

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:  
CITLALY MORA

NOV./DEC. 2017



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

Area Office of the Carolinas

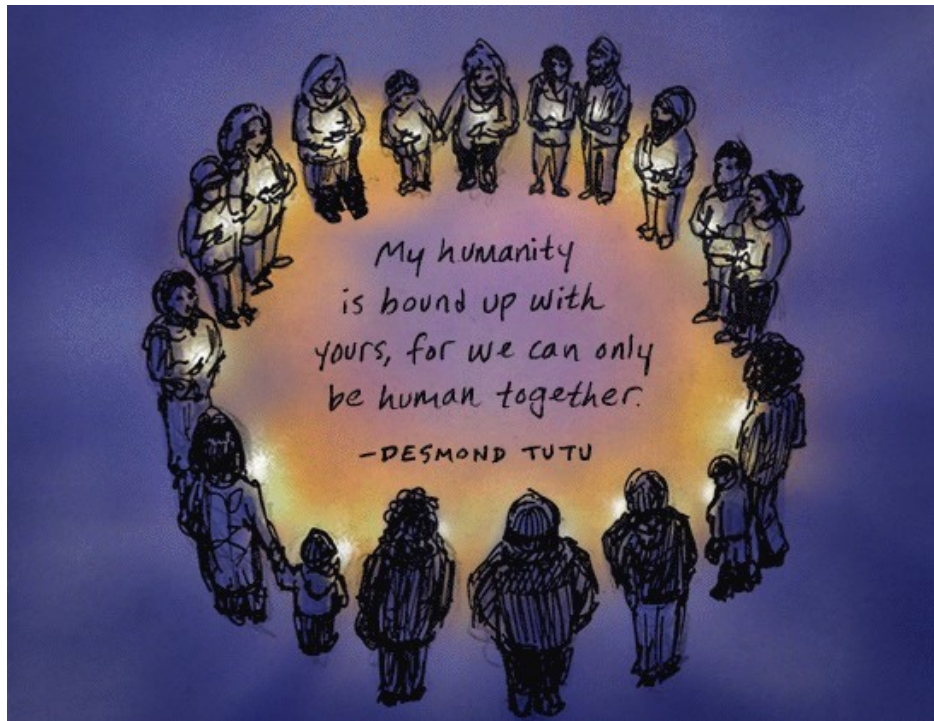
## AFSC OFFICE OF THE CAROLINAS

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## AFSC's GENERAL SECRETARY: THIS IS A TIME FOR HOPE



Dear Friends,

This year has been a wakeup call and a reminder of our shared humanity and values. With a new U.S. administration, we saw the swift erosion of human rights and social justice—but we headed the call, to further our mission to build peace with justice, to confront hate and oppression, to better organize to provide much-needed resources to targeted communities, to stand together to create stronger movements and networks of support.

AFSC was a part of the opposition to Japanese internment during WWII, Kindertransport during the Holocaust, the anti-Apartheid movement, and the Sanctuary Movement during the Central American wars in the 1980s. **Today, we all must join together and continue to show that same strength, love, and courage by standing up to threats against the rights and dignity of any member of our society.**

This year has taught us to hope, to recognize that there's

strength in numbers. We've seen that when we persist and resist together, that real and lasting change is possible. **We are truly grateful to have you by our side. Without your support, we would not be able to accomplish all that we do.**

May your holiday season be filled with love and light and a renewed sense of hope for the year ahead. From all of us at the American Friends Service Committee, I wish you happy holidays and a fruitful new year.

Sincerely,

Joyce Ajlouny  
General Secretary  
American Friends Service Committee



## CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATES AFSC'S WORK



After a year filled of Centennial activities in commemoration of AFSC's 100th year as an organization, AFSC held a local celebration at Guilford College on September 9, 2017. During our Centennial Gala, attendees had an opportunity to view AFSC's Centennial Exhibit, "Waging Peace: 100 Years of Activism" (co-sponsored by the Guilford College Art Gallery), and hear some of the stories of the wonderful work that has transpired through the memories of many AFSC supporters, volunteers, and former staff members. We had an opportunity to hear from individuals who were recipients of AFSC aid in Europe during World War II, activists during the Civil Rights Movement and more recent participants in AFSC work.

