



AFSC Northeast Regional Director Keith Harvey
Photo: AFSC/Bryan Vana

Dear Friends,

I have come to appreciate and value the opportunity to participate in a **Jericho Walk**. The beauty of doing the walk is that it is active, it fosters community, and there is a very powerful spiritual vibe that moves people during the walk. It not only moves the folks who walk, but it also moves many who are watching.

Earlier this year I participated in a Jericho Walk in support of a colleague and friend who has been pursued by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for his activism around immigrant rights. He is still under threat of being detained and deported.

The walk originates from the Book of Joshua, chapter 6:1-27. The story talks about how Joshua's army walked around the city seven times, blowing their horns and shouting. As they circled the city the seventh time, the city walls came tumbling down.

So, like in the Book of Joshua, a large group of supporters gathered and began walking around the Federal building in Foley Square in downtown New York City. As we walked in silence, I noticed the looks from workers, from immigrants and their family members and friends entering the building, and the look I saw was a look of appreciation—a look that there are people out here in the world who care. To my surprise, even some of the security guards gave a quick nod of approval.

The action had real power, especially when we stopped briefly to raise a hand and send up a silent prayer for justice, or to stop to shout and blow our horn at the building. Our modern-day Jericho Walk was to walk around that Federal building seven times to bring down the walls of injustice and oppression, so that our brother and friend could walk out of the fortress free.

So, I invite you to take a walk with our Northeast Region—to have a look into our communities and program work; to raise our voices and shout to bring down the walls of injustice and oppression which surround us.

New Jersey

The [Prison Watch Program](#) continues to receive letters from those inside prison. We are constantly being asked for our manuals and are sharing any concerns the men and women may have. Recently Prison Watch published *From Her Mouth to Your Ears: A Survivors Manual BY and FOR Women* (cover shown at right). This complements the [Survivors Manual](#) that is sent to thousands of people in prison throughout the country annually. Please take a minute to [read an op-ed by Bonnie Kerness, Prison Watch Director](#).

The [Immigrant Rights Program](#) was part of a coalition that successfully advocated for funding from the State of New Jersey to represent immigrants in deportation proceedings. A portion of those funds was received by IRP, which is expanding its legal services work in NJ significantly.

Along with our Know Your Rights workshops, we continue to build lasting relationships within immigrant communities and with our immigrant partners.



Above: Staff and supporters during the AFSC's Jericho Walk in New York City.
Photo: AFSC/Northeast Region

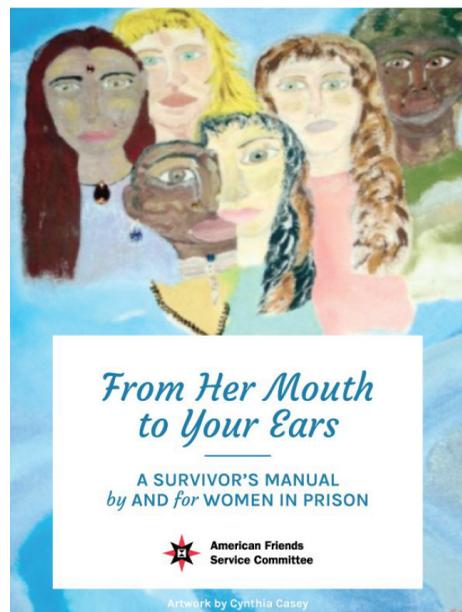




Photo: AFSC/Gabriel Camacho

The Immigrant Rights Program continues to be one of the leading advocates for the rights of immigrants in NJ.

The IRP recently opened a second office in Red Bank, NJ, where four staff members are providing services, conducting outreach, and engaging in organizing and advocacy around issues facing immigrants in Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

New York

The [Healing Justice Program](#) in New York successfully completed its first pilot *Hope Lives for Lifers*, a project that supports people serving long-term prison sentences in New York State. The program is launching its second pilot of *Hope Lives for Lifers* at Eastern Correctional Facility.

In July, the HJP will begin its 6th Liberation Summer Camp working with youth and others who have been directly affected by the prison and immigration systems, and learning about the impact those systems have had on many families and communities of color.

Pennsylvania

The [Youth Undoing Institutional Racism Program](#) in Pittsburgh works with a cohort of young people using anti-racist organizing techniques to build their self-esteem and leadership skills. [Through this work they have created a series of 'zines' that use artistic expression to show what they have learned in the program.](#)

The Pittsburgh program continues to work with the school board and administration to change the suspension policies for elementary school children as part of their work on the school to prison pipeline.

