



American Friends
Service Committee

AFSC-NH PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER 2019 TO NOVEMBER 2020



Photo Credit: Glen Ring



Photo Credit: Lidia Yen

WELCOME GRACE!

Program Coordinator

Grace Kindeke is an artist, dancer, activist, community organizer and a B.A. student of Africana Studies and Sociology at UMASS Boston. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, she immigrated to the U.S. as a toddler and grew up in NH. She is a passionate advocate for justice and liberation and grounds her work, passions and pursuits in a Black feminist, Afrofuturistic, and anti-oppression practice.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Maggie Fogarty, Director

This extraordinary and challenging year has given us so many opportunities to build and to be the Beloved Community. In person and through video conferencing, we continued to connect, to learn, to organize, and to do the labor that is required of us to build the world that we want. Together, over these past many months, we declared unapologetically that Black Lives Matter, that no human being is illegal, that everyone deserves to survive and thrive; and we deepened our commitment to live into these truths. Together, we acknowledged that the work of racial justice and immigrant justice and economic justice is OUR work, and that we need to move forward in loving accountability and encouragement to transform ourselves and our world, so that all of us are welcome and safe.

It has been a year of transitions for the AFSC New Hampshire program. We celebrated the remarkable legacy of Arnie Alpert, who retired in June having gifted us with vision, strategy and skills for nonviolent, revolutionary change-making for almost 40 years. We cheered Martin Toe as he completed his nearly two years as our Grassroots Organizer intern, and we hired another shining young adult leader from Concord, Lidia Yen. And we celebrated the arrival to our staff of the magnificent Grace Kindeke.

We are thankful, energized and inspired to be on this journey with each other and with you. Let us continue to care for ourselves as we move together into a new moment.

WELCOME LIDIA!

Grassroots Organizer Intern

Lidia Aloyo Yen is a senior in college studying healthcare administration. She loves playing tennis, binge-watching tv shows, and being involved in the community. She has participated in Change for Concord since 2018 and is passionate about helping to strengthen the community by fostering spaces where young adults can connect and positively impact their communities.



Photo Credit: Arnie Alpert



Photo Credit: Geoff Forester/Concord Monitor

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

New Hampshire people showed up again and again this past year in solidarity for immigrant justice. In partnership with many faith-based organizations, immigrant community leaders and people of conscience, we called upon our elected leaders to free immigrants from detention, to cut funding for ICE and CBP, to defend the rights of asylum seekers, to protect immigrant families in need of COVID relief, and to enact humane immigration policies. Until mid-March, we continued our interfaith prayer vigils and Jericho walks and our detainee visitation program, and then we adapted to the pandemic shutdown by finding other ways to protect people from detention and deportation. The Seacoast Interfaith Sanctuary Coalition worked closely with the UCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group to connect people to quarantine housing and other supports through our congregational host home and support networks. We continued our shared learning about accompaniment, anti-racist organizing and the abolition framework.

CHANGE FOR CONCORD

It has been a year of inspired activism for Change for Concord (C4C) as members stepped up for Black Lives Matter, advocated for racial equity in Concord schools, hosted cross-cultural dialogues and community-building events, promoted voter engagement and created their first-ever school board candidate forum, all while navigating the economic and social challenges of COVID-19 within their own lives and their community. C4C leaders accumulated experience as rally speakers, panelists, presenters and forum facilitators. Martin Toe's spirit, creativity, and passion for justice earned him a 2020 Rising Star Award (Civic Leader of the Year) from NH Stay Work Play. Lidia Yen stepped into the AFSC grassroots organizer internship and the C4C lead organizer role in August and has been hard at work building the group's infrastructure, facilitating weekly meetings, speaking to student groups and coordinating C4C's response to local issues of concern. Oh, and she's still a full-time university student (for one more month)!

AT THE STATE HOUSE



Photo Credit: Arnie Alpert

The 2020 legislative session began with an array of good policy proposals related to family and medical leave, tenant rights, higher wages and other measures which would have improved the lives of New Hampshire families. But the pandemic, the ensuing disruption to regular legislative processes – made more chaotic by politically-motivated disruptions – and a continuous run of vetoes by the governor, meant that most of this good work was lost. AFSC tracked the process and explained the many twists and turns for our State House Watch newsletter readers and on our weekly radio show (at WNHN 94.7 FM) which transitioned from in-studio to Zoom studio, with Arnie serving as our Zoom producer. We also used these tools to share important information about the COVID-19 crisis, the state's response, and how NH people could access resources and other supports. As she has done since 2013, Susan Bruce was our tireless State House Watch researcher and member of our writing team.

VOTER OUTREACH

In the weeks leading up to the general election, Grace coordinated voter outreach in the form of a digital information/social media campaign. In collaboration with the ACLU-NH, the NH Campaign for Voting Rights and Manchester Community Action Coalition, and with funding from the New Hampshire Progress Alliance, we designed informative graphics and boosted them on our various social media platforms, targeting New Hampshire voters, younger voters and the communities of Manchester and Concord. Topics included 'know your voting rights,' deadlines for requesting and mailing absentee ballots, how to vote safely in person, and what to do if you experience problems exercising your right to vote. One infographic was designed to address a gap in voter knowledge about down-ballot races and the role of local elected officials, and where to find reliable information about candidates' positions on various issues. These helpful tools were translated into French, Swahili, Spanish and Nepali and distributed throughout the Manchester community.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES!

