

# Quaker Action

## INSPIRING COMMUNITIES

Working together to create  
sanctuary everywhere

p. 5 Congregations step up  
to protect immigrants

p. 8 Reducing racial  
profiling in policing

p. 18 Vietnam Summer  
50<sup>th</sup> anniversary



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

[afsc.org](http://afsc.org)

# Quaker Action

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## WHO WE ARE

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice as a practical expression of faith in action. Drawing on continuing spiritual insights and working with people of many backgrounds, we nurture the seeds of change and respect for human life that transform social relations and systems.

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Araceli Velasquez (pictured with her family), who entered sanctuary in Denver, Colorado in August 2017.  
*Photo: Ric Urrutia*

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## Create a legacy of peace. Become a Friend for the Future.

Include AFSC in your will or estate plan and help ensure AFSC's next century of peace-building work. The members of our Friends for the Future legacy society are laying the foundation of support for peacemakers around the world addressing the root causes of war, violence, and injustice.

To find out how to become a Friend for the Future, call Alyssa Chatten at 1-888-588-2372, email [GiftPlanning@afsc.org](mailto:GiftPlanning@afsc.org), or visit us online at [afsc.org/friendsforthefuture](http://afsc.org/friendsforthefuture).



AFSC's centennial celebration in Nairobi, Kenya. More on p. 20.  
Photo: George Mimano



One of the most sacred, and most inspiring, parts of life is living in community with others. As I'm starting my time as general secretary, I am excited to see all the communities that come together with the American Friends Service Committee to stand together, protect each other, build understanding across differences, and improve their futures.

In the past few weeks, I have seen many inspiring communities. I've learned about congregations that take on the responsibility to protect migrants and immigrants from deportation; faith and community movements that challenge police violence, mass incarceration, and immigrant detention; and networks of youth peace leaders building community

online to share ideas to prevent violence. I look forward to visiting and seeing more and more. The positive energy from these movements is palpable and energizing.

Thank you for being a part of AFSC's community of people working for peace with justice. Everyone should live in welcoming, healthy communities, and by standing with AFSC, you are a part of a global community-building effort. As I travel to see AFSC's work, partners, and supporters, I look forward to meeting you.

In this issue of Quaker Action, we share stories that show some innovative efforts to keep communities together as well as a few resources to spark your ideas and activism, including a special poster featuring our Sanctuary Everywhere message. Please post it in your congregation, community center,

business, or home to show that more and more people are standing together. I hope you post it and share a photo with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #SanctuaryEverywhere. I look forward to seeing yours.



In peace,

*Joyce C.*

Joyce Ajlouny  
General Secretary

# Readers respond to our last issue

I just wanted to say that it is my sense that you have changed over the last year or so ... and I enjoy the new approach. I find the articles informative, but also energizing and useful. Thank you for the way you are offering all of us insight and helpful guidance.

Lynn Drickamer

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Michigan

## Do's and Don'ts of Bystander Intervention

While many of the suggestions in ... the "Do's and Don'ts of Bystander Intervention" seem quite valid and reasonable, on balance, I would hope that if I were being dangerously harassed, that a bystander would not have read the ad. I take issue with the advice not to call police. While there are undoubtedly some risks and some bad police officers, on balance I expect most of the time they could be a big help, especially where someone is being physically harmed or threatened.

Brian Hegarty

Berkeley Heights, NJ

My wife and I both appreciated the guidelines for bystander intervention in the summer issue. But we both thought the admonition not to call the police was too broad. For some kinds of verbal harassment, especially against minorities, yes, the police can do more harm than good, and might be unwelcome for the victim. But if there's a threat of physical harm, particularly someplace like a transit station or train where police are on hand, I think you have to call the cops. They're supposed to be trained these days to try to defuse conflicts rather than escalating them, and they're better able to protect a victim than someone like me.

