



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

INSPIRING  
PEACE & JUSTICE  
in the Pacific Northwest  
**Spring/Summer 2011**

# The Buck\$ Stop Here!

These days it is increasingly commonplace to read headlines like “Healthcare for the Poor Slashed” and “Teacher Layoffs Planned.” As states in the Pacific Northwest struggle to balance budgets with fewer resources, the question of our country’s continually ramped up spending on militarism comes into sharp relief. Everyday, more and more

people are asking, “Why are we spending money on war when we can’t afford to meet basic needs here at home?”

The problem is that not enough of our public officials are asking that same question. To urge our legislators to build true security here at home, AFSC, in partnership with Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation,

is preparing to launch a sign-on letter campaign in Washington State. Please join us in telling our elected officials to invest our “bucks” here!

*For more information contact Susan Segall at [ssegall@afsc.org](mailto:ssegall@afsc.org) or 206-632-0500.*

## If I Had a Trillion \$: AFSC Portland Youth Win 2nd Prize in National Video Contest

*Mireaya Medina*

Ever wonder what life sustaining purposes the \$trillion spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan could serve? AFSC Portland’s youth group United Voices imagined just that, creating a video titled *Trillionaire* which was awarded second prize in a national youth contest sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and

National Priorities Project.

The *Trillionaire* video was born when United Voices youth became inspired by the idea of creating a “music video” that glorifies the giving spirit in humanity and highlights the lives of those who need help the most. Filming began on Veterans Day in solidarity with our local chapter of

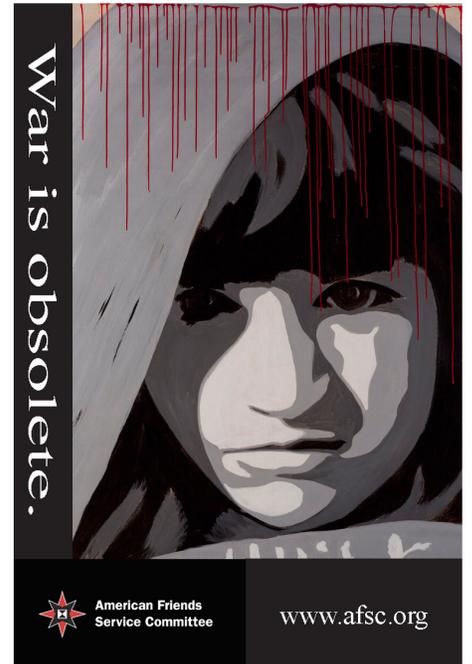
Veterans for Peace, with youth joining in their Armistice Day Remembrance ceremony in Pioneer Square.

While scouting locations for video scenes we met two homeless youth with a pet rat named Justice. They were holding a sign that said, “Change is heavy, unload here.” One of our youth dropped some change into the hat and asked if they would mind being in the *Trillionaire* video. The homeless youth agreed to be filmed and we brought lunch to share with them for their kindness.

For winning second prize the youth received award certificates and gifts from both organizations including a Flip Camera and an organizing toolkit. *Trillionaire* is also

featured in the compilation of award winning videos titled *If I Had A Trillion Dollars: Youth Speak Out on the Cost of War*, which was taken to Washington DC for youth dialogues with elected officials. The experience of highlighting eloquent youth voices in this video was amazing, and we hope that all of the videos created for this contest will serve as creative tools for change in our communities, large and small.

*For more information on United Voices, contact Mireaya Medina at [mmedina@afsc.org](mailto:mmedina@afsc.org) or 503-230-9427.*



Artwork from “The Children of Afghanistan” by Camille Perrotet; <http://www.windowsandmirrors.org>



(Left to Right): Vy Nguyen, Mireaya Medina, Christopher Luchini, Indasia Summerfield, Jessica Valdefiera

# This is What Security Looks Like?

*Susan Segall*

We have become a fortress society, manifesting at every turn our belief that security can be maintained through military might overseas, and militarized institutions here at home. In the years since Eisenhower spoke these words, too much of our treasury, our imagination and our energy have been devoted to nurturing this illusion.

