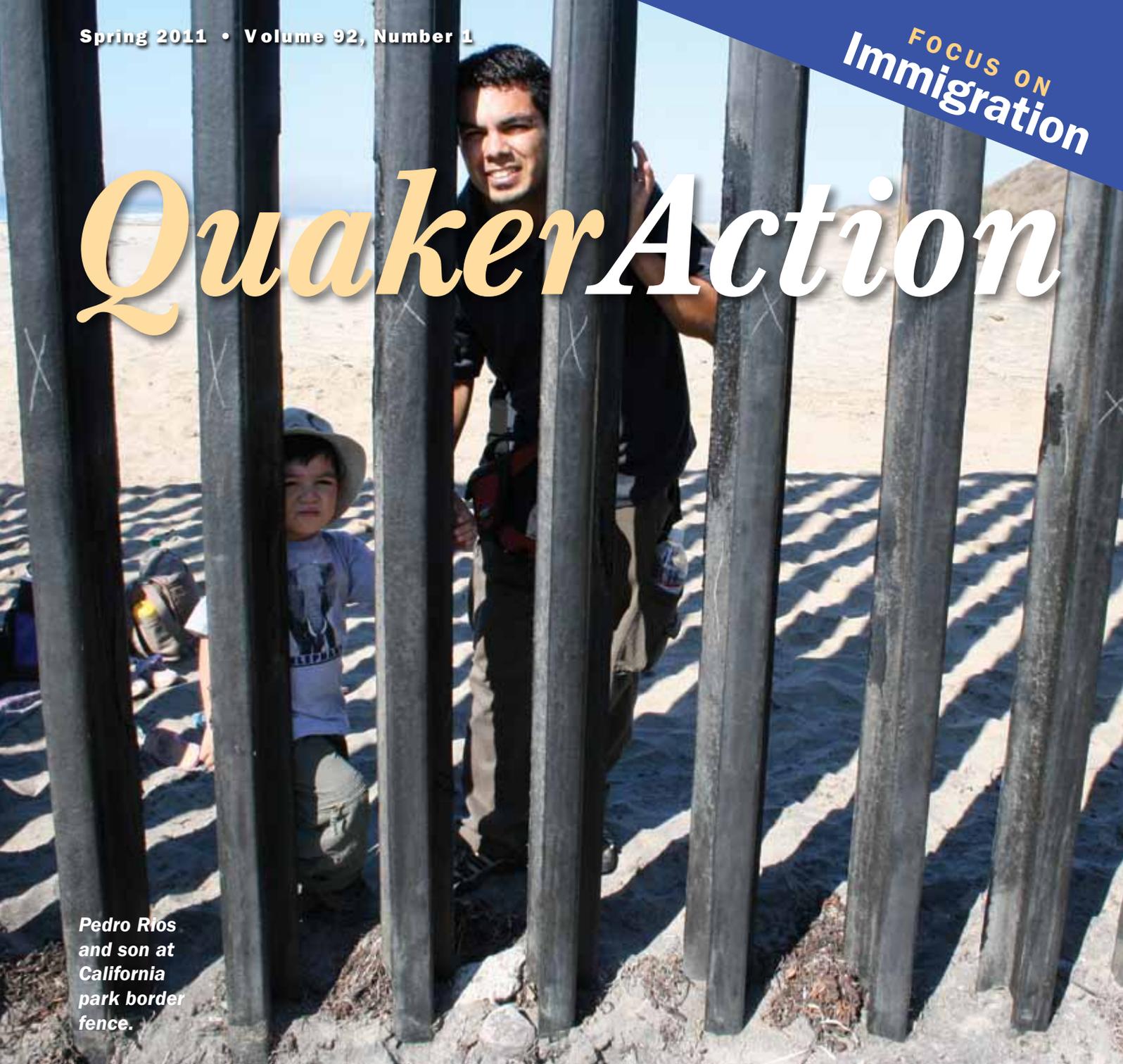


Quaker Action



*Pedro Rios
and son at
California
park border
fence.*



**American Friends
Service Committee**

www.afsc.org

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“And if a stranger sojourn with ye in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land.”

Leviticus 19:33-35

Dear Friend,

Most of you reading this have at least one ancestor who came to this country from another land. Some came voluntarily. Some were driven to escape poverty, prejudice or persecution. Some came enslaved. Uprooted, they lost an important part of themselves, becoming strangers in a strange land. Too many of those immigrant ancestors were reviled solely because their place of birth—Ireland, Italy, China, Poland, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti—was not the same as that of the immigrants who had arrived a few years before.

The American Friends Service Committee adheres to the Quaker belief that all of us, whether lucky or unlucky in our birth, equally deserve dignity and respect. We are all God’s children. This belief in equality has not always been popular. But it has sustained our support of immigrants and their families since 1924, when we recognized the heartless consequences of U.S. immigration reform acts that excluded Asian immigrants and set strict quotas on Italians, Eastern Europeans and others considered “undesirable.” These quotas set the stage to turn “undesirable” immigrants into “illegal” immigrants.