Robert Egelko

Oakland, CA

Mary Zerkel, coordinator of AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project, responds: By advising bystanders not to call police unless the person being harassed asks you to, AFSC is following the lead of partner

organizations led by those affected by both harassment and police violence—Black, Latinx, Muslim, and transgender communities. We have heard this advice affirmed by individuals from these targeted communities numerous times. Every situation is different—and you have to trust your instincts—but as allies, our desire to help is often based upon our own experiences and assumptions.

Our guidelines instead encourage allies to follow the cues of the person being harassed, and not to assume that calling the police is the right thing to do.

## Mind, Body, and Soul: Self-care tips for activists

I have two tips for staying centered and inspired for the challenging work of activism. I mindfully envision each of them as an analogy.

The first tip is to spend time in the woods. In addition to the benefits of green time, I gain a better perspective on people. I often think of the people in my life that have similar characteristics (strong oaks, shy violets, evergreens, toxic plants) to parts of the forest. It helps me appreciate people as part of creation and guides me to more willingly work with a variety of what might be considered difficult people.

The second tip is to work on a jigsaw puzzle. I start with the edge pieces; it helps to delineate the problem. I constantly remind myself to not try to force a piece into place; it not only jeopardizes the integrity of the piece, but also prevents the correct piece from easily slipping into place. As I finish up, I often find that the small peculiar shaped piece—or the one that is of no distinguishable note—is a key piece that ties others together. Good lessons to remember when doing activism.

Sandy Lyon

Gainesville Monthly Meeting, SEYM, Florida

## Letter to the editor on the internment of Japanese-Americans

As one approaches the century mark, there is a greater tendency to reminisce ... and



Summer 2017 issue, "Resources for resistance in today's political climate."

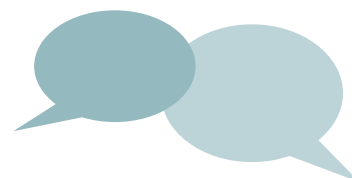
reminisce I did after reading the email letter from Ms. Marge Oishi. In contrast to Ms. Oishi, who was one year old at the time of her internment in World War II (she called it "American prison camp"—I don't disagree), I was a 15-year-old high school sophomore, who, with the four other members of the family, spent the next year and a half in one of four rooms (each 20×25 feet) in a regulation Army barrack.

In late 1943, when we were not considered subversive, we were urged to leave by our government, which we did for the Midwest. We selected Cleveland, where my father was offered a job and my sister was accepted in the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. My mother and I followed a few months later and also stayed in housing in Cleveland, I believe, operated by the Friends Service Committee. If I'm correct, I'd like to thank you, late as I am, for my family, for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and hospitality in serving as a base as we and other Japanese-Americans searched for suitable housing in new environs.

Arthur A. Sasahara, M.D.

Via email

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Tell us what you think about this issue by contacting Ronna Bolante, managing editor, at [quakeraction@afsc.org](mailto:quakeraction@afsc.org) or AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

# News from around AFSC



67 Sueños participants created a 260-foot mural as a public demonstration against hate and fear.  
Photo: Malk Hardcastle

## Immigrant youth inspire community activism through art

Since 2010, AFSC's 67 Sueños program has helped immigrant youth in Oakland, California recognize their power to organize in their communities and change the world around them. Together, we practice "activism"—creating murals, poetry, and digital media to demonstrate community resilience, power, and solidarity in the face of racism, xenophobia, and oppression.

This summer, our youth painted a 260-foot public mural in response to the rising hate and fear they've witnessed under the Trump administration. The mural "Solidarity YES! Hatred NO!" followed weeks of research and planning, when youth explored their ancestors' legacies and familiarized themselves with the struggles of indigenous people and others campaigning for freedom around the globe.

The mural is painted on a wall of Manzanita SEED Elementary, one of Oakland's first bilingual schools. It depicts key leaders—including Marwan Barghouti, Berta Caceres, and Alicia Garza—and carefully selected imagery, such as the migration of whales.

As the mural took shape, young people invited other community members to learn more and join in the painting. We hope this artwork will inspire others to challenge racism—and give visibility to our larger community that often gets erased when we let others tell our stories for us.

