outs. All members share a desire to start their own business, turn their lives around, provide an alternative to gang life, and serve as role models for others like them. With the help of one member with a landscaping degree, SWIRL began a landscaping, hauling, light construction and maintenance business. AFSC has helped members find jobs, equipment, transportation, a bank account, and do fundraising. SWIRL also has the maintenance contract for the AFSC office.

Helping the peace, working for justice

Karen Hooks-Roon serves as convener of WE CARE (Community Activists Responding Effectively), a group of northwest Pasadena residents who banded together to seek calm during the uprising of 1992 and again during the Federal civil rights trial of police officers in 1993. WE CARE sponsored community forums where people could express their feelings on racism and injustice, while organizing a network of response teams to keep peace in the neighborhood. The efforts of the coalition earned commendations from the County Supervisor.

Under WE CARE's sponsorship, over 100 children participated in painting a mural at Pintaresca Park with the theme "peace and harmony in the neighborhood." The park was chosen, Karen said, "because children in the area are faced with regular gang violence, and need creative outlets." One child painted a grave site in the corner of a panel, but alongside the gravesite other children painted a huge rainbow arching over a pastoral scene.

Encouraging better education

In its work with the Pasadena Unified School District to support community efforts for better education, the AFSC has been applauded by both residents and City Hall. AFSC staff have facilitated seminars on racism, sponsored programs for single mothers, and begun an innovative program, Community Readers, that recruits and organizes volunteers to read books to children in local elementary schools. The books, chosen for their multicultural themes and selected from AFSC's bookstore, are later donated to school libraries, many of which have not been able to purchase new books for over a decade.

Further contributions to the community come from AFSC's regional director, Tony Henry, who is very visible in the Northwest community.

Henry promotes AFSC values as chair of the City's Northwest Commission. This work has obtained better code enforcement, brought more services to Northwest residents, and has communicated the needs of the community to City Hall.

SUMMER PROJECTS



Forty years after their AFSC work in El Salvador, Roy and Martha Hampton return for a visit to the community. Here Martha Hampton shows her 1953 journal with photographs to some of the original families who still live in El Sitio del Nino.

Project in El Salvador revisited

IN 1952 Martha and Roy Hampton volunteered for the first AFSC workcamp in El Salvador, located in the village of El Sitio del Nino. The United Nations and El Salvador were setting up a Demonstration Area for developing countries of Latin America where representatives could view potable water projects, hydro-electric plants, home industries, health programs, markets, housing, agricultural efforts and so on. The AFSC helped the El Salvador government project to build 72 houses and relocate 72 landless peasants to this new community where the men would farm cooperatively and families would have education for their children and a better life.

This year in May, on an international study tour of El Salvador, the Hamptons took an afternoon to revisit El Sitio del Nino. Martha wrote:

"I can't tell you what it meant to go back after 40 years and find the village still thriving and healthy and to hear the stories from some of those original families about how their lives were changed. The AFSC and the volunteers who were part of that project need to know how important their work was in supporting the efforts of those families to learn new skills and develop their potential. Back then the families never dreamed their children could become engineers, doctors and teachers. We would like people in the AFSC to know that the work in that one small community in El Salvador is still having positive effects 40 years later.

"Another volunteer, Biddle Atlee, wrote us: 'During the past years I have had numerous Salvadoran graduate students and they all have said that Sitio del Nino has continued to be a model for community development in Central America.'

"Seventeen of the original families were still living there and 24 family members were with us that afternoon at the home of Antonio Abrego. We had time for visiting and for looking at pictures we'd brought with us from that time.

"You wouldn't recognize the community. Those trees we planted 40 years ago now provide shade for every home. Shrubs and flowers add their beauty. The houses stand sturdy after all these years so you know they were well built. Houses for married children take up many of the back lots. They all have

water. Electricity has brought lights, radios, TVs and refrigerators. We saw cars and pick-ups which indicate wealth.

"The land they farmed cooperatively was taken away, but each family was given a plot of land on which to grow their own corn and beans. Some families have sold part of their plot and used the money to send their children to the university. They told us how their lives had changed because of the El Sitio project, giving much credit to Los Amigos [the Friends - AFSC].

"The presence of the AFSC unit was the catalyst to get the project underway. If Los Amigos had not been there the Instituto de Colonizacion Rural (ICR) might have built the houses and eventually moved the families in, but that would have been the end of their involvement.