Different immigrant groups have been targeted at different times. The Great Depression saw the forced repatriation of half a million Mexican Americans. World War II brought Executive Order 9066, which interned 120,000 people, including citizens born in this country, solely based on their Japanese ancestry. In 1954, “Operation Wetback” reportedly deported over a million Mexican migrant workers in a single year. In times when the public feels vulnerable or fearful, recent immigrants become scapegoats for the failures of our economic and political systems.

Today we know too well the power of hateful words and we say, “Enough!” AFSC is doing its part to elevate the debate, to remind our fellow citizens of the many contributions made by immigrants to our society’s health and prosperity—even in these difficult economic times. This issue of *Quaker Action* brings you stories that put a human face on the results of a broken and ineffective immigration policy. You’ll read Kadi Cisse’s story on the impact of deportation, learn firsthand what the U.S./Mexico Border Fence means to the communities who live there and discover the tangled morass that is the legal path to entry into our country. You will also find recommended sources of information on this important issue.



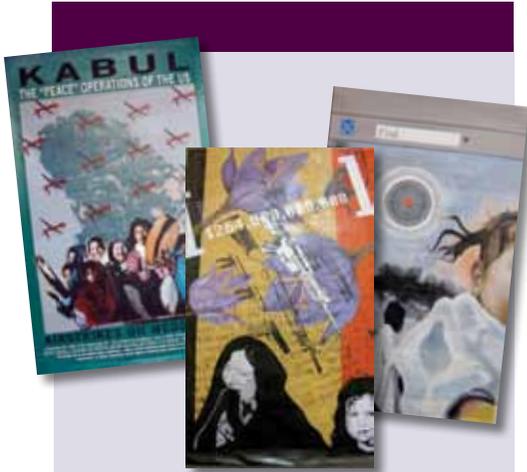
Shan Cretin (second from left) represented AFSC at the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates gathering in Japan. She’s pictured with staff Joseph Gerson, the mayor of Hiroshima, and Arlene Kelly, Board Clerk.

I am told that immigration is one of the most controversial areas of AFSC’s work. That may be so, but it was controversial after World War I when AFSC went to Germany to feed starving children and when we helped young Japanese Americans leave the internment camps to go to college. Though controversial, these were clearly the right things to do.

After nine decades of work with immigrant communities, we remain convinced that all people have the right to be treated with dignity; all have the right to earn a living. I believe that you, our supporters, share our concern for “the stranger among us.” You agree that the luck of where a child is born should not condemn that child to ignorance, poverty or abuse. I am confident that the stories and information you are about to read will inspire your continued commitment and support for programs fostering hope, dignity and human rights for all God’s children.

With sincere appreciation to our supporters,

Shan Cretin
General Secretary



Deportation

One family's story of separation

BY ALEXIS MOORE

Our mother was deported from the United States of America back to the Ivory Coast. Ever since that day, our lives have been a rollercoaster. As children who were not even developed enough to understand the situation, we watched the only woman we knew and trusted be taken away from us.”

This testimony is from Kadi Cisse, 18, whose family of two siblings and their father has been living since 2002 without their mother and wife. Her deportation took a heavy toll. All of the children fell behind in school. Their father, who lost his job, had to send the children to live with others. The oldest daughter, Fatima, 19, gave up dreams of college to work and support the family. Kadi is scrambling to continue college after losing her scholarship because her father, who also lost his apartment, couldn't prove residency.

During a packed U.S. Senate briefing last summer, Kadi and two other young people told their stories of living through the arrest, detention and deportation of loved ones. The AFSC Immigrant Rights Program in Newark, New Jersey,

co-sponsored the briefing to highlight the devastating effects of family separation. These painful experiences are one reason that AFSC advocates for humane, fair and comprehensive immigration reform.

Families in which some members are citizens and others are not are a reality across the United States. Estimates are that there are 5.5 million children in the U.S. with undocumented parents, and about three-quarters of those children are U.S.-born citizens. Contrary to popular perception, the children of undocumented immigrants born in the U.S. cannot prevent their parents from being deported. Only when they reach the age of 21 can these children sponsor their parents for citizenship—an expensive and lengthy process with no guarantee of success.

The impact of their mother's loss continues to affect the Cisse family. Kadi says, “My 16-year-old sister, Madjoma, is still struggling in school. My whole family just prays that one day our mother will come back, our father will get his job back and then we can live happily ever after.”

For Kadi's full testimony, visit afsc.org/document/kadis-full-testimony.

Alexis Moore is AFSC's Media Director.

Windows & Mirrors

This vibrant, disturbing and reflective exhibit showing artists' interpretations of the impact of the war in Afghanistan is touring the country under the auspices of AFSC. Visitors at the Philadelphia opening said: Excellent exhibit. As always, war will solve nothing Definitely thought-provoking.... Thoughtful like a poem... A wonderful show that I wish we didn't have to have.

February 19–March 16

Los Angeles, California

March 25–April 15

Greensboro, North Carolina

May 1–31

Atlanta, Georgia

June 29–July 23

Chicago, Illinois

October 1–31

San Francisco, California

November 12–December 31

Kansas City, Missouri

For additional places and dates, please check www.AFSC.org.