—LINDA SANCHEZ, AFSC'S 67 SUEÑOS PROGRAM DIRECTOR

 **MORE:** [afsc.org/67suenos-mural](https://afsc.org/67suenos-mural)

## Shining a light on Palestinian children in detention


For the past two years, our No Way to Treat a Child campaign has challenged the systematic ill treatment of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces. Every year, around 700 Palestinian children are prosecuted in the military court system. Three out of four experience physical violence during arrest or interrogation.

The U.S. gives Israel billions of dollars in military aid each year—with no accountability for violations of human rights. Through this campaign—a partnership with Defense for Children International-Palestine—AFSC has mobilized thousands to call on the U.S. government to hold Israel accountable for its treatment of Palestinian children. We also support U.S. congregations standing up for these children's rights.

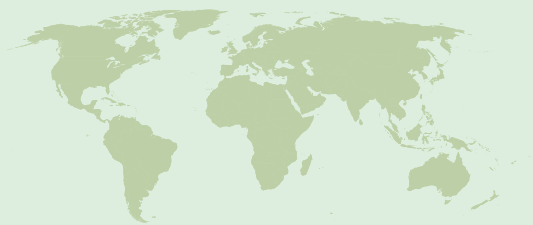
In June, AFSC co-sponsored a congressional briefing on Palestinian children living under a half-century of Israeli occupation. Staff from 36 congressional offices attended, hearing from human rights advocates and a Palestinian youth affected by detention.

In July, the United Church of Christ overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling on the U.S. to withhold military aid from Israel due to human rights violations against Palestinian child detainees, adding their support to a growing interfaith call for action.

—JENNIFER BING, DIRECTOR, AFSC MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM IN CHICAGO

 **LEARN MORE:** [afsc.org/nwttac-tips](https://afsc.org/nwttac-tips)





Participants gather for “Off-Ramps to War: Paths to Building Peace with North Korea,” a symposium co-sponsored by the Korea Peace Network, which AFSC co-chairs. Photo: Carl Roose/AFSC

## Engaging North Korea

Relations are reaching a critical juncture between the United States and DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea or North Korea) as the U.S. expands its military presence in the region and the DPRK continues to make progress on its nuclear and missile capabilities.

AFSC has partnered with a growing network of organizations to call for the U.S. to engage with the DPRK on humanitarian issues and people-to-people initiatives. These efforts build on our history as the first U.S. public affairs organization to enter DPRK in 1980 and our ongoing assistance to farmers in the country.

In June, the Korea Peace Network, which is co-chaired by AFSC, held a symposium at George Washington University that examined promising policy options to defuse tensions between the U.S. and DPRK. Featured speakers included individuals with deep policy and personal experience in the region, including former Defense Secretary William Perry, historian Bruce Cumings, and people most impacted by the ongoing division, including families of U.S. servicemen who served in the Korean War and Korean-Americans separated from their families in DPRK.

AFSC coordinated over 22 meetings between network members and congressional offices, State Department officials, the National Security Council, U.N.-Political Affairs, and the DPRK Permanent Mission to the U.N. These meetings allowed members and allies to directly advocate for humanitarian engagement and de-escalating tensions.

At the conference, AFSC also released its second volume of “Engaging North Korea,” a publication outlining strategic areas of engagement between the U.S. and DPRK.

—DANIEL JASPER, AFSC PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR, ASIA



**READ THE REPORT:** [afsc.org/engaging-north-korea-ii](https://afsc.org/engaging-north-korea-ii)

## AFSC in the media

Staff from around the country are working hard to make change in communities—and in the news. Here are a few media highlights from recent months:

### On engaging North Korea

“Restricting humanitarian access puts lives in immediate jeopardy and increases the likelihood of humanitarian disaster. Our long history in the region leads us to believe that the travel restrictions will greatly reduce the likelihood for peaceful relations on the Korean Peninsula.”

—DANIEL JASPER, AFSC PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY COORDINATOR, ASIA REGION, IN THE NEW YORK TIMES, AUG. 31

### On the detention of Denver father Arturo Hernandez Garcia by Immigration and Customs Enforcement

“The American Friends Service Committee, which helps undocumented people find refuge in churches, slammed the move as overreach by the administration of President Donald Trump, who has tightened immigration rules since taking office in January.