"I remember how we struggled to get the representatives of the ICR to sit down to plan and develop programs and to work with the families in the community. ICR resisted any kind of development of leadership; for them it was the introduction of democracy and too revolutionary.

"The families would like more of the Los Amigos group from that time to come for a visit. We are now planning a reunion in El Salvador of the workcampers who were there in the 1950s."

In 1953, in one of the weekly group reports sent to AFSC in Philadelphia, the El Sitio unit wrote: "The physical changes are not the important ones...it is the intangible changes that matter most—the changes in spirit and outlook that have occurred here, the changes that affect the hearts and minds. The people have strength and faith."

At the end of this last visit in 1993 Martha and Roy wrote: "Through all of the suffering and disruption of their lives during the recent war, there is still among the villagers a feeling of hope and strength, and a vision for the future."

The Hamptons also visited the current AFSC representative in El Salvador who is promoting post-war reconciliation. They write: "Her information about the work she is doing was another highlight of the trip because she is playing such an important role in the future of the country."

THEN AND NOW

Projects held in Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico and on reservation

YOUNG PEOPLE from ages 18 to 24 participated this summer in work-camps in Mexico and Cuba.

Of the 60 young people in the work-camps in Mexico, over half were from Mexico and other Latin American and Caribbean countries, with the rest from the United States, Canada and Europe.

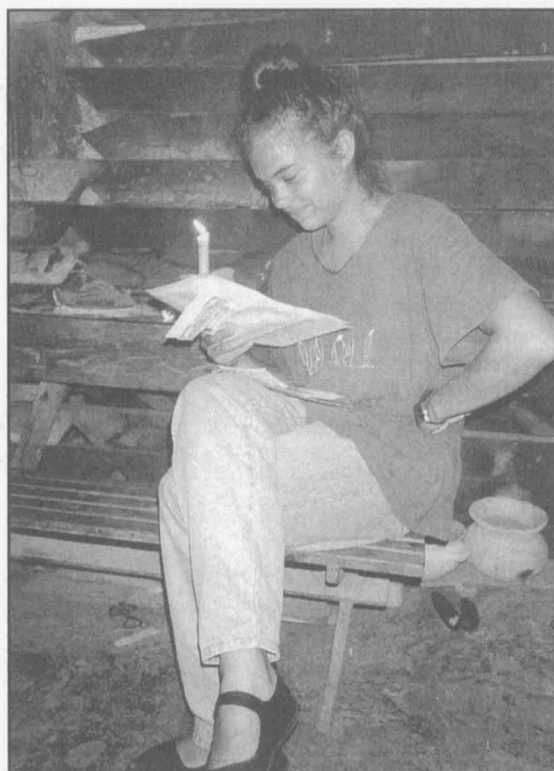
The worksites were four villages in the Municipality of Xilitla, in the state of San Luis Potosi chosen by AFSC's partner organization SEDEPAC. Working together with local campesino community organizations, the young people carried out road and school repairs, built playground equipment, dug latrines, constructed a community store, and worked in the fields.

They lived under difficult conditions: without electricity, running water, sewage, basic transportation and telephones. The indigenous Nahuatl residents taught them how to use their huingaro (a tool for cutting weeds), start a fire (and keep it going), plant coffee, make tortillas and handcrafts, cut wood, speak their language, and to find their way on the winding village paths. In addition they trained the youth in alternative medicine, soil and water conservation techniques, and share their values, customs and spirituality.

At the final evaluation Greta Kripner from the United States told what she'd miss most: "I will miss the coffee, arriving in Naranjal by flashlight, the view, the spring where I took the best baths, the tortillas, and my friends from the Women's Union."

Cuba projects

On July 8, nine young people from the U.S. and Puerto Rico left for Cuba to take part in the AFSC summer program with COEBAC, a Baptist student-worker organization. They were joined there by two