AFSC works with refugees and people displaced throughout the world. Fleeing violence and political instability, more than 5,000 people—mostly Somalis—arrive each month at Dadaab Refugee Camp in northeast Kenya. The camp, built for 90,000 people, now houses almost three times that number. In Dadaab, AFSC offers Alternatives to Violence projects and peace promotion workshops and has used photography training with young residents. The Service Committee operated rural development programs in Somalia from 1982–2003.

Acting on Faith

Religious Community Partners for Immigrant Justice

AFSC's organizing work in faith communities connects caring hearts to people's stories. Members of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Collins, Colorado, and AFSC staff first met at an interfaith meeting. Lay leaders were anxious to educate themselves and their community on immigrant justice.

Jennifer Piper, AFSC's Program Director for Interfaith Organizing in Denver, jumped at the opportunity to work with Plymouth Church. They partnered on a five-week immigration series. Subsequently, the congregation began a Sunday letter-writing table so congregants could write to Congress asking for comprehensive and humane immigration reform. And several carloads of people made the 90-minute drive to AFSC's monthly interfaith vigils at the detention center outside of Denver.

Immigration policy is complex, but how we are called by our faiths to treat and respond to our immigrant neighbors is not.

Plymouth Church sponsored an "Interfaith Service for Immigration Rights and Reform," attended by some 175 people. Sister Alicia Ramirez, an AFSC volunteer, and Jennifer spoke at the service, where they were joined by clergy from the Unitarian, Jewish, Episcopal and Zen Buddhist traditions.

Sister Alicia presented her story from AFSC's "Border's Lifted, Voices Raised" digital storytelling project. Many people in attendance cried as Alicia drew parallels between her family's challenges, the gifts her family brought to the U.S., and the stories of immigrants and society today.



Poet Juan Patraca reads his poem, "Madre de un inmigrante" ("Mother of an Immigrant") at AFSC's monthly vigil at the Colorado detention center.

"I challenge you to take action while you learn," Jennifer said in her closing statement at the service. "Act from your faith to say 'I don't agree'—even if you can't articulate why—when someone says something racist or anti-immigrant. If

you delay acting until you know everything, it will be too late. Immigration policy is complex, but how we are called by our faiths to treat and respond to our immigrant neighbors is not."

Learn More

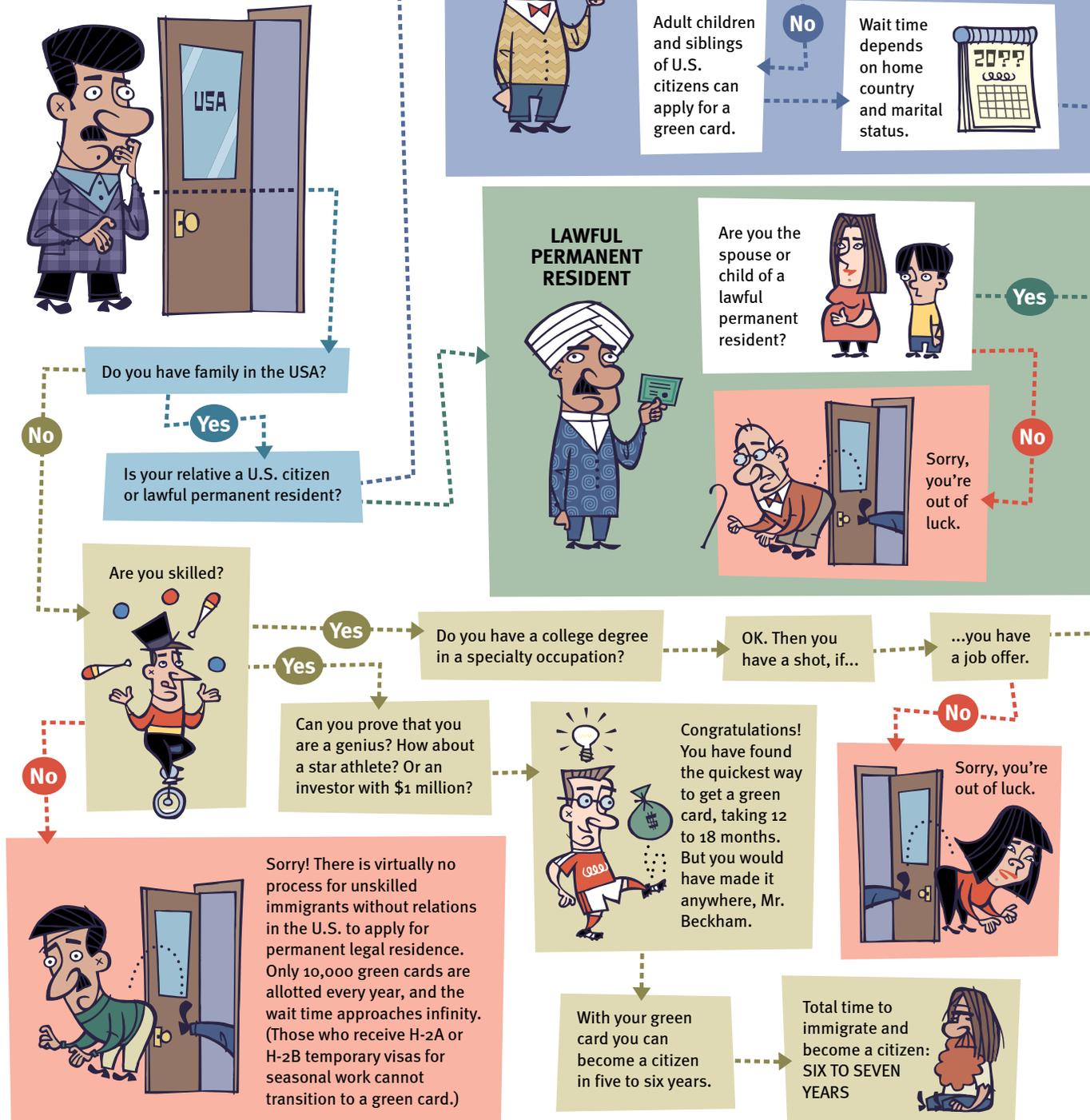
To see Sister Alicia's story and those of nine other immigrants and allies involved with AFSC's "Border's Lifted, Voices Raised" digital storytelling project, please visit: www.youtube.com/user/AFSCVideos#g/c/85FCDAC850C1E9F6.