‘Nothing has changed in Arturo’s life,’ the organization said. ‘Everything is the same except this administration, which is focus(ed) on removing all undocumented people and tearing families apart.’”

—CNN, APRIL 28

### On the federal budget

“The U.S. system of mass detention and deportation already violates basic human rights and dignity, devastates families, causes thousands of deaths, and terrorizes communities on the border and across the country. Whether it’s for a border wall, for detention, or for immigration enforcement, it is essential that Congress members vote against any additional funds for the Department of Homeland Security and instead fund our essential human needs.”

—LUCY DUNCAN, AFSC DIRECTOR OF FRIENDS RELATIONS, IN THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, JUNE 2

# Q+A

## Gregory Corbin

Director, AFSC Social Justice Leadership Institute

Photo: Tony Heriza/AFSC

**W**e talked to Gregory Corbin about AFSC's Social Justice Leadership Institute (SJLI), a new program helping young people in the Philadelphia area to develop as social change leaders.

**Q:** Tell us more about SJLI's approach to supporting young leaders.

**A:** SJLI is about helping young people cultivate an understanding of systemic oppression while providing them with skills to dismantle it. Youth take part in intensive trainings that include exploring power analysis, self-development, leadership development, how government works, and community organizing and campaigning. The curriculum is designed to not just make them better advocates and activists but better people. Many of our youth are dealing with trauma and other issues. We want to make sure they're aware of them and have the tools to address them on the personal level.

In addition, we also help youth with resources to make their campaigns happen. If they're planning a protest, for instance, we can show them how to apply for a permit.

**Q:** Why did AFSC see a need for this program?

**A:** Many of the young people in this area are disenfranchised, disconnected, or don't have opportunities because of

economic circumstances. Our current presidential administration is amplifying a lot of the things we don't like about America—racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

Young people are struggling for a sense of hope. They want to do something, and they're ready to do the work if they have the tools. SJLI presents them with a space for healing, conversations, and opportunities for development.

There also aren't enough spaces for youth to express themselves. When government talks about policy, they don't put youth at the table. When schools talk about curriculum, you don't see youth at the table. We need to make space for youth because they're tomorrow's leaders.

**Q:** What are your hopes for SJLI?

**A:** The immediate goal is to help youth understand how the system works for and against them and how they can challenge it. I want them to bring their ideas to fruition. Beyond that, I want them to take what they learned and become resources for their communities.

I would also love to see more cross pollination among the youth organizations we partner with, so we can support each other, march with one another, create with one another—and have a greater impact.

**Q:** You've been working with youth for more than a decade, including founding the organization Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement. What drew you to SJLI?

**A:** I went to a high school in Philly where violence wasn't uncommon. I was there when they brought in metal detectors, and I saw everything start to shift and a kind of prison mentality sink in. Experiences like that inform what I do today.

I was a kid who didn't have access because I didn't have support, mentorship, relationships with educators who cared about me. I've seen family members struggle to get good jobs because they don't have things like college degrees. I was bullied as a kid and silenced.

I'm that kid, and I see that kid every day. I think the best educators always see themselves in the students they work with. That's what bridges the gap, builds empathy, and creates the love and connection. I see how important it is to give young people space to explore their identities, to learn how the world works, and to find ways to change it. ■

 **LEARN MORE:** [afsc.org/sjli](https://afsc.org/sjli)





# SANCTUARY RISING

**Communities across the country are working to create Sanctuary Everywhere—by speaking out against bigotry, sheltering their neighbors from deportation, and advocating for policies to protect all people.**

Community members accompany Ingrid Encalada Latorre (fifth from left), who lived in sanctuary for nearly six months as she fought her immigration case.  
Photo: Gabriela Flora/AFSC

**H**ow do you successfully counter a growing wave of hate and fear driving policies that deny our civil and human rights?