Former Congresswoman Eva Clayton shared the following story of her early involvement with AFSC:

*My second encounter with the American Friends Service Committee came later after graduating from college, married and newly settled in rural Warren County where my husband had taken our family as he began to practice law. Warren County like several counties in Eastern North Carolina at that time had a majority Negro population (known as) but, had limited voter participation. In fact, at this time many Negroes were afraid to vote. They saw little value in the ballot and the whites made it difficult to vote by several intimidation methods; including the threat of job loss.*



*We sought help from AFCS, and they sent an organized summer project 12 fantastic College Students and Adult advisors to engage with the community, teach voter education to citizens groups and worked with the youth, various ministers, and leaders in the community. This project was the real beginning of citizen engagement and voters participation by Blacks in this area. The minds and doors of civic engagement were open, never to close again. I can say with sincerity that this AFSC project sparked my political interest. In 2013, several of those college students from the 1963 project; now parents, grandparents, professionals, many retired came back to Warren County for a 50-year reunion. It was a joyous and meaningful occasion as this 100 years celebration.*

Juana Tobar, who still resides in Sanctuary at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, joined the Centennial celebration remotely via video link, since she is not able to leave the church. Juana expressed gratitude for the work that AFSC has done in working with her these past several months on her case and others. Laura Garduño Garcia, DACA recipient and our new Fellow who joined AFSC this Fall, closed us out. Laura, who represents the future of our organizing efforts, shared powerfully about her recent experiences with AFSC.



We were lucky to have AFSC's entire South Regional staff and South Regional Executive Committee present for the celebration, as both groups held meetings in Greensboro in order to join the festivities. Associate Regional Director Anyango Reggy and Regional Director Jacob Flowers appear in the photo to the left.

The many stories inspired AFSC supporters and staff, reminding us all of the legacy of the organization's powerful work across the world for over a century now. The night concluded with a champagne toast for what we have been able to accomplish with the support of the community and what we will continue to do in the future to support the movement for social justice and peace locally and globally.



-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern

All photos by AFSC's Bryan Vana

## AFSC's LORI KHAMALA HONORED WITH RISING STAR AWARD

Lori Fernald Khamala, director of the North Carolina Immigrant Rights Program at the American Friends Service Committee in Greensboro, was named the News & Record Rising Star for 2017. The honor recognizes women under 40 who've made their mark on the community.

A graduate of Guilford College, Khamala has been with the American Friends Service Committee since 2008, helping undocumented immigrants fight deportation, developing programs to make immigrants feel more welcome in the community, and making sure immigrants are aware of their rights.

"For Lori, what she does is not like a job," said local activist Addy Jeffrey. "It's really her life's passion. I've witnessed situations I thought were hopeless, but because of Lori, things turned around. She's a force to be reckoned with, and she has helped so many people in this community, even saved people's lives in certain ways." The American Friends Service Committee, which celebrated its 100th anniversary this year, was founded by Quakers and has long been involved in civil-rights and social-justice causes. Khamala said one of her organization's goals is to develop leaders within the undocumented community.



Lori and Juana. Photo credit: Perfecta Visuals for 1808 Greensboro's Magazine

Khamala and the AFSC recently helped arrange sanctuary for Juana Luz Tobar Ortega at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Ortega, who moved to the United States from Guatemala almost 25 years ago, was facing deportation.

"She's taking a tremendous risk," Khamala said. "Sanctuary is not fun. She's essentially trapped in a church. It's not a situation anyone would really want. When I see her and her family fighting so hard to stay in this country, it makes me want to fight harder to make our community a better place."

**Check out a short video about Lori's work!**

<http://tiny.cc/RisingStarLori>

A Charlotte native, Khamala was raised as a Quaker and her work is heavily influenced by her faith. "Quakers don't have a creed, but we do have testimonies that guide our lives," she said. "And those testimonies include peace, equality,

integrity and community, and these are values that I carry with me."

About 350,000 undocumented immigrants live in the Tar Heel State. North Carolina is also home to about 50,000 DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients, according to data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service.



Lori Fernald Khamala. Photo credit: Perfecta Visuals for 1808 Greensboro's Magazine

The DACA program allowed undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as minors to avoid deportation. In September, the Trump administration announced its intention to repeal the program. Many of those immigrants who are affected, Khamala said, "are motivated to change and improve their communities."

"I have a friend who was one of the top students in her class," she said. "Why shouldn't she have the same opportunities for scholarship or for financial aid as other people, after working so hard and being so smart and talented? ... And taking away DACA is such an assault on the immigrant community."