The [Social Justice Leadership Institute](#) in Philadelphia is engaging young people in organizing and activism through a nine-month program. Currently there are 18 people working on self-esteem and leadership skills. SJLI aims to help young people understand systemic oppression, while developing skills and tactics to dismantle it with solution-centered thinking.

Massachusetts

[Project Voice New England](#) is actively engaged with the campaign on behalf of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders at a national level by organizing gatherings, rallies and lobby days.

AFSC regional programs from Newark, NJ; Miami, FL; and our policy office in Washington, D.C. also mobilized and arranged legislative visits in support of the TPS campaign. AFSC's regional TPS and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) work is coordinated and in partnership with the [National TPS Alliance](#), which has over 60 chapters across the nation. [Read the AFSC's statement here.](#)

Locally, the program continues in coalition with legislators for real policy change at the state level, most importantly putting forward a bill that would enable all qualified state residents to apply for a standard Massachusetts driver's license, regardless of immigration status.

Peace and Economic Security Program

AFSC was a lead organizer for two major national and international conferences: *Yes to Peace, No to NATO* in Washington, D.C. on April 2nd, when the now global NATO military alliance met to celebrate its 70th anniversary; and *Growing Nuclear Risks in a Changing World: New Thinking & Movement Building* on May 4th at Judson Memorial Church in New York. The speakers included Daniel Ellsberg, Sharon Dolev, Boris, Arielle Denis and Lee Taeho.



Above: Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA) speaks at the TPS People's Summit in Washington, D.C.

Photo: AFSC/Bryan Vana

This is an intense period for the [Peace and Economic Security Program](#). With the Trump administration seeking yet another massive increase in U.S. military spending to \$750 billion, PES coordinated the national [Global Days of Action on Military Spending](#) which encourages community-based events around Tax Day to move the money from the Pentagon to address urgent human needs.

Maine Wabanaki Program

Denise Altvater, [Wabanaki Program](#) staff, has been extremely busy traveling the state doing workshops on decolonization. She has completed eight workshops with adults and five workshops in high schools, with requests coming in from middle schools as well. Denise says working with youth has been very gratifying. Finally, the Native Winter Gathering was extremely successful—77 youth participated in activities and workshops, many under the Wabanaki Program leadership.

Another accomplishment for the program has been its work with high school students at the last school in Maine to get rid of their Indian “Redskins” mascot.

See also: Denise Altvater shares comments on [Maine’s opioid epidemic and its effects on the Wabanaki community](#) in an article by the *Beacon*, a project of the Maine People’s Alliance.



Above: Denise Altvater of the AFSC’s Wabanaki Program in Maine. Photo: Recaredo Fernandez



Above and below: AFSC’s New Hampshire Program at public demonstrations for immigrant rights. Photos: AFSC/Northeast Region



New Hampshire

The [New Hampshire Program](#) and its partners conducted a training-for-trainers this March for people who want to prepare activists for constructive encounters with presidential candidates, a process we call “bird dogging.” Additionally, we are updating the trainer’s manual—the *Bird Dog Trainers Cookbook*—which includes details on how to lead the various training exercises staff have developed over the years. The event was attended by 11 new trainers, including people who are working with the ACLU, Rights & Democracy, Open Democracy, ABLE, and the Nuclear Weapons Working Group.

On May 30, [New Hampshire lawmakers voted to abolish the death penalty](#), overriding a veto from the state’s Republican governor and making New Hampshire the 21st state to abandon capital punishment—a huge victory for our program and supporters. The effort to abolish the state death penalty began in 1985 at a NH Friends gathering. [Read more in this op-ed by NH program co-director Arnie Alpert for the Concord Monitor.](#)

Thank you for taking a Jericho Walk through the Northeast Region! **Please consider a tax-deductible gift, which will help fund our important work to help bring down the walls of oppression, creating a space for peace, justice and human dignity.**

Please also check out the [AFSC Alumni Page](#) online at www.afsc.org/alumni or via our **Facebook group** at www.facebook.com/groups/234049520577404 to engage with current and former AFSC staff, volunteers, interns and fellows.

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Sincerely yours for peace and justice,



Keith B. Harvey
Northeast Regional Director