At the US-Mexico border, operations called Gatekeeper, Hold the Line and Safeguard characterize our treatment of the men, women and children who cross our border daily to find life sustaining work. Just to maintain the walls we've erected there will consume \$24 billion between now and 2025. Across the country stand prisons needed to incarcerate the largest percentage of any population around the globe, with an increasing number of states spending more

on prisons than on higher education. Embroiled in several wars over the longest period in our country's history, we will likely spend over \$3 trillion when all the costs are counted, when all the death

***"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."***

***Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953***

and destruction tallied. The War on Drugs, the War on Terror—we have chosen war as our paradigm for far too long. The result? An incalculable squandering of our potential, and a withering of our humanity.

What if we made different choices? What if we chose to devote our resources to providing the quality

education, housing, social services and job prospects required to build healthy and productive individuals and communities? What if we chose to welcome the stranger, while creating economic policies that enable people to build sustainable lives in their home countries? What if we chose to invest our vast sums and collective vision in robust diplomacy, peace building, and economic development? And if prevention fails, participation in the International Criminal Court? What if we chose to never dominate another nation again?

It's time to let go of fear and make new choices. Talk to your family and friends; Tweet, FaceBook and blog your opinions. Urge new, life affirming uses of our military-prison-detention industrial complex. Let your elected officials know that we can't afford to do less. Together, let's choose to believe with all our hearts and for all eternity that war is indeed, obsolete.

## Trillionaire

*(Sung to the tune of "I Want to Be a Millionaire")*

*Lyrics & video by Indasia Summerfield, Christopher Luchini, Allah Parks & Jessica Valdefiera*

I wanna be a trillionaire	Funded by celebrities	Wouldn't give it to jerks who
So friggin' bad	It would be like Christmas	make war
Uh, give to people who never had	All people on my good list	I wanna make the planet
I wanna revolutionize my economy	I would get Obama	livable
Smilin' cause I'm doin' this for you and me	To give money to Rwanda	Fresh water for all
Oh every time I spend a dime	Give money to the poor	Bring our soldiers back
I worry if it's spent on crime	For the food they can't afford	To their loving family
Yeah, A different country every night	Give money to a family	Grant people their last wish
Oh I'd share	That's been through pain	And a place to call home
With everyone, everywhere	I would open new schools	Oh every time I spend a dime
When I'm a trillionaire	To give kids fresh tools	I worry if it's spent on crime
Yeah, I would make a charity	Build a bigger brain	A different country every night
	To make a better world	Oh I'd share
	Moms and dads would work	With the world when I'm a
	They'd earn good money	trillionaire.

## Youth Speaks!

*Christopher Luchini*

Five of us, between 12 and 18 years old, from United Voices/Portland went to Seattle to attend the Tyree Scott Freedom School. Usually these events have a lot of adults and youth are not really listened to. This was different! Most were youth: middle-schoolers, teenagers and college students. We learned what racism is, how racism is institutionalized, how racism is internalized. We learned racism hurts everyone, whether you are the victim or the racist. We learned we have to be brave enough to take back power from systems that try to keep us down. We learned we need to work together and it is community that makes us strong. We learned about militarism and the prison system. We worked hard at Freedom School, paid attention and learned a lot. When lessons became too hard, we took breaks to play silly games.

The last day we had a wonderful field trip to Wing Luke Museum. The museum was a hotel for immigrants who came to Seattle to work and to find the American Dream.

Excited to bring back what we learned to our lives in Portland, we presented a grant proposal to the City of Portland that we all worked on together. This Youth Action Grant proposed that Freedom School come to Portland. We were awarded the grant and are now working to bring things we learned at Freedom School to youth in Portland.

# Transforming Juvenile Justice

Dustin Washington

What's often missing from advocacy to reform the juvenile justice system? The voices of youth! To address this gap, AFSC's Seattle Community Justice Program will partner with The Defenders Association to convene a Juvenile Justice

Transformation Committee. This committee will develop and advocate for policies to reduce the over-incarceration of youth of color in King County. Such policies will be informed directly by youth through a series of listening projects at the King

County Juvenile Detention Center, and with youth based community groups. To support incarcerated youth, AFSC will launch monthly "mini" Freedom Schools at the King County Juvenile Detention Center. There, youth will explore the impact of poverty

and racism in their lives, learn conflict resolution skills and have opportunities to become the next generation of leaders for social justice.