Khamala said she's been "buoyed" by how many people she's seen come out in support of immigrant rights. According to her, "A lot of people in our community want to step up and work for a more just community. I would like to see more recognition of the true rising stars, like the thousands of DACA recipients who are working hard against great odds and who have also dedicated themselves to struggling for justice for their communities."

Source: Greensboro News & Record & 1808 Magazine



Lori, Soledad O'Brien (keynote speaker for the Women to Women luncheon, where the awards were given), and Shirley Frye, winner of the Woman of the Year award.

## VOICES FOR A STRONGER GUILFORD FORUM

On November 15th, the News and Record held an immigration forum that featured a variety of voices to discuss community perspectives concerning immigration. Panelists included AFSC Fellow and DACA recipient Laura Garduño Garcia, Adamou Mohamed, organizer from Church World Service, Sheriff BJ Barnes, immigration attorney Jeremy McKinney, and Ross Parmenter, a Greensboro resident who had the opportunity to emigrate legally from New Zealand.

Garduño began by sharing her experiences as a young, undocumented mother and activist. She shared worries that are common and echo the fear of many others: that whenever she drives or someone knocks at the door, she the interaction could lead to her deportation. To counter her viewpoint, Mr. Parmenter used his immigration experience as an example stating that it took fourteen years but was done the “legal way”.

Sheriff Barnes expressed little concern regarding local deportations and arrests in the area because of the limited number of ICE agents. He also claimed that only criminals are being deported and others should have nothing to fear.

Jeremy McKinney and Adamou Mohamed shared their experiences in their work with immigrants and the changes they have observed in the community.

The audience was receptive and appreciative of the panelists’ time and emphasized that this kind of dialogue around immigration should happen more in communities.

-Citlaly Mora, AF5C Intern



## AFSC LAUNCHES SIEMBRA NC

Siembra NC is the new undocumented-immigrant led group sponsored by AFSC in the NC Triad. The group is dedicated to making positive change for immigrants in the community. There are two groups currently under the Siembra umbrella, one group of DACA recipients and one group of somewhat older adults. The groups have already started taking action.

On November 9th, Siembra’s DACA recipients drove to Washington D.C., joining thousands of other undocumented youth to lobby Congress for a clean DREAM Act (see more details on page 6). Then, in the first week of December, Siembra NC held a direct action in form of a public hearing for NC Senator Thom Tillis in his High Point office. Activists, among them DACA recipients used this opportunity to read letters written for the Senator to highlight their opinions on the SUCCEED Act and the DREAM Act.

On December 16, Siembra held an end-of-year celebration and reflection. The group continues to grow and next year will be stronger than ever!



## LOCAL IMMIGRANT GROUPS HOLD CANDIDATE FORUM

On Wednesday, October 18th, the Congregational United Church of Christ in Greensboro opened its doors to the public for an At-Large and Mayoral Candidate forum focusing on the vibrant immigrant community in the city. Sponsors of this event included the African Services Coalition, AFSC, Church World Service, Congregational UCC, Faith Action International House, International Advisory Committee, JUS NC, Latino Community Coalition of Guilford County, New Arrivals Institute, and the Togolese Community Association.

As attendees arrived, they were greeted by volunteers from the AFSC, African Services Coalition and New Arrivals Institute. The panel of candidates seated at the front of the room included Mayoral Candidates incumbent Nancy Vaughan and Diane Moffett and at-large candidates incumbent Mayor Pro Tem Yvonne Johnson, incumbent Marikay Abuzuaiter, Dave Wils, and Michelle Kennedy. Scheduled to attend was incumbent Mike Barber, who was unable to participate due to a city emergency. Mr. Barber did stop by briefly to meet with voters and answer any questions while he was there.

In their opening statements, candidates expressed how important the immigrant community is to them, and the importance these immigrants have in a “Welcoming City” like Greensboro. Nancy Vaughan who is the granddaughter of Syrian immigrants, and spoke at recent DACA rallies, shared what she has done during her tenure to help the immigrant community. Michelle Kennedy, director of the homeless day center and the Interactive Resources Center, cited her life-long career working with those who find themselves struggling in Greensboro.