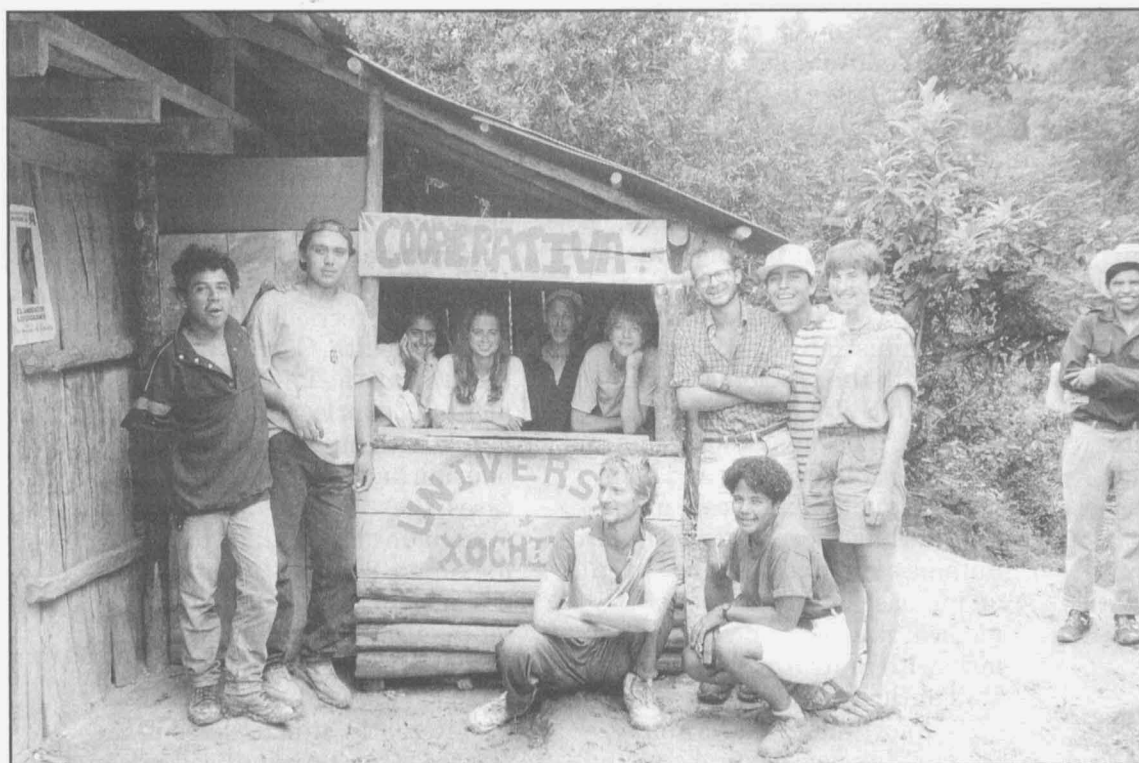
At any time during the summer, letters from home are received with great nostalgia and enthusiasm. Heather Passmore (U.S.A.) reads hers by candle-light in the group's kitchen. Photos by Becki Berner

Brazilian youth.

For two weeks participants collaborated with young Cubans on an agricultural project southwest of Havana. Participants also spent a week in Havana, prior to and following their time in the countryside. Many meetings, home visits, and recreational outings filled in the month.

On the Pine Ridge Reservation

For the Lakota people in South Dakota, oral history is vital to the preservation of their culture, so much so that the loss of language skill in the younger generation has caused great concern. To remedy this, AFSC held a 4-day encampment this summer, in the Badlands, for 24 Lakota young people—ages 6 to 16—to help them learn their language, their history, and to introduce them to storytelling. Ardis Iron Cloud-Hamilton, AFSC staff, said the event had such an impact on the participants, she is planning a second encampment for 1994.



In Mexico, Tierra Blanca community members and youth participants pose in front of the jointly constructed community store "Universal Xochitl" which will save residents an hour's walk to buy their basic necessities.

Helping students go to college

"COLLEGESCOOTS," community-based volunteers in southern and central West Virginia, are helping potential students of all ages apply for college admission and financial aid. "Our message about college is very simple to any West Virginian who wants to go: You can get there from here and we'll help you do it," says AFSC project director Rick Wilson.

The lack of opportunities for West Virginia youth has always been a concern of the AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Project. "For too many of our young people," Wilson says, "life after high school is either minimum wage jobs, the military, or leaving the state. They deserve more alternatives than that, and we're determined to see that they have them."

A former librarian, Wilson had the idea of training volunteers to work through the public library system. Frederic Glazer, the innovative director of the West Virginia Library Commission, supported the idea and won the endorsement of the Governor.

The program reaches people in several ways. People can attend College Scouts meetings, or call their library and a volunteer will get in touch with them. Scouts, also, have been aggressive about finding people who need this information.

Since its start in May, 1991 the program has reached people in 15 counties in West Virginia and in Winchester, Virginia. Wilson says, "We are reaching people who otherwise might never have gotten the support or information they need to go on with their education."