**For more information, contact Dustin Washington at 206-632-0500 ext 14 or [dwwashington@afsc.org](mailto:dwwashington@afsc.org).**

## The Border Starts Here

Susan Segall

In a region rich with the majesty and economic vitality of many ports, it's easy to forget that they are regarded as entry points to the United States for purposes of immigration enforcement. The residents of the Port Angeles-Forks area on Washington's Olympic Peninsula know this all too well, as they increasingly face intrusive and menacing Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in their homes, workplaces, roads and parks. This account is one of many that describe this experience:

"A 12 year old Native American boy was approached while playing in the park by "la migra." The officer asked him if he spoke English or Spanish. He asked him if mom or dad spoke English or Spanish. The youth was scared and started crying. The

officer told him to stop using his cell phone to tell his friends that they (ICE) were in Forks or he would be in trouble for obstructing the law."

Some immigrants are so frightened that they refuse to leave their homes, and one man recently approached by the Border Patrol ran into the river and has not been seen since. In this climate of threats and harassment, how can residents—with or without documents—empower themselves?

One answer is for immigrants and their allies to become Human Rights Observers.



Photo: Douglas Yarrow.  
Pedro Sosa and Benjamin Prado conducting Human Rights Observer training in Forks, WA.

Drawing on AFSC experience at the US-Mexico border, AFSC's Project Voice staff Pedro Sosa (Portland) and Benjamin Prado (San Diego) recently trained Washington State residents in Forks and Olympia to observe and document Border Patrol and ICE activities. Such documentation serves two purposes. First, the effect of witnessing interactions lessens the likelihood that they will turn violent. Second, written and videotaped accounts of harassment and racial profiling shine a spotlight on abuses, putting a human face on failed policies for the public and legislators. The strength that comes from neighbors working together to take

positive action and advocate for change benefits the whole community, and sets the stage for immigrants to emerge from the shadows.

Even if we don't all live near ports or borders, each of us in our own way has the potential to be a witness for the human rights of immigrants. It starts with opening our eyes and extending a hand of friendship and understanding to the new arrivals in our midst. Yes, the border starts here. But the potential to build bridges across borders starts here too.

**For more information about Know Your Rights or Human Rights Observer training, contact Pedro Sosa at 503-230-9427 or [psosa@afsc.org](mailto:psosa@afsc.org).**

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Christopher Luchini

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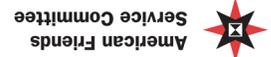
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# INSPIRING PEACE & JUSTICE



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## Announcements

### Jacqueline Lynch Holmes Freedom School (Portland)

For youth ages 15 – 21  
June 23rd to 25th  
Location: North Northeast Neighborhood Coalition, 4815 NE 7th  
Portland, OR 97211 (Behind Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School)  
Contact Mireaya Medina, 503-230-9427, [mmedina@afsc.org](mailto:mmedina@afsc.org)

### Youth Undoing Institutional Racism Training

For youth ages 15 – 21  
July 14th and 15th  
Contact Dustin Washington, (206) 632-0500 x 14,  
[dWASHINGTON@afsc.org](mailto:dWASHINGTON@afsc.org)

### Patricia Sellick, AFSC Middle East Director Speaks

North Pacific Yearly Meeting Plenary  
Friday, July 15th at 8:30am  
Friends are invited to hear about the role of a new generation of  
leaders in resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict.  
For more information: Susan Segall, 206-632-0500, [ssegall@afsc.org](mailto:ssegall@afsc.org)

### Tyree Scott Freedom School (Seattle)

For youth ages 15 – 21  
August 1st - 12th  
Questions? Contact Dustin Washington, (206) 632-0500 x 14,  
[dWASHINGTON@afsc.org](mailto:dWASHINGTON@afsc.org)

### Cost of War

Are you interested in volunteering for a Cost of War project in Seattle?  
Contact Susan Segall, (206) 632-0500 x 16, [ssegall@afsc.org](mailto:ssegall@afsc.org)

## Let the Sun Shine On Your Support For AFSC!

Our vital programs are dedicated to ending war, promoting racial justice, supporting Native American rights and culture, developing immigrant leaders and encouraging young people to embrace alternatives to violence and militarism. Make a contribution to AFSC and we will send you this removable 4 1/2 x 3" AFSC decal which can be affixed to your home or auto window.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## Give BIG to AFSC's Freedom School!

Can we count on your support for AFSC's Freedom School during the Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG challenge on June 23rd? Rally your friends to contribute on one of the biggest days of giving in King County history!  
<http://www.seattlefoundation.org>

Act now to help us conserve resources and deliver our news direct to you! E-mail us at [PNWNews@afsc.org](mailto:PNWNews@afsc.org) to receive an E-version of the AFSC Inspiring Peace & Justice in the Pacific Northwest Newsletter.