In January, as the Trump administration began, hate-fueled threats swelled, and policies like the infamous Muslim ban were introduced, we tested and found some effective means of community resistance. And we combined them into our new Sanctuary Everywhere initiative.

Simply put, Sanctuary Everywhere is the idea that everyday people can work together to keep each other safe. Sanctuary can mean taking someone into a congregation to protect them from deportation, but more broadly, it's about the community

coming together to protect targeted communities from state violence—including immigrants, people of color, targeted religious groups, or LGBTQ folks.

Whether immigrant families are facing separation due to deportation, whether Black families are facing separation due to the system of mass incarceration, or whether Muslim families are facing separation due to a Muslim ban, we are called to take care of each other. Sanctuary Everywhere recognizes that each of us actually has the power to help create safe, welcoming spaces in the places where we learn, work, worship, and live.

We cannot wait for courts or a new election to make significant change. We can stand together, effectively, right now. Efforts by AFSC staff, partners, and

volunteers have included:

- Building the capacity of congregations to offer sanctuary to individuals threatened by deportation.
- Teaching people how to safely intervene when harassment happens in public spaces.
- Helping people recognize and confront Islamophobia in their everyday lives.
- Offering Know Your Rights trainings to immigrants and allies.
- Working with schools and municipalities to improve policies that affect people's safety.

The following pages showcase a few examples of how communities are succeeding in creating Sanctuary Everywhere.



# Congregations step up to keep families together

BY JENNIFER PIPER

Faith communities have a long history of providing sanctuary to those in need. Today, as the U.S. government steps up its assault on immigrants' human and civil rights, congregations across the country are protecting people threatened by deportation, with support from the AFSC community.

Entering sanctuary is often a difficult decision for immigrants like Araceli in Denver; Emma in Albuquerque; and Juana in Greensboro, North Carolina, who all took this courageous step this year. It is an enormous sacrifice of freedom, often made in hopes of helping to bring about systemic changes that can help others facing similar dilemmas.

The congregations that made the decision to accompany these individuals—Quaker meetings; a synagogue; and Episcopal, Unitarian, and Methodist churches—also made a tremendous commitment that required them to weigh practical and legal concerns. They had to consider how the media and public would respond and whether they had the resources to offer sanctuary—adequate facilities; enough volunteers to help with groceries, errands, and child care; and the ability to fundraise to help cover legal services and other needs. They also had to ensure that their congregants were ready to offer the moral and spiritual support a person would need to live in sanctuary for months or even years.

These sanctuary congregations also had to learn how to be effective allies. Jeanette Vizguerra, a longtime immigrant rights activist who was in sanctuary in Denver earlier this year, tells us: "What we are looking for as immigrants, as people who are claiming this space, is for all of you to walk beside us in this moral and prophetic act that we're taking and to follow our lead as we are making this systemic challenge to the immigration policies that we have."

When individuals have the support of a congregation behind them, the results can be powerful:

- In February, Jeanette entered sanctuary in the First Unitarian Society of Denver. Her story was covered by major news outlets, including CNN and the Washington Post, and she was honored as one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in 2017. After spending 86 days in sanctuary, she was granted a two-year stay of deportation, just in time to celebrate Mother's Day with her four children.
- Ingrid Encalada Latorre, a mother of two young boys, spent over five months in sanctuary at Mountain View Friends Meeting in Denver. In May, she was granted a temporary stay of deportation, giving her a few months to pursue the next steps in her case.
- Arturo Hernandez Garcia, a father of two citizen children, had spent nine months in sanctuary in Denver in 2014 and 2015. He had received a letter in 2015 informing him he was no longer a priority for deportation, but in April of this year, he was detained by ICE at his workplace. Thanks to advocacy by his family, AFSC,



Two Colorado congregations, Temple Micah and Park Hill United Methodist Church, came together to provide sanctuary to Araceli Velasquez (pictured with her husband and sons). Photo: Ric Urrutia

the Metro Denver Sanctuary Coalition, and Denver community members, Arturo was granted a two-year stay of deportation.