According to Wilson, "The main focus of the program right now is on training volunteers who will share the information. I'm willing to go anywhere in the State to train groups of five to twenty people." The three-hour training sessions include basic information on college and financial aid, ways to reach out to different people, why go to college, and ways around obstacles people present for not getting a post-secondary education.

"Volunteers are encouraged to specialize if they like," says Wilson. "Some want to focus on minority communities, dislocated workers, single parents, the developmentally disabled. The College Scouts program empowers ordinary people to make a difference wherever they are."

A long-term goal of the project is to train high school students to encourage fellow students to consider a higher education.



College Scout volunteers in Milton, West Virginia meet at local library. AFSC photo/ Rick Wilson

Bridges project has successful year

SINCE ITS beginning in the summer of 1992, the Bridges Project: Advocacy for Lesbian and Gay Youth has had an outstanding response. Its goal: to set up a nationwide network of programs and organizations serving sexual-minority youth, and to advocate that such youth-serving organizations as welfare agencies, schools and family service agencies, that are not currently serving sexual minority youth, find effective ways to do so.

The project grew out of the widely acclaimed publication *Bridges of Respect*, a resource guide for those seeking to support lesbian and gay youth: teachers, counselors, health and human service providers and youth advocates. It presents a powerful analysis of the effects of homophobia on young people and is available in Spanish and audio.

The project has created a national database of over 600 youth groups and services. Letters and phone calls from youth and youth workers around the country request information on groups in their area, on pen pal programs and youth phone lines. The Bridges Project computer listing provides the answers.

The director of a Latino Youth organization in Chicago wrote, "I recently heard about the Bridges Project. It sounds great! Please send information and ways in which Latino Youth staff might participate."

The first issue of its newsletter, *Crossroads*, got a positive response around the country. One teacher wrote, "You are providing a valuable service to young adults and to those who work with them. Best wishes for your work."

Project director, Jenie Hall, says, "We're now working on a packet of resource information for people who want to start a group in their area. Our list of over 500 resources includes posters; books for teachers, students and parents; biographies; gay and lesbian history; videos, movies, and the cost of each and where they can be purchased."

♦Small-scale exchanges, seminars and training opportunities have been arranged between non-governmental groups in Cuba and their counterparts in Mexico, Chile, Costa Rica, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

♦AFSC staff in Sao Paulo, along with trainees in the health project, visited northeast Brazil to learn innovative health training methods.

♦AFSC Haiti staff, since they were forced to lie low because of military repression after the September 1991 coup, have traveled twice to the Dominican Republic for courses in Spanish and in community-organizing techniques.

♦A Honduran child rights advocate received advanced training in Spain to help him strengthen the human rights program for children in his country.

While the short term benefits of these exchanges are evident, there is growing evidence that, given proper preparation, evaluation and follow-up, long-term positive change can also be set in motion.

For example, youth leaders from Mexico are adapting the methods learned in Chile for a summer youth recreation program. Manuals and techniques on sexuality education, developed by the AFSC in Chile, are being brought into the curriculum of health promoter training programs in Central America.



AFSC Photo: Dick Erstad

A week with Pablo Espinoza

Director, AFSC California Farm Labor Program

AFSC has been advocating for the rights of farm workers for over 40 years. Pablo Espinoza, director of AFSC's Farm Labor Program based in Visalia, California, says, "Over the years we have become a trusted first stop for farm workers facing unfair working conditions, health problems, poor housing, or immigration dilemmas. Today we provide critically needed services to hundreds of farm workers and others each month."

