

# We Do Not Walk Alone

The NH Program does most of our work in collaboration with others through coalitions and informal networks. In the past year, we have worked especially closely with the Granite State Organizing Project, United Valley Interfaith Project, NH Council of Churches, ACLU-NH, the United Church of Christ NH Conference, New American Africans, Open Democracy, NH Peace Action, UU Action, Housing Action NH, and Advocates for Ethical Mental Health Treatment. AFSC has been convening the statewide Immigrant Rights Network since November of 2016. We are part of GSOP, the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness, the NH Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the NH Alliance for a Moral Economy, the NH Immigrant Solidarity Network, the Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition, the NH Poor People's Campaign, and the Martin Luther King Coalition. The Nuclear Weapons Working Group is jointly sponsored by AFSC and NH Peace Action.

*The Support Committee and staff of the NH Program give sincere thanks to all the donors and volunteers who made our work possible in the past year. Our funders include the Clowes Fund, the Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust, the NH Charitable Foundation, and several anonymous donors.*



photo: Bill Wilson



Arnie Alpert and Maggie Fogarty are Co-Directors of the NH Program.



Ayi D'Almeida was Grassroots Organizing Intern from July 2016 to June, 2018. Jhenneffer Marcal became Grassroots Organizing Intern in July 2018.



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## American Friends Service Committee New Hampshire Program

4 Park Street, Suite 304, Concord NH 03301  
(603) 224-2407

[afsc.org/nh](http://afsc.org/nh)

# AFSC New Hampshire Program Highlights

OCTOBER 2017 - OCTOBER 2018

## Solidarity with Immigrants

June 6 marked the one-year anniversary of Interfaith Prayer Vigils at the federal building in Manchester, organized by AFSC with the Granite State Organizing Project, United Valley Interfaith Project, and the NH Council of Churches every time we were aware of immigrants who had "check-in" appointments with ICE. The vigils helped give immigrants an awareness that they are not facing the threat of deportation alone. The Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice took the spirit of the vigils on the road for four days in late August, from Manchester all the way to Dover, where ICE jails immigrants slated for deportation.

The Immigrant Visitation Program, jointly sponsored with the United Church of Christ and now in its 5th year, brings volunteers into the Dover jail weekly to provide detained immigrants with spiritual support and practical information about their rights.

AFSC staff directly reached hundreds of people with speeches at major rallies in Manchester and Concord, talks in churches, and presentations to college classes and community groups.

AFSC regularly joins with allies to all upon policy makers to withdraw political support from the mechanisms of immigrant detention and deportation. In the past year, we focused on the practices of the state police, the Border Patrol, and Congressional votes on the Homeland Security budget.



Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice, from Manchester to Dover.



In April, more than 60 people attended a 4-hour workshop on "Creating Sanctuary with Anti-Racism and Collective Liberation at the Heart," led by Chris Crass and Andres Mejia.



## Grassroots Training

AFSC is one of the go-to groups for activists to build their capacity for principled, effective campaigns. In the past year, we led training for the Poor People's Campaign and conducted workshops for UNH students, Quaker meetings, disability rights activists, and others on the principles and techniques of active nonviolence. We also trained and organized "peacekeepers" for street protests, trained transgender activists to lobby for civil rights, and gave presentations to human service providers, health care workers, and community activists on effective advocacy. The second annual Concord Civics Academy, co-sponsored by the City of Concord and Welcoming Concord, drew more than 30 people to a 6-week series to learn about city government, the school system, the police and fire departments, and other community resources.



# State House Watching

## expanding on “the art of the possible”

The NH Program went into action right away when we heard about a legislative threat to funding for adult English classes serving immigrants statewide. By being in touch with faith leaders, English teachers, and immigrant activists, we turned out dozens of people for public hearings that impressed Senators and Representatives and led to the bill being shelved. Another example of effective legislative advocacy was defeat of a bill which would have enabled landlords to require 3 months' rent in advance before tenants could move into an apartment. We were also active in campaigns to repeal the death penalty, extend expanded Medicaid, defeat school vouchers, and create a family medical leave insurance program.

In its eighth year, the weekly *State House Watch* newsletter has developed a faithful following among people looking for timely information about legislation on topics related to civil rights, social justice, and access to essential services. One reader commented, “I’m impressed by the level of detail every week I have a chance to read your newsletter.” Another called it “relevant and useful. It is the best source for knowing how to take action.” Some of the other adjectives used to describe “State House Watch” were “clear,” “concise,” “accurate,” “trustworthy,” “comprehensive,” “thorough,” and “entertaining.”

### Subscribe to State House Watch

It's easy. Go to our web page, [www.afsc.org/nh](http://www.afsc.org/nh) and click the **SUBSCRIBE** button.