Plymouth's five-week immigration series was inspired by the "Who is My Neighbor?" curriculum which AFSC developed with the Colorado Council of Churches. For more information about obtaining this resource, go to afsc.org/document/who-my-neighbor-faith-discussion-immigration or e-mail Jennifer Piper at JPiper@afsc.org.



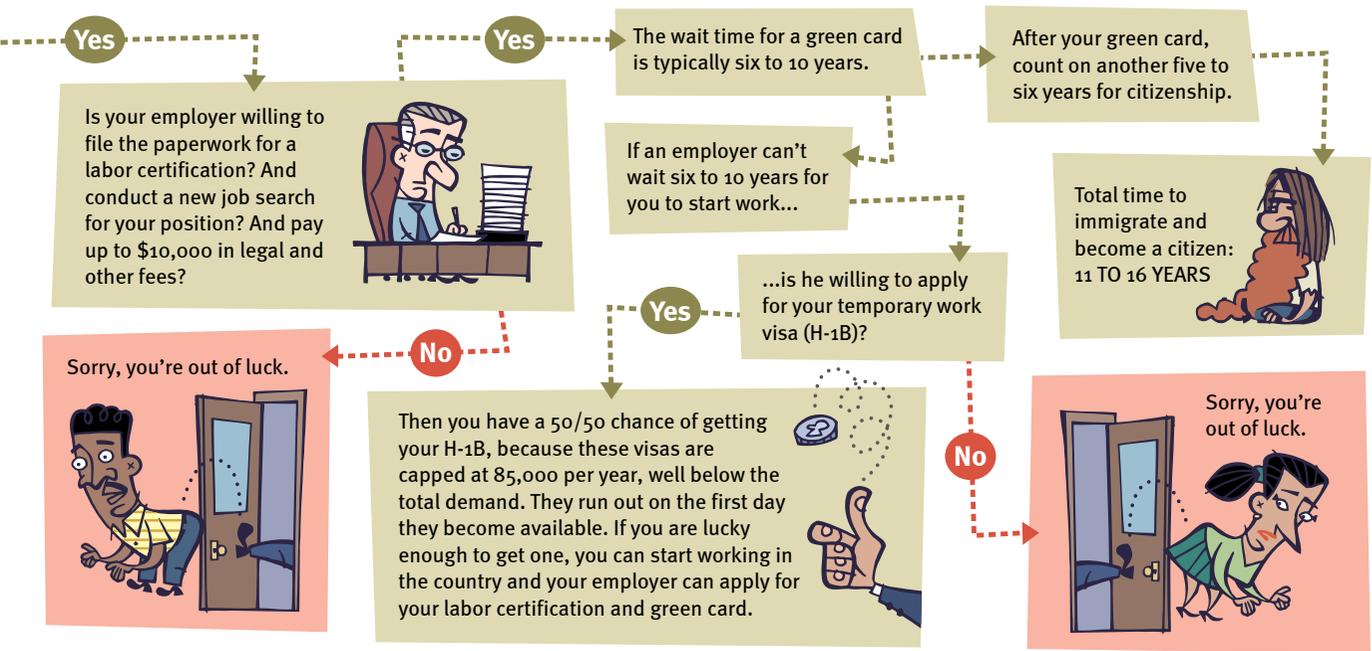
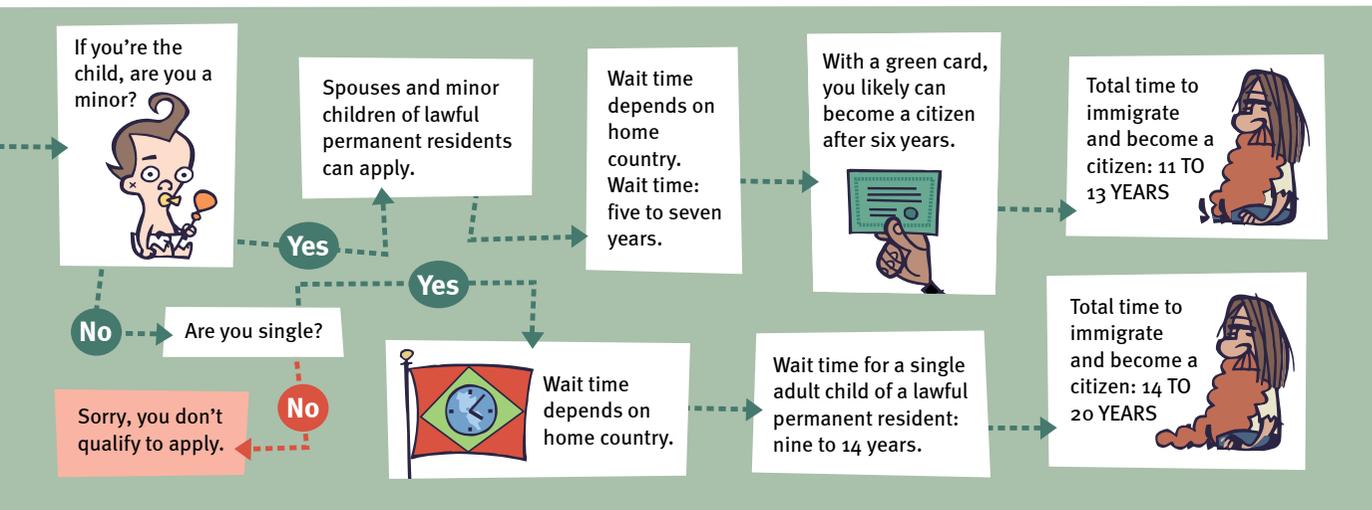
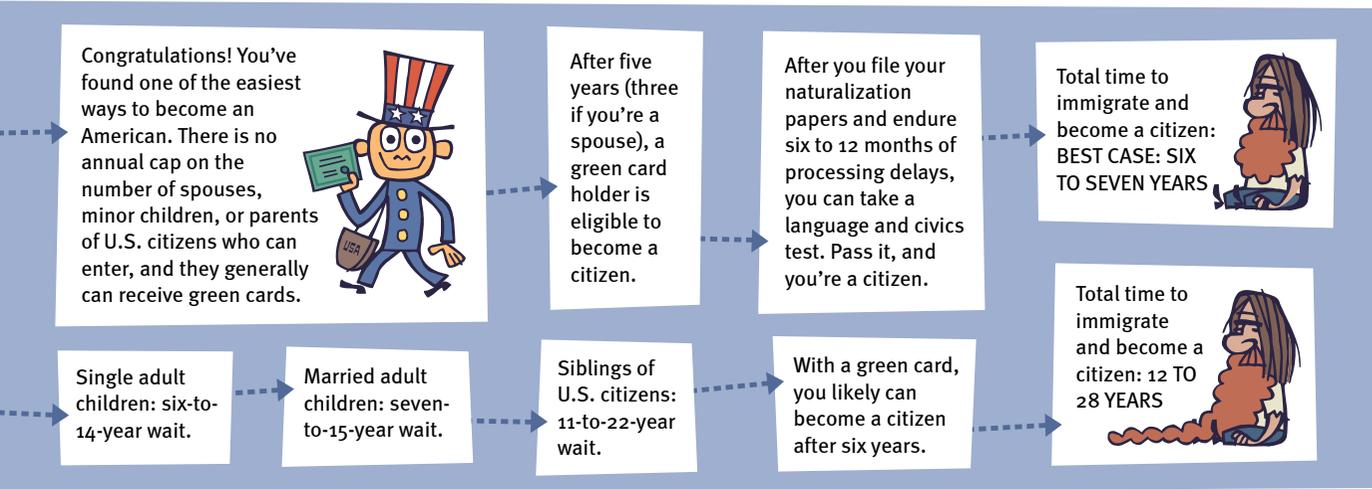
What Part of Legal Immigration Don't You