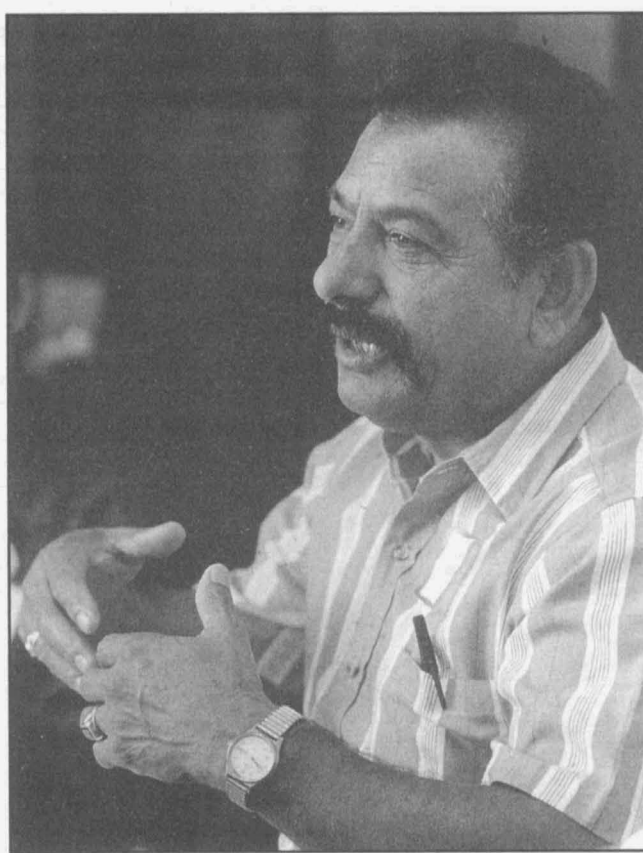
"Our twice-weekly radio program, 'La Voz Del Pueblo' (Voice of the People), reaches some 96,000 farm workers who live and work in the San Joaquin and Imperial Valleys. We inform our listeners about such issues as education, alcoholism in the family, sexual abuse, citizenship, prenatal care, human rights, tax preparation, vocational opportunities, pesticides, immunization programs. We continually promote special events in the community."

Espinoza and staff Teresa Reyes handle an average of 300 cases a month. Pablo describes events during a typical week.

"On 'La Voz Del Pueblo' we discussed a case in which a Border Patrol agent, after killing an undocumented person with an M-16, was found innocent. Many listeners called in during the program and asked for a petition to be circulated."

"Teresa organized a Prenatal Health Fair in the Linnel Farm Labor Camp that provided women with free hemoglobin and breast exams, nutritional education, and information on domestic violence issues, pesticide exposure during pregnancy, family planning and services provided by Tulare County."

"We continued to assist a farmworker with his case against a grower who neglected to provide protective



Pablo Espinoza speaking at an AFSC symposium on nonviolence. Pablo was himself a farm worker when he met Cesar Chavez. With prodding from Chavez, Espinoza went from farm worker to labor organizer.

He says of his late mentor, "Chavez taught us to be nonviolent, which was difficult to practice. But we learned that violence didn't hurt the growers as much as not working in the fields."

AFSC Photo: Terry Foss

der attack by the Governor and other politicians who unfairly blame these newcomers for California's economic ills. Teresa and I, in coordination with OLA

clothing for using pesticides. With our help he was able to obtain medical services and began receiving disability pay. We also made arrangements for him to meet with an attorney. Locating a lawyer who will accept a pesticide case is very difficult.

"Teresa and I made a presentation at a Border Patrol Abuse Training program that we organized with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and OLA Raza. About 25 organizations were present. Those who attended said the training was beneficial and expressed interest in holding a similar meeting to inform community people about their rights when dealing with the Border Patrol."

"Immigrants are currently un-

Raza, organized community meetings on the subject in Linnel and Woodville Farm Labor Camps. The farmworkers formed a committee to work on a response.

"We started our education campaign on labor rights this week. We are doing this through leafletting and through the radio program."

"Teresa assisted in the case against a labor contractor who tried to pay two farm workers for the price of one. This labor contractor is known for continually cheating farm workers out of their hard earned wages."

"Maria Ortiz of Self-Help Enterprises called to thank us for mentioning their Weatherization Program on 'La Voz Del Pueblo.' As a result 140 families received the necessary repairs to their homes."

Prison complaints are focus of New Jersey, Michigan AFSC scrutiny

NEW JERSEY

STAFF OF AFSC's New Jersey Criminal Justice Program continually monitor prisoners' complaints of racism, censorship of reading materials, lack of attention to medical problems, and, especially from inmates in control units (isolation cells), complaints of brutality.

Bonnie Kerness, associate director of the program, says, "We may get as many as 15 calls a week from inmates. When I see a pattern—prisoners saying they have no heat, or they aren't getting their newspapers or magazines—I call

the Department of Corrections to see if the problem can be corrected. If nothing is done, I may call the Public Advocate's Office or search out an attorney who will take the case."

"To undertake legal action is a last resort," Bonnie explains. "Our purpose is to get the parties to come to the table." Presently AFSC has two suits pending: one for using control units for racial and political reasons; the other for violating regulations that forbid censoring certain reading materials.

Over the past four years, AFSC has been asked to monitor health care in prisons by the ACLU, the Seton Hall and Rutgers Law Schools, and the Center for Law and Social Justice. Prisoner advocacy groups also maintain ongoing contact with AFSC for information regarding the concerns of prisoners.