ALONG WITH THE PRESIDENT & CONGRESS, STATE & COUNTY RACES ARE ALSO ON THE NOV 3 BALLOT IN MANCHESTER, NH. THESE LOCAL OFFICIALS DIRECTLY IMPACT OUR EVERYDAY LIVES. IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT THEY DO SO THAT YOU CAN CAST YOUR VOTE WITH CONFIDENCE!

<p>County Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecutes felonies and misdemeanor appeals from the district courts. Prosecutes crimes in collaboration with the State Attorney General's Office, Sheriff's Department, NH State Police and local police departments. 	<p>County Commissioner</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintains county properties. Reviews county department budgets. Oversight of the department of corrections, nursing homes, public assistance and human resources.
<p>Sheriff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief law enforcement officer for county. Enforces state laws & serves civil processes. Provides court security. 	<p>County Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages county budget & financial accounts. Collects county property tax from municipalities. Invests county funds.
<p>Register of Probate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overses wills, trusts, estates, guardianships, involuntary commitments, adoptions, name changes, and partition of real estate in the county. 	<p>Register of Deeds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes and maintains records on the selling and buying of land and buildings, including plans, sales, and foreclosures.
<p>Executive Councilor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves state budget spending. Approves all state contracts over \$10,000. Approves governor's pardons. Approves governor's appointments of Judges, Attorney General, state department & board heads, Commissioners. 	<p>Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enacts state laws & executive orders. Veto power over legislative bills. Establishes & manages state budget. Oversight of state departments & agencies. Appoints Judges, Attorney General, state department & board heads, Commissioners.
<p>State Senator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates and votes on state laws. Approves state budget & tax laws. Votes for/against governor vetoes. Conducts impeachment proceedings against state officials. 	<p>State Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates and votes on state laws. Approve state budget & tax laws. Oversight of budget spending for county. Vote for/against governor vetoes. Initiate impeachment proceedings against state officials.
<p>U.S. Senator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates and vote on federal laws. Amends federal budget spending bills. Confirms cabinet & executive agency officials, ambassadors, Supreme Court & federal judges. Ratifies treaties. 	<p>U.S. Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates and votes on federal laws. Proposes federal budget spending bills. Initiates impeachment of government officials.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: MANCHESTER COMMUNITY ACTION COALITION



2021 STRATEGIC GOALS

AFSC-NH staff and support committee engaged in a planning process in October which was facilitated by Andres Mejia. We confirmed our strategic goals for the coming year which include a continued engagement in the areas of immigrant justice and economic justice, and some new work in the area of 'ending state violence' against communities and in public spaces. We move into the new year eager to lift up Black immigrant voices, to explore opportunities for organizing with immigrant workers, to promote economic alternatives, to build a base of support for abolition in New Hampshire, and to engage faith leaders and others in sustained, effective action for transformation in our communities, in Congress, at the State House and wherever we need to be.

ARNIE ALPERT ACTION FUND

THANK YOU for your tremendous generosity! More than 250 of you made gifts and pledges as part of our campaign to raise \$100,000 for the Arnie Alpert Action Fund. Because of you, we surpassed our goal! This fund – which will be spent down over the next five years - will honor Arnie's legacy by making it possible for us to sustain strong programs, provide paid internships and engage in creative new projects along the way.



Source: Keene State College/YouTube

FAREWELL TO ARNIE

For nearly four decades, Arnie Alpert helped build movements for justice, peace and equality in New Hampshire. As his retirement approached, friends, colleagues, faith leaders, elected officials, and former interns expressed deep gratitude for Arnie's dedicated leadership of campaigns – for the nuclear freeze, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. state holiday, for the abolition of the death penalty - as well as for his trainings and practice of active non-violence and "bird-dogging;" his songwriting, story-telling and street theatre; and for always showing up in support of a worthy cause. Arnie was honored to receive the "Granite Service Award" from Keene State College at their 2020 commencement ceremony, and also the "Work of the People Award" from the New Hampshire Council of Churches.



Clockwise from upper left: Alissandra Rodriguez-Murray, Ginny Kristl, Asma Elhuni, Emelyne Adios, Lina Shayo, Candace Cole-McCrea, Dan Pontoh, Anne Saunders, Lindsay Dearborn (clerk), Molly Messenger, Margaret Hawthorn

THANK YOU FROM OUR SUPPORT COMMITTEE!

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, NH Progress Alliance, and the NH Charitable Foundation, including the “You Have Our Trust” fund. Please visit our website for more information and to make a donation.

SO MANY PARTNERS!

The NH Program does most of our work in collaboration with others through coalitions and informal networks. In the past year, we have worked closely with the UCC Immigrant and Refugee Support Group, ACLU-NH, Indonesian Community Support, UU Action NH, the Granite State Organizing Project, United Valley Interfaith Project, Black Lives Matter NH, Manchester Community Action Coalition, Rights & Democracy NH, Kent Street Coalition, NH Youth Movement, 350NH.org, Never Again Action NH, NH Peace Action, NH Council of Churches, Open Democracy, the Union of Concerned Scientists and many more. AFSC has been convening the statewide Immigrant Rights Network since November of 2016.

We are part of GSOP, 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, NH Voices of Faith, the NH Poor People’s Campaign, Housing Action NH and the Martin Luther King Coalition. The Nuclear Weapons Working Group is jointly sponsored by AFSC and NH Peace Action. Our “State House Watch” radio show is produced and broadcast from WNHN-LP.

**YOUR FINANCIAL
SUPPORT
MAKES OUR WORK
POSSIBLE!**

Donate online:
afsc.org/NH

-or-

Send a check payable
to:
AFSC-NH:
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**American Friends
Service Committee**

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