Opponents of illegal immigration are fond of telling foreigners to “get in line” before coming to work in America. But what does that line actually look like, and how many years (or decades) does it take to get through? Try it yourself!



Understand? *Mike Flynn and Shikha Dahnia*

Illustrated by Terry Colon



(Flynn is director of government affairs and Dahnia is a senior policy analyst at Reason Foundation. This chart was developed by Reason Foundation in collaboration with the National Foundation for American Policy.)

Meet Christian Ramirez

Based in San Diego, California, Christian Ramirez coordinates AFSC's immigrants' rights program which operates 16 offices in 14 states. In his ten years with AFSC, he has represented the organization before government officials and at international gatherings.



Q: What is your family background?

A: I was born into a middle-class family in the Mexican border city of Tijuana. Both of my parents were children of *braceros* (guest workers who were allowed to work in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s). They were heavily involved in the student movement of the 1960s in Mexico and, because of those activities, were persecuted by the Mexican government. After the political turmoil subsided in Mexico, the government did meet some demands, including establishing a university in Tijuana. Thus the student movement helped create a free university in Tijuana, now 40 years old.

Q: Do you have family on both sides of the border?

A: Although my parents live on the U.S. side, my father runs his own business on the Mexican side and commutes across the border every day. We are a *familia fronteriza*—literally from the border.

Q: How did you come to live in San Diego?

A: After completing his studies in accounting, my father worked as an auditor for the Mexican government, which provided its employees with subsidized housing. We settled in a residential area a few miles south of the U.S./Mexico border.