MICHIGAN

Penny Ryder, coordinator of the Michigan Criminal Justice Program, reports:

"We recently completed a nine-month investigation of medical care in a prison. It revealed policy and procedure violations that we feel contributed to three deaths. Lack of adequate staffing and poor administrative procedures were apparent in both life-threatening and routine medical situations."

"None of our findings was refuted by medical administrators. To their credit, medical and nursing administrators and staff have dealt with the problems in one of the two facilities of the prison complex. They make site visits and talk with both inmates and non-medical staff. Health care administrators have been replaced as have nursing staff, and there has been an increase in the number of medical staff. We now meet regularly with central office medical staff at their request."

Unfortunately, says Penny, the facility's non-medical staff did not deal with the problem as positively and threatened several

inmates with transfer and retaliation. However, AFSC staff was able to intervene successfully.

AFSC is concerned that similar circumstances are present in the 33 other state prisons. But, Penny says, "The number of prisons and the need for assistance from prisoners make investigations difficult."

Penny has also been working to get cooperation from the Department of Corrections, Department of Mental Health, Community Mental Health and the Parole Board to get mentally ill prisoners released on parole with needed assistance in housing and health care. In some cases, these prisoners are left in the system until they reach their maximum sentence, then they are put on a bus and expected to fend for themselves. Those with no family or community support end up in shelters or back in prison.

Recently, staff assisted in the release of two terminally ill prisoners to their families, one with AIDS and the other with cancer.



Villages in southern Lebanon show the effects of the August Israeli artillery bombardment. AFSC photo: Issmat Atteereh

AFSC to help with reconstruction in Lebanon

AFSC staff member Issmat Atteereh visited Lebanon August 18 through 24, shortly after the intensive Israeli artillery bombardment of villages in southern Lebanon.

Many villages were heavily damaged and hundreds of thousands of villagers fled north to Beirut for safety. Approximately 90 percent of the people have returned to their villages only to find many of their homes destroyed.

Issmat traveled throughout the country, meeting with staff and visiting project sites of our partner organization, the Middle East Council of Churches. She visited a number of the battered villages and met with relief workers and returning refugees.

She also visited other community-based projects and gathered information of use to AFSC in planning future work in Lebanon.

AFSC is accepting funds to assist in the rebuilding of villages, to help dislocated persons return to their communities, and for future program work in Lebanon.

AFSC participated in a May demonstration in Washington for peace in the Middle East. AFSC photo by Denis Doyon.



AFSC participates in May demonstration in Washington for peace in the Middle East. AFSC photo by Denis Doyon.

Marching for jobs, justice and peace

On August 28, AFSC joined leaders of the Coalition of Conscience to urge the Federal government, corporations and the nation to renew its commitment to jobs, justice and peace.

Echoing a similar theme from the 1963 March on Washington, Kara

Newell, AFSC Executive Director and Co-Chair of the March said, "We believe that fulfillment of the American dream includes access to a job, the right to be treated with justice, and freedom to live in peace." It was estimated more than 100,000 people participated in the event.

AFSC photo: Terry Foss



Quakers sponsor U.N. meeting on land degradation

The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) identifies desertification, or land degradation, as one of the most urgent problems affecting the environment today.

Last May, QUNO ran a two-day colloquium for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification (INCD). Some 45 negotiators from 36 countries and the U.N. Secretariat attended.

The event provided an opportunity for discussion concerning INCD's work, how the resulting document should support local communities, and mechanisms for international cooperation.

Stephen Collett, Director of the Quaker United Nations Office, New York, describes desertification as "the extreme degradation of land resulting from social and economic exploitation." To underscore its urgency, he points to the following facts about desertification:

- ◆ It affects about 40 percent of the earth's land surface between the polar zones, and one-sixth of the world's human population.
- ◆ It produces massive soil erosion, loss of plant and animal life, and negative consequences for water resources and climate.
- ◆ It forces families and whole communities to migrate to more fertile areas.

The success of the May colloquium was such that QUNO plans to organize another one just before INCD's third session in January, 1994.



Medical aid sent to Cuba

AFSC recently sent two shipments of medicines, medical supplies and vitamins to Cuba, with a total value of \$100,000, after being alerted to the need by Friends in Cuba and London.

The first shipment was distributed in urban areas, the second by Cuban Friends to local clinics in the rural southeastern part of Cuba. Some is being used to address that country's epidemic of blindness.

