

OCT / NOV 2018



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Area Office of the Carolinas

AFSC OFFICE OF THE CAROLINAS

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COMMUNITIES ORGANIZE AFTER HURRICANE FLORENCE

Hurricane season has already hit North Carolina hard. In October, Hurricane Florence stagnated over the east coast and brought destruction to many vulnerable areas, especially in the Eastern side of North Carolina. Siembra, AFSC NC's grassroots Latinx group, was proactive as the hurricane loomed closer. Information from government agencies was shared in English only, so AFSC organizers distributed information in Spanish with information on how to prepare, shelter locations for flood victims, and their immigrant rights to help assuage concerns about the presence of ICE. Thankfully, the hurricane did not hit central NC as hard as predicted, but many farmworkers and families are still trying to recover from the storm-related flooding. Just a couple of weeks later, Hurricane Michael hit North Carolina with intense winds, downing trees and causing power outages. As we begin to feel the effects of climate change, communities and governments must find ways to be inclusive of immigrants and diverse populations who will be most impacted.

AFSC's Laura Garduño Garcia was quoted in newspapers across the country, including in the New York Times and Washington Post, calling attention to the fact that the Trump Administration had diverted \$10 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ICE to fund detention and deportation. Concurrently, ICE was seeking additional dramatic funding increases through the appropriations process, but due to organizing and pressure of the #DefundHate coalition, the Senate released a final budget bill **without** the increase for ICE. This was a huge victory and one we need to double down on as we urge Congress to defund ICE altogether.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES



To end the month of September, members of the community joined Siembra and AFSC NC at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Greensboro for a fun day dedicated to raising money for families impacted by immigration policy and deportations that may find themselves in an emergency situation due to a loss of income from a deported or detained family member. Eighteen teams participated in a corn hole tournament during the afternoon and raised over \$1500.00 dollars for the fund that is a collaboration between the Interactive

Resource Center and AFSC. If you are interested in donating to immigrant families in crisis please donate at <http://tiny.cc/tifs> or make a contribution to the Interactive Resource Center and designate donation to the "Triad Immigrant Family Support Fund."

**Donate to the
Triad Immigrant Family Support Fund!**

<http://tiny.cc/tifs>

Help us reach our \$10,000 goal!

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCOMPANYING PEOPLE TO THEIR ICE HEARINGS

Back in July, DACA recipient Jose was sent a summons by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office. Upon presenting himself to the office as instructed, sheriff's deputies showed him to a back room, and said someone wanted to talk to him on the phone: an ICE agent. Within hours he was in ICE custody, and spent 10 days in Stewart Detention Center. He was detained even though Forsyth County did not bring any criminal charges against him and his DACA status remained active.

Jose was able to leave detention but the threats to his future have not ended. A group accompanied Jose to subsequent court and ICE appointments in Charlotte.

Jose's situation is just one of many in our community. Many immigrants fear going to court appointments and ICE check-ins with good reason, as individuals may be

apprehended without a witness present nor someone who can notify their lawyer and family. When U.S. citizen allies take the time to accompany immigrants to their check-ins with ICE or other immigration matters, we can insure that they make it out safely and in case something unexpected happens—like a detention we can be there to support and work on getting them assistance.



OSCAR LEAVES SANCTUARY IN GREENSBORO

This past September, Oscar Canales became the second person in sanctuary to leave Sanctuary in North Carolina from the Congregational United Church of Christ (CUCC). Originally from El Salvador and a local business owner, Oscar had been in sanctuary for eight months. An immigration judge vacated his deportation order based on a decision in the Pereira case at the Supreme Court, which affected thousands of cases that had technical errors. The government is still trying to deport many of the people whose deportation orders were vacated after the Pereira decision, so next steps are unclear.

However, we are overjoyed that he was able to reunite

with his four children and wife outside of the church. His family, who he said was the reason for his strength to keep going is once again reunited thanks to the support from community and in part of the great work being done by the Sanctuary movement.

