



American Friends  
Service Committee

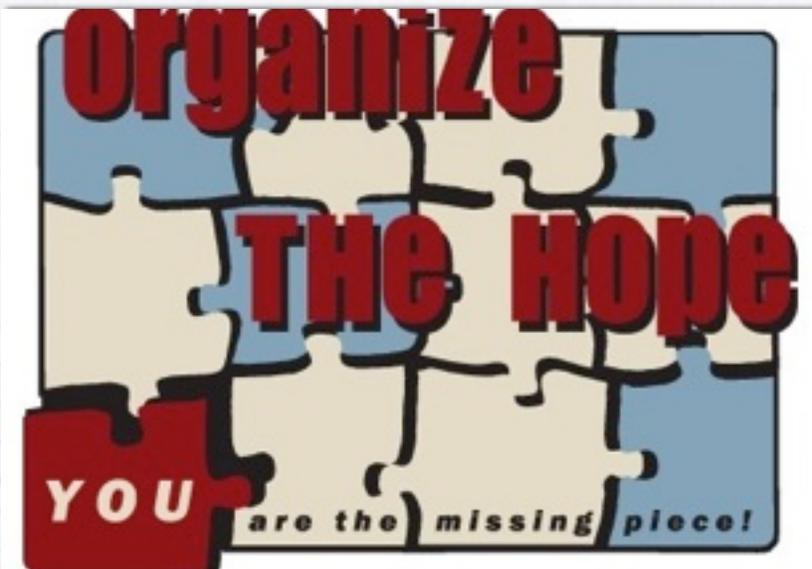
# Organize the Hope College Fellowship Program

## “I’m ready to get to work!”

Nineteen Organize the Hope fellows from 13 campuses in 6 states met for a week-end in Chicago for an orientation and training in early September. The students were excited and ready to hit the ground running. **“I feel happy because now I feel that I have the tools I need to do the work I need to do on campus,”** said one fellow during the evaluation. **“I have a new sense of direction and am motivated,”** said another. **“Thank you for creating this opportunity. One of the most stressful things for me as an activist is the lack of funding and resources,”** said yet another.

### TRAINING AND SUPPORT

Fellows who attended the orientation session received concrete skills training in media and strategic planning. We also shared best practices in organizing events, recruiting, fundraising, meeting facilitation and other organizing skills. The students also spent half a day learning about the history and practice of non-violent social justice work. Skills training will continue throughout the year as the students work with their AFSC mentors.



## The next generation

**Our project mission is to build the organizing power of the next generation of AFSC movement leaders for peace and justice.**

The 2008 presidential campaign awakened not only the hope but also the activism of a new generation. Many young people will be searching for ways to continue their engagement in meaningful political activities. Further, their involvement is necessary to bridge the generational gap within peace

and social justice movements and ensure that they are sustainable. But while college organizers have the motivation to act they often lack the resources, training and experience to produce compelling events and campaigns. AFSC is in a unique position to channel the generalized hopes of so many young people and turn them into focused organized campaigns that will achieve the concrete changes that we need.



**SHARING BEST PRACTICES** “I am going back with a lot of new ideas and strategies. Hearing from others about different practices they use was encouraging.”



**AFSC RESOURCES** will help the students produce events on campus. “I’m excited to do AFSC planned events. Now our events will be more connected and directed to our cause.”



**NETWORKING** “I feel really inspired that there are so many students from across the U.S. that have the same passion that I do, now I don’t feel so alone in my little cornfield school.”

## Follow the Fellows Through Their Organize the Hope Year...

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Now the students will get back to campus and start working with their AFSC mentors. You'll be able to follow their progress by checking our dedicated social networking site at <http://organizethehope.ning.com>.

Fellows have already started to plan events on campus. One fellow from New Hampshire has plans to use AFSC's 40 foot federal budget banner on her campus. The banner shows that 57% of the federal budget goes to military spending. Many of the fellows were interested in AFSC materials on the cost of war.

Another fellow planned her first event for International Day of Peace: "Students are decorating peace doves that will be stapled to sticks Thursday and Friday. Then

## OTH SOCIAL NETWORKING



\* Students will stay connected with each other and with their mentors through the Organize the Hope site. There they will be able to post photos, share ideas, ask questions, etc.



You can check out the progress of the Organize the Hope fellows by going to the site at <http://organizethehope.ning.com>

Monday morning we will put all the doves in the ground on our Quad in a giant peace sign. There will also be a table with information about AFSC and how students can get involved with promoting peace!" See the photo below.

Other students have discussed staging a banner drop, doing counter-recruitment work, organizing shows with Palestinian hip hop performers, and creating community art projects that address social justice issues.

## ORGANIZE THE HOPE FELLOWS 2009-10



"I really learned a lot and I never thought I would be here in Chicago thinking with other people about how to make life better for ourselves and others."



Less than two weeks after the OTH training, OTH fellow Jessica Meyer worked with students on campus to create a peace dove display on the Quad at Illinois Wesleyan.

### who are the OTH Fellows?

students of color	40%
women	60%
men	40%
working for peace	100%

contact [mzerkel@afsc.org](mailto:mzerkel@afsc.org) for more info.