During the 1980s, the Mexican government lowered environmental standards to allow foreign-owned industrial parks to operate alongside residential areas. A few years later, an array of health issues began to appear, including abnormally high rates of pediatric cancer. At age 8, I was diagnosed with a rare form of colon cancer.

Treatment was available in Mexico City, 2,000 miles south, or in San Diego, 15 miles north. My parents opted for the shortest route. After five years of intense medical care for me and a complicated immigration case, we decided to stay in the U.S.

Q: Can you describe what it was like to grow up there as the border became more militarized?

A: Our home was located on a route heavily used by migrant workers. Nighttime brought the muffled voices of migrants and a steady stream of delicate footsteps, followed by bright lights, the piercing sound of helicopter blades and Border Patrol agents shouting commands in broken Spanish. This was the daily drama that unfolded in my community during the federal Operation Gatekeeper that militarized the border during the mid 1990s.

Everyone in my immediate family has been detained by U.S. immigration agents. That was just part of growing up in the U.S. border town of San Ysidro.

Q: How did you become acquainted with AFSC?

A: When I was a senior in high school, on my way to school one morning, a Border Patrol agent stopped me. I was handcuffed and thrown into the back of his

unit. While I was enraged, I was fearful too. After about a half hour that felt like an eternity to me, the agent released me, mocked me and scolded me for being “defiant.”

My dad was very upset and told me to stand up for myself and denounce the agent. He knew of a man named Roberto Martinez who would take my complaint.

I later learned that Roberto Martinez, then director of AFSC's U.S./Mexico Program in San Diego, was an internationally recognized human rights advocate. Subsequently, I was an intern under Roberto, and I am very fortunate that AFSC gave me the opportunity to work with and learn from him.

Q: From your perspective, what are the most pressing immigration issues in the United States today?

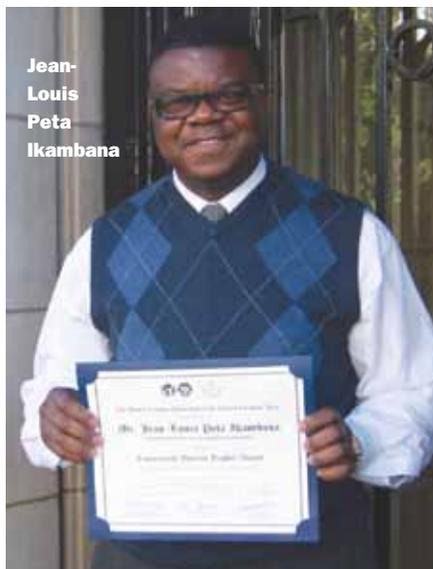
A: Ensuring that our immigration laws and policies respect the dignity of all people living in our country is of utmost importance. It's become routine for policymakers and the media to reduce immigration to a criminal act that must be controlled and prosecuted, regardless of the ill effects on families and communities.

To find common sense solutions on immigration, society and government alike must acknowledge the root causes that force folks to leave their home countries, enduring hardship and often danger, to find a job. Often it is the economic treaties our government imposes on other countries that causes mass migration north.

Rounding people up at their workplace or in their communities, incarcerating immigrants for not having documents or deploying the National Guard to aid in their apprehension moves us further away from meaningful and civil discussion of immigrant rights. When we acknowledge that national security cannot be achieved by violating the rights and dignity of the most vulnerable among us, then we can move forward with solutions.



News from around AFSC



Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana

And the Award Goes to...

...Jean-Louis Peta Ikambana. He's the Director of the AFSC-D.C. Human Rights Learning Program and recently was the recipient of the Community Human Rights Award given by the UN Association of the National Capital Area. Hundreds of students have participated in the weekly human rights sessions he conducts. He is also a member of the D.C. Human Rights City Steering Committee.

...the Friends Peace Gardens in Los Angeles. The National Gardening Association and Subaru jointly presented Healthy Sprouts gift certificates to only 30 groups (from 800 nominees) around the country. The young people learning life skills and leadership in the project will use the money to continue the development of two gardens established in their low-income neighborhoods. (See www.kidsgardening.com for more information.)

...winners of the video contest, "If I Had a Trillion Dollars," sponsored by AFSC and the National Priorities Project. First-place winners Briseida Montiel of Brooklyn, New York, and Ali Holness, Anaya Mercedes, Kyane Strother and Richard Joseph of Boston travelled to Washington, D.C. to present their films

to their Congressional representatives. All of the submissions showed the contrast between the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and what \$1 trillion could accomplish for human needs.

Law Students Volunteer at GI Rights Hotline

Jason Thomas, a Marine veteran of the war in Iraq, is a second-year law student at the University of California Hastings who volunteers to answer GI Hotline calls. Jason and his nine volunteer colleagues find the work very rewarding, says Sandra Schwartz, of AFSC's San Francisco office. "We receive about 30 calls a week and having law students help out is a big plus. They're not intimidated by legal terms and regulations, they learn more about political issues and they gain hands-on experience with real-life problems."