Quaker Peace & Service in London and the Friends World Committee for Consultation, plus Friends across the United States donated funds and AFSC arranged the purchase.

The medicines were shipped via the National Council of Churches, Church World Service and the Cuban Ecumenical Council.

Given the extremely depressed state of the Cuban economy, humanitarian shipments of medicines remain essential.

Photo: Phoebe McKinney



Ms Foundation honors Maria Guadalupe Torres

Maria Guadalupe Torres, regional coordinator of the Comité Fronterizo de Obreras or CFO (Border Committee of Working Women), was among five women who received the Ms. Foundation's 1993 Gloria Steinem Award in New York City last May. Maria was honored for her longstanding efforts to organize maquiladora workers at the Mexico-U.S. border. Also the organization pressures transnational companies to improve working conditions in the factories.

The CFO, formed in 1986 by maquiladora women organizers who participate in AFSC's Maquiladora Project, educates workers about health and safety issues and Mexico's labor laws.

Through its Maquiladora Project, AFSC has worked with more than 10,000 women workers to expose the hazardous work conditions of laborers as well as the toxic substances dumped in worker communities by the maquiladora factories. The approximately half million Mexican workers, who are primarily young women, suffer from a range of problems, from skin and respiratory illnesses to their children being born with birth defects.

Upon receiving the award Maria said, "This honor recognizes the power that comes from [the] nonviolent process of consciousness-raising and organizing to change systems of slavery and oppression.... We are grateful to AFSC for having begun this program, and for teaching us organizing."



Holocaust Museum staff seek AFSC photos

In response to a request from staff of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., AFSC has supplied them with a few photographs from our Archive collection pertaining to Quaker work in the concentration camps in the south of France during World War II.

Jack Sutters, AFSC Archivist, says, "The records we have regarding our work among refugees, particularly Jewish refugees during the Nazi period, are probably the most utilized by researchers of all the materials on hand in our Archives."

"We also have two films pertaining to refugees from the World War II period that we recently discovered among others in our basement storage room."

New publications to order

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

HE ALO A HE ALO/ Face to Face/ Hawaiian Voices on Sovereignty

Published by AFSC Hawai'i Program Committee. A highly readable anthology of Native Hawaiian voices and viewpoints on sovereignty through interviews, essays, poetry and art. Price: \$12.95 each.

PUENTES DE RESPECTO Creacion de Apoyo para la Juventud Lesbiana y Homosexual

Translation and expansion of *Bridges of Respect*, written by Katherine Whitlock, edited by Rachael Kamel 1989.

Provides information for adults and youth agencies seeking to assume supportive roles of sexual minority youth with whom they work. Includes articles on the human rights situation of gays and lesbians in Latin America and an expanded resource list that includes Latin America and the Caribbean. Price: \$8.00 each.

PARTNERS FOR PEACE Quaker International Service and Peacemaking

by Stephen G. Cary

This new book offers a brief overview and thoughtful reflections about AFSC's international programs from 1917-1992, explores diverse means of averting war, and looks toward a future of peacemaking which engages both the heart and the mind. Price: \$3.50 each.

Building a future for Israel, Palestine and the Middle East

This brochure lays out four principles upon which AFSC believes a just and lasting peace can be built in the Middle East.

It outlines the essential elements of a comprehensive settlement and steps all parties can take to encourage fruitful negotiations.

Price: 1-3 copies free; 4-99 copies 25 cents each.

A CALL TO ACTION An Analysis and Overview of the United States Criminal Justice System, with Recommendations from The National Commission on Crime and Justice

The criminal justice system spends millions of dollars annually, and controls the lives of approximately one million inmates. Of particular concern is the over-representation of African-American men. One reviewer says, "This document should be mandatory reading for policy makers and others who are concerned with America's failure to humanize herself and those whom she incarcerates." Price: \$8.00 each

BRIDGES - February 1993 Somalia: Search for a Solution

David Funkhouser reflects on the roots of the crisis and on alternatives to militarism following his second field visit to Somalia. \$2; annual subscription: \$15 for 6 issues.

BRIDGES - May 1993 Emergency Humanitarian Assistance: An expanding role for the United Nations - Quaker U.N. representative, Stephen Collett, assesses the U.N.'s capacity to address global emergencies. \$2; annual subscription: \$15 for 6 issues.