Adamou Mohamed of Church World Service gave a short statement before the questions began regarding the most

recent iteration of Trump’s racist travel ban, which was scheduled to take effect that day. The travel ban was again blocked by the courts. In his remarks, Adamou explained how this ban is a result of an anti-immigrant trend in the United States. Given the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments, he urged the council to support the immigrant and refugee community, pointing to their contributions in Greensboro and the state of NC. The opening remarks were followed by questions from the community, including questions about police violence and how traffic stops are used to target undocumented residents. Yvonne Johnson cited the New York Times article regarding traffic stops on people of color being disproportionately high in our city.

A question concerning ICE retention was raised by a community member who was concerned with what the city can do when a breadwinner is detained thus leaving the rest of the family without means to provide for their family. Dave Wils suggested that we should not cooperate with ICE when possible. There are still legal grey areas, and while the council cannot directly defy the law, they can withhold certain information and power. Dianne Moffett suggested a number of resources for at-risk families, and suggested the use of community media platforms to share current events stories to raise awareness of the issues. Marikay Abuzuaiter affirmed they would not support or assist ICE on home-raids, and suggested they direct the City Manager to allocate funds to families in need. Each candidate gave closing remarks, and Dave Wils ended with this powerful statement: “Any policy not based on compassion is not a policy worth considering,” affirming that every person should feel welcome in this Welcoming City.

— Becca Audrey, AFSC Volunteer

## “READY THE GROUND” PREPARES PEOPLE FOR NONVIOLENT ACTIONS

In early Fall, AFSC brought a crowd of fifty people together for a training on direct action. The training was facilitated by Ready for the Ground, a Durham-based group that frequently trains volunteers across the state on marshaling and other ways to support direct actions. This training focused on preparing community members for non-violent direct action. As we started the day, community attendees introduced themselves and learned more about the direct actions that have taken place in history. The training also addressed the political climate that we find ourselves in and the policies and practices that presently challenge civil liberties.

The day consisted of eight hours of practice and background context for the possible scenarios that could possibly happen, and where trainees could potentially take direct action. The facilitators used various scenarios that tested participants in direct action strategies and actions. Scenarios included being physically pushed or touched at a protest and opponents yelling at you. The group went over an example of how to plan a direct action and all the moving parts needed when organizing an event.

—Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern



## LOCAL DACA ACTIVISTS RALLY IN D.C. FOR CLEAN DREAM ACT

On November 9th, AFSC led a group of DACA recipients Washington D.C. to rally for a clean DREAM Act. In North Carolina, the newly formed group Siembra NC is composed of DACA activists in the local area that are advocating and actively pushing for permanent legislation that would provide a path to citizenship without harming or supporting strict crackdown on other immigrants that would not benefit or qualify for the proposed legislation. They joined dozens of other groups, among them United We Dream and other immigrant rights activists that gathered in the Senate Chambers where they lobbied and protested, filling the chambers with banners and chants in support of the eleven million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

Activists, including local DACA recipients asked congress members to create a permanent solution for the undocumented youth that would not harm other immigrants, like their parents and many others who do not qualify for DACA. The group Siembra NC asked Sen. Thom Tillis to support a clean DREAM Act, instead of his SUCCEED Act, which includes harsh eligibility restrictions and a provision that mandates deportation orders for those who apply and are found ineligible. Even though neither Sen. Tillis nor his staff met with them, the NC delegation requested the Senator to hold public hearings on DACA in North Carolina with input from DACA recipients.

After the indoor rally, the young people marched in the streets of D.C. with hundreds of others from across the country.

-Citlaly Mora, AFSC Intern



## MEET OUR NEW AFSC FELLOW & INTERN!

### LAURA GARDUÑO GARCIA



Laura Garduño García is a DACA recipient and 20 year NC resident in the Triad. Through local immigrant rights advocate groups and volunteer work with the American Friends Service Committee, Laura has worked to support local families facing the threat of deportation at the hands of Immigration Customs Enforcement in Greensboro. What began as a volunteer effort, lead

to more vocal and public expressions of her own vulnerable and limited deportation protections under the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Today, Laura is an Immigrant Organizing Fellow with American Friends Service Committee and is a developing community organizer working to fight for immigrant rights including those of other DACA recipients.

### AYAH KHALIFA

Meet our newest AFSC team member, Ayah Khalifa! Ayah is our Communities Against Islamophobia intern for AFSC NC. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelors in Communication Studies. She is excited to join this team, and start her journey with AFSC NC.