Calls to the Hotline range from obtaining medical help for depression and other conditions to a frantic father who had agreed to let his child enlist but wanted to rescind his permission. As Jason says, "A lot of the phone line work is giving the caller an ear, calming them down and walking them through regulations."

Fellow intern Sylvia Pham originally volunteered at the Hotline to fulfill her hours of community service. However, she is so intrigued by the work that she is staying on for the rest of the school year. "It's nice to find a group of activists to share this experience with since law is a conservative field of study. So many of the calls I answer are from people who enlisted for economic reasons and now need to get out of the military for family obligations."

Sandra Schwartz plans to expand recruitment of law students to other universities in the Northern California area and to expand the hours of "live" coverage. She and the volunteers recognize the importance of callers reaching a person—and not an answering machine!

Stephen G. Cary Fellow Appointed

"I believe respect for human rights is the foundation of a peaceful society. With human rights education, we gain an understanding of our rights and the rights of others and, with training in advocacy techniques, we have the tools we need to ensure our society promotes and protects each person's human dignity."

So says Sara Ramey, who recently began her tenure as a Stephen G. Cary Fellow. She is part of the staff of the Human Rights Learning Project in Washington, D.C., which currently works in three public schools. Participants study the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and learn how to identify and overcome practices that do not support human rights. The students engage policymakers and community leaders around human rights issues. She also will share her expertise with other AFSC programs in the Middle Atlantic Region.

Sara is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound and the Washington College of Law, American University, and is a JD Distinguished Fellowship attorney with the Center for Justice and International Law. About her AFSC work to date, she says, "As I develop a human rights learning curriculum, I already have benefited from insights shared with me by colleagues, friends, human rights practitioners, teachers and students. This synergy of ideas from this consultation process will ultimately enable me to make a valuable and broad-based impact on the lives of youth and, through them, their communities."



Sara Ramey

Donor Robert Naka

F. Robert Naka was a sophomore studying engineering at UCLA when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Two months later, President Roosevelt signed an Executive Order for the evacuation and mass internment of over 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. Robert Naka was one of 11,070 individuals sent to the Manzanar War Relocation Center. Though they were American citizens who had committed no crime, the Naka family was forced to relinquish their home and their livelihood without due process and incarcerated in an American concentration camp.

Manzanar was located in the isolated, arid Owens Valley desert 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Five persons, sometimes from different families, shared a living space no larger than 20 by 25 feet inside barracks sheathed with tarpaper, offering little privacy. As the hastily constructed, uncured wooden structures shrank, the prisoners endured inadequate protection from the hot dusty winds of summer and the cold of winter. The mess hall, communal toilets and showers were in separate buildings. “Not only was their use inconvenient,” Robert remembers, “but showering for modest Japanese women was embarrassing.”

During this time, the AFSC and its affiliate group, the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council, raised scholarship funds and helped find colleges for Japanese American students in the various camps. Through these efforts, nearly 4,000 students, including Robert, were admitted to colleges located in the interior of the country so that they could continue their harshly interrupted education.

“I arrived at the University of Missouri on a cold, cloudy February day. There I was pasted back together. The Quakers did a marvelous thing in persuading the faculty to look after my well-being so I



wouldn't be ambushed or hurt in any way. This was at a time when there was no television, travel was by train and everything was slow. The attitudes of the people on each coast never permeated the Midwest and I was okay.

“Subsequently, I earned an MS degree from the University of Minnesota and an ScD from Harvard University, and I served the United States as a scientist at the cutting edge of radar, stealth technology and space systems.” Robert married his college sweetheart, Patricia Ann Neilon Naka, a fellow graduate student at the University of Minnesota, who became a licensed clinical psychologist. Together they raised four children.

With determination and compassion, Robert Naka set aside the suffering and distrust he endured, and he used his skills and academic training to become one of the U.S. government's most trusted employees, handling highly classified information. Precisely 50 years after his incarceration at Manzanar, Robert and Patricia established an endowed fund “in grateful appreciation of the American Friends Service Committee, which assisted and supported me at a very critical time in my life.” Each year, the interest from the Naka Fund supports young people seeking internship opportunities with AFSC domestic programs.

What Can You

The stories in this issue may have you wondering how you can get involved with immigration. Here are some suggestions:

Understand the basics...

How the United States Immigration System Works: A Fact Sheet

(Immigration Policy Center)
www.tinyurl.com/imm-facts

Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigration in the U.S.

(Migration Information Source)
www.tinyurl.com/imm-stat

Countering Myths about Immigrants

(Justice for Immigrants)
www.tinyurl.com/imm-myths

Separating Fact From Fiction About Immigrants in the U.S. (AFSC)

www.tinyurl.com/afsc-facts

Listen to Immigrant voices...

Immigration Stories (AFSC-Denver)

www.afsc.org/video/immigration-stories

Somali Bantu Stories (AFSC-Baltimore)

www.afsc.org/videosomali-bantu-stories

Storyology Films (AFSC-North Carolina)

www.afsc.org/resource/storyology-films

Facing Deportation

www.facingdeportation.org

Follow the issues...