BRIDGES - July 1993 Central America Confronts the Globalizing Economy

An analytic overview of the economic dilemma Central Americans face as well as an optimistic alternative to economic marginalization for the region. \$2; annual subscription: \$15 for 6 issues.

A CERTAIN TERROR - Heterosexism, Militarism, Violence and Change

A Certain Terror exposes the roots of homophobic violence and its interconnections with the militarism running deep in American society. Some of the decade's most challenging and inspirational voices on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues are collected in this anthology. Price \$14.95 plus \$2 for shipping. Available from AFSC, 1414 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104



The soybean plant held by this Iowa farmer has six pods. In a normal season it would have 60 or more pods. AFSC photo: Kay Whitlock

Flood relief

Continued from page 1

ery efforts," says Kay Whitlock, AFSC's North Central regional director. Monies from AFSC's Flood Relief Fund have gone to support living expenses, including rents, for undocumented workers who lost jobs or housing in the floods. AFSC also works cooperatively with the Mennonite Disaster Service Unit, providing funds for purchase of building materials for repair and reconstruction of flood-damaged homes of people who are elderly, are low-income or who have disabilities.

Through connections made by a member of Germantown Friends Meeting in Philadelphia, who was sent to Burlington, Iowa as a Red Cross volunteer, AFSC was able to provide public school meal and milk ticket subsidies for children whose families lost homes in the flood, but whose families did not qualify for school lunch support.

AFSC is also supporting rural outreach efforts by PrairieFire Rural Action in Iowa and the Missouri Rural Crisis Center; both organizations were active in working with family farmers during the farm crisis of the 1980s.

AFSC and PrairieFire joined to work with a small group of family farmers in Iowa, testing one approach to long-term recovery. These farmers, already saddled with debt and struggling to maintain viable small farms, want to make it into the next growing season without adding to that debt. They must replace long expanses of fencing destroyed by floods, secure good-quality feed for their livestock (rain and flooding resulted in poor quality hay yields) and develop other supports. In this pilot effort, the farmers themselves suggested the components of assistance.

The impact of the flood crisis of 1993 will be felt for years....

The generosity of AFSC's many supporters makes possible a long-term response which will continue over the next two years.

AFSC has purchased fencing materials locally, helping to bolster the local economy reeling from loss of income. Local labor and machinery were hired to clear the destroyed fencing and install fence posts. Volunteers are stringing barbed wire between posts. Additionally, a grinding machine was rented which enabled a group of farmers to mix the poorer-quality hay with grain, increasing the overall quality of the livestock feed. AFSC and PrairieFire are also seeking donations of good-quality hay to be distributed in the area. If you have hay you can donate call (515) 274-4851.

The impact of the rain and flood crisis of 1993 will be felt for years. AFSC's presence in the Midwest made an immediate response possible; the generosity of AFSC's many supporters makes possible a long-term response which will continue over the next two years.

Friends Meetings and churches, and individual Friends, have also responded generously to AFSC's Flood Relief Fund; many have indicated willingness to do volunteer labor in the long-term reconstruction and recovery work. AFSC is working with an interfaith community to identify volunteer opportunities for placement over the next year.

The AFSC Holiday Gift Card Plan and Calendar



"Let us reflect that the sky covers us all equally; the earth makes no distinction in bearing us; we are all one family. Our wish is that the world should be at peace forever."

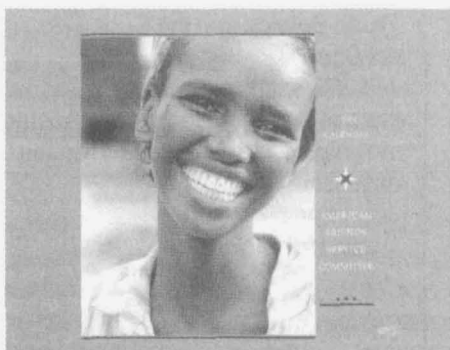
—Chinese (anonymous)

This holiday season honor your friends and family members who care about others with the AFSC gift card or 1994 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 pastel seascape with the quotation as shown. Please note the requested minimum is \$8 per card.

The 11 x 17 inch calendar makes a year-long gift. Each month's black and white photo portrays the people with whom AFSC works around the world accompanied by an inspirational quote. Each \$12 (includes postage)



To: American Friends Service Committee Development Office 1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

Please send _____ gift cards and matching envelopes. (The requested minimum is \$8.00 per card.) Total for cards \$ _____

Please send _____ 1994 calendars each \$12.00 Total for calendars \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____