Last year this time the Historic Thousands on Jones St. (HKonJ) rally took place at the state’s capital on Valentine’s Day.

This year, the annual march lead by NAACP-NC’S president Dr. William J. Barber II was again supported by hundreds of beating hearts pledging to carry the work forward for voters rights.

All historic events have a beginning, a starting line. HKonJ is no different. In 2007, the first HKonJ People’s Assembly took to the streets with Rev. Barber at the helm. Today, a coalition with well over 130 coalition partners, including the American Friends Service Committee of the Carolinas, are proud HKonJ partners in the continued struggle for justice.

On this day, a sea of people filled the downtown streets demonstrating at the state capital. Five thousand people raised their voices, their banners and their frustrations about radical legislation that restricts people’s voter rights, allows wide spread funding cuts in public education and the lack of support to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.

The People’s agenda in North Carolina lists a fourteen point agenda. To view the full agenda, visit hkonj.com/14_point_agenda.

Many young first time voters are excited about casting their ballot in the March primary (visit ncsbe.gov for North Carolina primary information).

The people of North Carolina have spoken and many vowed to take their dissatisfaction about the status quo to the polls.

To make change happen – VOTE!

-Toni Etheridge, AFSC Program Associate
SUPREME COURT AGREES TO TAKE ON “DEFERRED ACTION”

NOTE: This article was written prior to the death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. His death throws into question many major cases before the court, including DAPA.

On November 2014, President Obama announced that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would not deport certain undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and parents of lawful permanent residents. The program is known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA).

DAPA would benefit over five million undocumented parents by providing them with work permits, and a legal status. This will bring stability for the families and allow them to come out of the shadows.

Following the announcement of DAPA, many opposing governors across the country accused him of abusing his executive powers by sidestepping Congress, and violating his constitutional obligations to enforce the nation’s laws.

A coalition of 26 states, led by Mr. Paxton, Attorney General of Texas (R), quickly filed a lawsuit against President Obama’s executive order.

On January 19th, the Supreme Court announced that it will hear the case against President Obama’s DAPA program. DAPA has been on hold since February 2015 when the 26 state filed a lawsuit. The Supreme Court is expected to hear arguments on the case in April and make a ruling by the end of June. If the Supreme Court rules in favor, this would allow President Obama to implement DAPA for at least six months before a new President is sworn into office.

-Jose Oliva, AFSC Intern

This February, Share the LOVE for TUITION EQUALITY with our legislators.

SEND S.B. 463 TO COMMITTEE

AFSC is sponsoring statewide Know Your Rights Workshops to prepare undocumented immigrants in case of raids.

Anytime during the month, send valentines to key North Carolina legislators urging their support for SB 463, the bill which would equalize college tuition for qualifying undocumented students in North Carolina.

Sen. Tom Apodaca (Rules Committee Chair)
1504 Fifth Ave. West, Hendersonville, NC 28739
Message: “We LOVE equal college tuition for all NC students and hope you do too. Please support tuition equality and send SB 463 to committee!”

Sen. Fletcher Hartsell (Sponsor of our bill)
P.O. Box 368, Concord, NC 28026
Message: “Thank you for your LOVE of education and your support of SB 463!”

Pictured on the left are the participants in the Vigil to Stop the Raids and the Know Your Rights training that took place in January at the YWCA High Point with the Latino Family Center.
The AFSC Community Leaders Learning Program (CLLP) launched last month. We were very excited as 14 Community Leaders and Mentors gathered from 9 different nationalities to participate in the six-month training and mentorship program. Each month, the Community Leaders will participate in different trainings to help them learn more about the issues affecting their community. The goal of this program is to activate emerging immigrant leaders by providing the tools and support necessary to become more vocal and visible in the broader community.

Andrew Young, Volunteer Coordinator at the Bonner Center at Guilford College, was the guest speaker for our January workshop on the “History, Changing Demographics and New Challenges for the Immigrant community in Greensboro.” Other trainings will include; Voting, Know Your Rights as an Immigrant, Lobbying, and Worker’s Rights.

We are very grateful to our partners, City of Greensboro Library and the Latino Community Coalition of Guilford for their support and resources.

-Leticia Benitez, AFSC Fellow

Housing and the International Community

On Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at the New Arrivals Institute in Greensboro, the Human Relations Commission and Human Relations Department hosted an important, open conversation about Housing and the International Community, in an effort to bridge cultural gaps between landlords and property managers and tenants.

With the help of partners like BEF Realty, Phillips Management, African Services Coalition, Greensboro’s International Advisory Committee, UNCG’s Center for Housing and Community Studies, Jalloh’s Upright Services, Church World Service, and FaithAction International, House, the organizers created a program to raise awareness, increase empathy, and deliver creative solutions to navigating barriers like prejudice, language and forms of ID.
Naomi Madaras is from Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and is a senior at Guilford College. She will be working with the Peace and Economic Justice task force of AFSC, focusing on facilitating voter registration for rural Latinx communities and on arranging transportation to NAACP rallies in North Carolina. Naomi is also involved in the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program at Guilford College and enjoys the outdoors and cooking.

Irving Arias is from Asheboro N.C. He currently attends Randolph Community College as a transfer student and plans to transfer to UNC Charlotte. He is involved in the Asheboro and Randolph county community areas acting as the chair of the Latino Coalition of Randolph County. He is passionate about helping and educating others about the opportunities available for them. He will be working in the Peace and Economic Justice task force and voter registration.

Jose Sandoval was born in Michoacán, México and raised in Seagrove North Carolina. Jose was the first of a family of four, to go to college and receive a bachelors in business administration. Now residing in Greensboro, NC, he is involved in his community working towards an immigration reform, tuition equity, and rights for all. At AFSC, Jose will be coordinating Let’s Learn Triad and tuition equity. His hobbies include soccer, cultural art and visual arts, He also enjoys spending time with friends and family.

Yubisela Aranda Sandoval is the youngest of four, born in Cuernavaca, Morelos Mexico. She is currently at UNCG double majoring in Spanish and Psychology. In 2013, Yubi moved to Greensboro and began working in her new community on issues with tuition equity, immigration reform, and other issues that affect minorities. Yubi will be coordinating Let’s Learn Triad and working on tuition equity. Yubi’s hobbies include spending time with family, friends, and her pup Milo.