Deportation Nation

www.deportationnation.org

Immigration Policy Center

www.immigrationpolicy.org

ImmigrationProf Blog

lawprofessors.typepad.com/immigration

La Frontera Times

www.lafronteratimes.com

Migration Information Source

www.migrationinformation.org

National Immigration Law Center

www.nilc.org

Politics of Immigration

www.thepoliticsofimmigration.blogspot.com

Students recite the Pledge of Allegiance during ESL class (from the film *Welcome to Shelbyville*).

Photo: Greg Poschman



Do?

Explore a faith-based perspective...

Immigration and Friends Testimonies
(*Friends Journal*)
www.tinyurl.com/imm-friends

Loving Thy Neighbor: Immigration Reform and Communities of Faith
(*Center for American Progress*)
tinyurl.com/imm-faith

Friends Committee on National Legislation
www.fcnl.org/immigration

Connect with AFSC's national partners...

Detention Watch Network
www.detentionwatchnetwork.org

Interfaith Immigration Coalition
www.interfaithimmigration.org

National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities
(*NA-LACC*)
www.nalacc.org

National Day Laborer Organizing Network
www.ndlon.org

National Immigration Law Center
www.nilc.org

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
www.nmirr.org/

Rights Working Group
www.rightsworkinggroup.org

Watch films...

Welcome to Shelbyville (PBS, May 2011)
The residents of a small southern town struggle to integrate Latino immigrants and Somali refugees.
welcometoshelbyvilleonline.org
Local screenings: www.tinyurl.com/imm-shelby

The 800 Mile Wall (2010)
An unflinching look at a failed U.S. border strategy.
www.800milewall.org

Made in LA/Hecho en LA (2007)
Emmy award-winning feature documentary about three Latina immigrants working in Los Angeles garment sweatshops.
www.madeinla.com

The Visitor (2008)
An American man gets involved with an undocumented family who wind up in deportation proceedings.
www.thevisitorfilm.com

For a comprehensive list of films on immigration, visit:
www.murthy.com/films.html

Read books...

Borderland Theology
By *Jerry H. Gill*, 2003
Explores the theological, historical, and practical dimensions of both national and sociological borders.

Defining America Through Immigration Policy
By *Bill Ong Hing*, 2004
Shows how shifting visions of America have shaped policies governing asylum, exclusion, amnesty, and border policing.

Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants
By *David Bacon*, 2008
Critiques trade policies that displace workers and create migration in the first place.

Just Like Us: The True Story of Four Mexican Girls Coming of Age in America
By *Helen Thorpe*, 2009
Chronicles four girls' lives over four years and personalizes the ongoing debate over immigration.

Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the "Illegal Alien" and the Making of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary
By *Joseph Nevins*, 2004
Provides a detailed understanding of national immigration policy.

For more books on immigrants' rights, visit:
www.tinyurl.com/imm-books

Bring an educational experience to your group...

Who is my neighbor?
(DVD and curriculum)
www.tinyurl.com/afsc-neighbor

Immigration Simulation Activity
(*AFSC-NC*)
www.tinyurl.com/afsc-sim

Get involved in the movement for immigration reform...

AFSC Action Pack (*Quaker Books*)
(Includes: 2 DVDs—*Echando Raices* and *Taking Root & Rights on the Line*, 4 booklets, 2 bumperstickers, 1 pin for \$7.50)
www.tinyurl.com/imm-action

AFSC's Immigrants Rights Program
www.afsc.org/immigrants-rights

A New Path: Toward Humane Immigration Policy (*AFSC*)
www.afsc.org/document/new-path

Being A Strong Ally in the Immigrant Rights Movement
www.tinyurl.com/imm-ally

Immigration and People of Faith Toolbox (*AFSC-NC*)
www.tinyurl.com/afsc-toolbox



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Susan Hopkins: Committed Contributor



Susan Hopkins

Long-time AFSC supporter Susan Hopkins lives in Northern California. Her diverse, lifelong interests include teaching children, enriching and enhancing the lives of educators, and expressing her creativity through quilts. Another passion is the American Friends Service Committee, to which she faithfully sends her contributions. Susan says, "I know that it helps me to live my values when I support the organizations I care about. AFSC definitely falls in that category!" She acknowledges the role funding plays in carrying out the Service Committee's programs and she's committed to seeing that work continue beyond her lifetime.

Susan has made AFSC part of her estate plans through a **charitable remainder trust**. This flexible tool can be funded with a variety of assets, providing income for retirement or other needs and ultimately providing funds for future AFSC programs.

We welcome inquiries as you consider the disposition of your assets. There are many options available and one will be right for you!

Please contact the AFSC Gift Planning Office in Philadelphia toll-free at 888-588-2372, or visit our website at:

www.afsc.org/giftplanning



AFSC meets all
20 BBB Charity
Standards

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Who we are

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

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E-mail address: quakeraction@afsc.org

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National Office

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403 Tel: (215) 241-7000

Middle Atlantic Region

4806 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212

Southeast Region

60 Walton Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

NY Metropolitan Region

15 Rutherford Place
New York, NY 10003

New England Region

2161 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140

Central Region

4211 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312

Pacific Mountain Region

65 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Great Lakes Region

637 S. Dearborn, 3rd Flr
Chicago, IL 60605

Pacific Southwest Region

634 S. Spring St., 3rd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90014

Pacific Northwest Region

814 NE 40th Street
Seattle, WA 98105