### High Power Guests on Low-Power Radio



The radio version of “State House Watch” airs weekly on WNHN-LP, Concord’s low-power community radio station. Fiona Davis Walsh from Kennett High School and Eve Caplan from John Stark Regional High School were on the show in March talking about student actions to protest and end gun violence. You can listen to “State House Watch” at 94.7 FM in the Concord area, or you can listen live and download podcasts at [wnhnfm.org](http://wnhnfm.org).

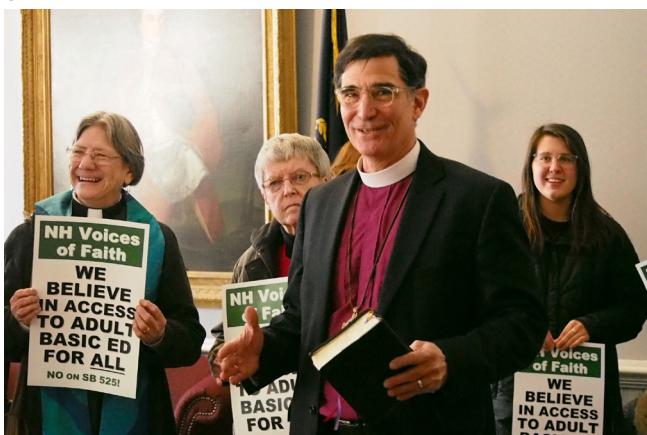


### Spotlight on the SPU

For several years we have joined efforts calling attention to abusive practices at the Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU), a section of the NH State Prison in Concord where people with severe mental illness are held. By giving more visibility to SPU conditions, we have helped family members of SPU prisoners get the political and legal support they need for their loved ones to get appropriate treatment. The state is now looking into building a new facility, outside the prison and under the administration of the Department of Health and Human Services, to house and treat people now being held at the prison.

### NH Voices of Faith

AFSC continued to catalyze NH Voices of Faith for acts of moral witness in the halls of the State House and Legislative Office Building on days when legislation affecting social and economic justice was being considered. Voices of Faith also showed up to support the state employees union during their long contract dispute with the governor.



Legislative Advocacy Day at the State House.

### “Change for Concord”

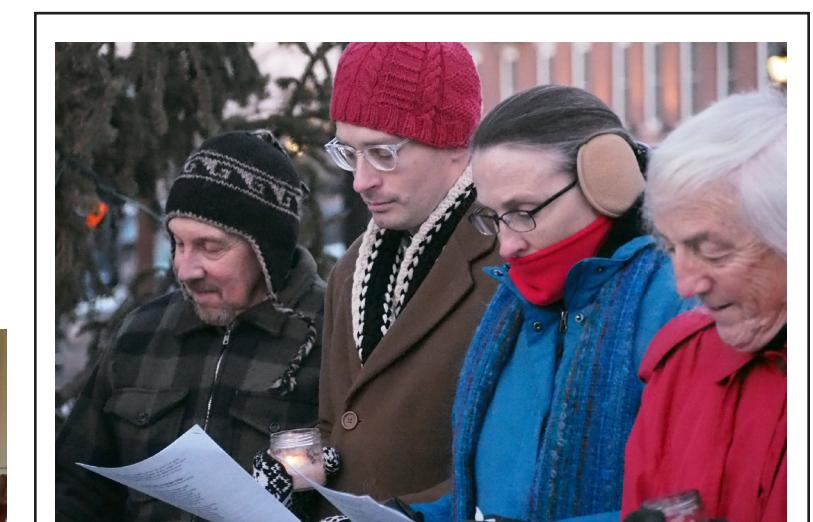
AFSC’s Change for Concord project, which works primarily with young adult immigrants, held two meetings with the Concord Police to foster improved and mutual understanding. Group members continued to advocate for improvements in the recreational facilities in the neighborhood where most of them live. In May, six members of Change for Concord went to Washington for the Friends Committee on National Legislation’s annual Advocacy Weekend.



### The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival



When plans were announced to revive Martin Luther King, Jr.’s call for a Poor People’s Campaign to unleash the power of active nonviolence and pressure the government to address the inter-related issues of poverty, racism, and militarism, the NH Program was quick to jump on board with local planning. Over six weeks from mid-May to late-June, the campaign held demonstrations at the State House to give a bigger megaphone to people affected by low wages, unaffordable housing, permanent war, a toxic environment, and inadequate services for people with disabilities. Arnie and Maggie served on the NH campaign’s coordinating committee. Arnie also coordinated the “nonviolent moral fusion direct action training” and was one of 26 people arrested in acts of civil disobedience at the State House.



AFSC coordinated Homeless Memorial Day vigils in eight communities on December 21, the longest night of the year, to remember those homeless and formerly homeless people who died in 2017.