

AFSC Midwest Digest

Highlights from Recent Work in the Midwest Region

April 24, 2014

Young filmmakers take powerful messages to DC

This year's If I Had a Trillion Dollars Youth Film Festival brought creative youth from around the nation to Washington for a weekend of leadership training, a congressional roundtable and lobbying, and a Tax Day action. Check out [IHTD's Facebook](#) page for more.

Tax Day protests call for action on military spending

AFSC and allied organizations held Tax Day protests across the region and nation. Mary Zerkel explains why in this [Truthout](#) article. The [Public News Service](#) covered AFSC events in Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa, where AFSC sponsored [two actions](#).

Chicago taxi workers to seek union representation

Supported by AFSC, the United Taxiworkers Community Council has signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Taxi Workers Alliance, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Organizers hope to end the oppression of taxi workers and win a living wage. Read more in this [Chicago Sun-Times article](#).

Earlham students explore criminal justice issues in Michigan

While many students chose to party or sleep over spring break, a group from Earlham College traveled to Ann Arbor to learn about the criminal justice system and AFSC's ongoing work to promote restorative and healing alternatives. Read the students' comments [here](#).

Dayton forum explores the dark side of chocolate

According to Migwe Kimemia, a recent [forum](#) at Wright State was timely because it is consistent with the AFSC Dayton's strategy for raising global awareness about conflict-free and fair-trade principles and values among the faith community and students in Southwest Ohio.

Minnesota Friends discuss Fruitvale Station

Watching the movie Fruitvale Station isn't "fun," but neither is systemic (and often lethal) racism. With AFSC's assistance, Friends in Minnesota are continuing their film-based examination of the violence of racism and how we can undo it. Learn more [here](#).

School mediator reflects on value of nonviolence

Darius Hunt is working with AFSC's Peer Mediation Program in St. Louis to help cultivate a new approach to conflict in school. Read Darius' pitch for empathy [here](#).

Introducing Iowa's new Middle East Peace Associate

Katie Huerter may be new to the AFSC staff in Iowa, but she brings years of experience working with young people on behalf of peace and justice in Palestine-Israel. In this [three-minute video](#), Katie introduces herself, her work and what motivates her.

Kansas City youth describe how they would change the world

Staff and interns in Kansas City are helping young people find their voice in describing the kind of world they want to live in. Check out [these videos](#) from a recent performance; more are on tap!

Chicago interns create stop-motion animation video on immigration

Interns Jessica, Raul and Luis in AFSC's Chicago office focused their creative IHTD video on immigration. Watch [here](#) as they envision a better way to spend our nation's resources and welcome new friends.

Gaza Writes Back

Jennifer Bing in Chicago played a key role in organizing this [national speaking tour](#) of young writers from Palestine. While we're on the topic, please consider signing [this petition](#) calling for the boycott of SodaStream, a company which profits from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine.

Weekly podcast informs Northeast Ohioans of peace and justice issues

The Northeast Ohio AFSC has been producing a weekly audio "Podcast." Each week, staff summarize the previous week's events; announce upcoming events and activities (and invite listeners to participate) and comment on current issues from local to national that relate to the program's projects. Listen to the latest podcast [here](#).

AFSC calls for a halt to deportations

"We are saying enough is enough," said Sandra Sanchez of AFSC Iowa, one of several AFSC offices across the nation that participated in a national day of action. "We need to stop deportations and pass a humane and comprehensive immigration reform that is sensible for our country." Photos from the Des Moines rally are [here](#).

Mourning some, organizing a lot

It's been a little over a year since [Michael McConnell's](#) courageous dance with cancer ended. We honor Michael's memory with every young person we engage with in the creative struggle for justice and peace. Please consider a donation to the [Michael McConnell Youth Internship Fund](#). Thank you.

Ideas for the Midwest Digest?

Jon Krieg's all ears, as they say. Please contact him at JKrieg@afsc.org.