Beyond these individual victories, these sanctuary congregations—and the other congregations that support them—help to shine a bright light on the injustice of our immigration system. And their activism will continue to inspire more congregations and community members to step up, let their immigrant neighbors know they are not alone in their struggles, and work alongside them for a world that respects the human dignity of all people.

*Jennifer Piper is AFSC's interfaith organizing director in Colorado.*

## SANCTUARY AND YOU

Is your congregation interested in providing sanctuary? In June, we held a national conference call with sanctuary congregations, community organizers, a legal expert, and someone who lived in sanctuary.

 **GET THE FULL RECORDING:** [afsc.org/sanctuary-call](https://afsc.org/sanctuary-call)

Interested in bringing spiritual practice into your work for social change?

 **LEARN ABOUT QUAKER SOCIAL CHANGE MINISTRY:**  
[afsc.org/qscm](https://afsc.org/qscm)

## Latinx communities stand in solidarity with Muslim neighbors

BY GABRIEL CAMACHO

AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia (CAI) project helps those within Muslim communities and their allies understand Islamophobia and develop strategies to stop it. Here in Massachusetts, our CAI program has been working closely with members of the Latinx<sup>1</sup> community, nearly 100 of whom have taken part in our Spanish-language workshops. Both groups have historically been targeted by discriminatory policies and now face more aggressive enforcement policies under the Trump administration. And there's a growing recognition of the intersections in these struggles for justice—and the need to support each other in our work.

Participants in our workshops talk about racism and stereotypes and compare their respective histories, including colonialism and policies that target Arab/Muslim and Latinx people. We ask basic questions like: What do you know of the Muslim community? Do you know your Muslim neighbors? How do you interact? What are some stereotypes of Muslims, and how do they compare with stereotypes of Latinos, African Americans, and immigrants in general? Why did you leave Central America? Why do people leave Syria?

That's when we start having rich discussions. Although our histories are very separate, the roots are the same. Attendees come to recognize that U.S. policies that target people of different ethnicities aim to divide us, to stop us from creating unity and standing against the abuses of imperialism and capitalism.

After the conversations, we've seen meaningful connections stick. Latinx community members show up at anti-Muslim rallies and stand with Muslims against hate. A statewide campaign to pass a bill known as the Safe Communities Act also has widespread support. Among other things the bill would bar local police



AFSC's Gabriel Camacho (left) facilitates a Communities Against Islamophobia workshop in Philadelphia. Photo: James Wasserman

from collaborating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and prohibit any state database to be used for a federal registry on Muslims.

I've found that people who attend our CAI workshops often want to take on more. Comments range from "I think my church would benefit from this workshop—I'll let them know about it" to "There's a lot of tension between Muslims and Latinos at my workplace—could you do one there?"

*Gabriel Camacho is AFSC's immigration programs coordinator in Cambridge, Mass. and works with AFSC's Communities Against Islamophobia project.*

## PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

## A community wins with a measure to reduce racial profiling by police

BY MARTHA YAGER

In June, the city of Providence, Rhode Island passed the Community Safety Act, considered one of the most progressive ordinances on policing in the country. Its passage marked the culmination of a five-year campaign by a coalition of community organizations, including AFSC.

The ordinance takes on a range of issues in policing, from stop-and-frisk practices to protections for people without proper

documents who are pulled over by police.

In the early 2000s, AFSC was part of a statewide effort to enact legislation addressing racial profiling and other issues in policing. But police resisted our efforts, reluctant to accept civilian oversight or acknowledge that racism might influence their policies and practices.

*Continued on page 15*

1 "Latinx" is a gender-neutral alternative to "Latino" or "Latina." The term is used by activists, scholars, and a growing number of journalists and members of the public. AFSC uses "Latinx" to be inclusive of people of Latin descent who do not identify as either male or female.



# Share this poster in your community!

Help promote Sanctuary Everywhere:

- Display this poster in your school, place of worship, community center, workplace, or anywhere people gather.
- Take a photo of the poster in its surroundings.
- Share your photo on social media using the hashtag **#SanctuaryEverywhere**.

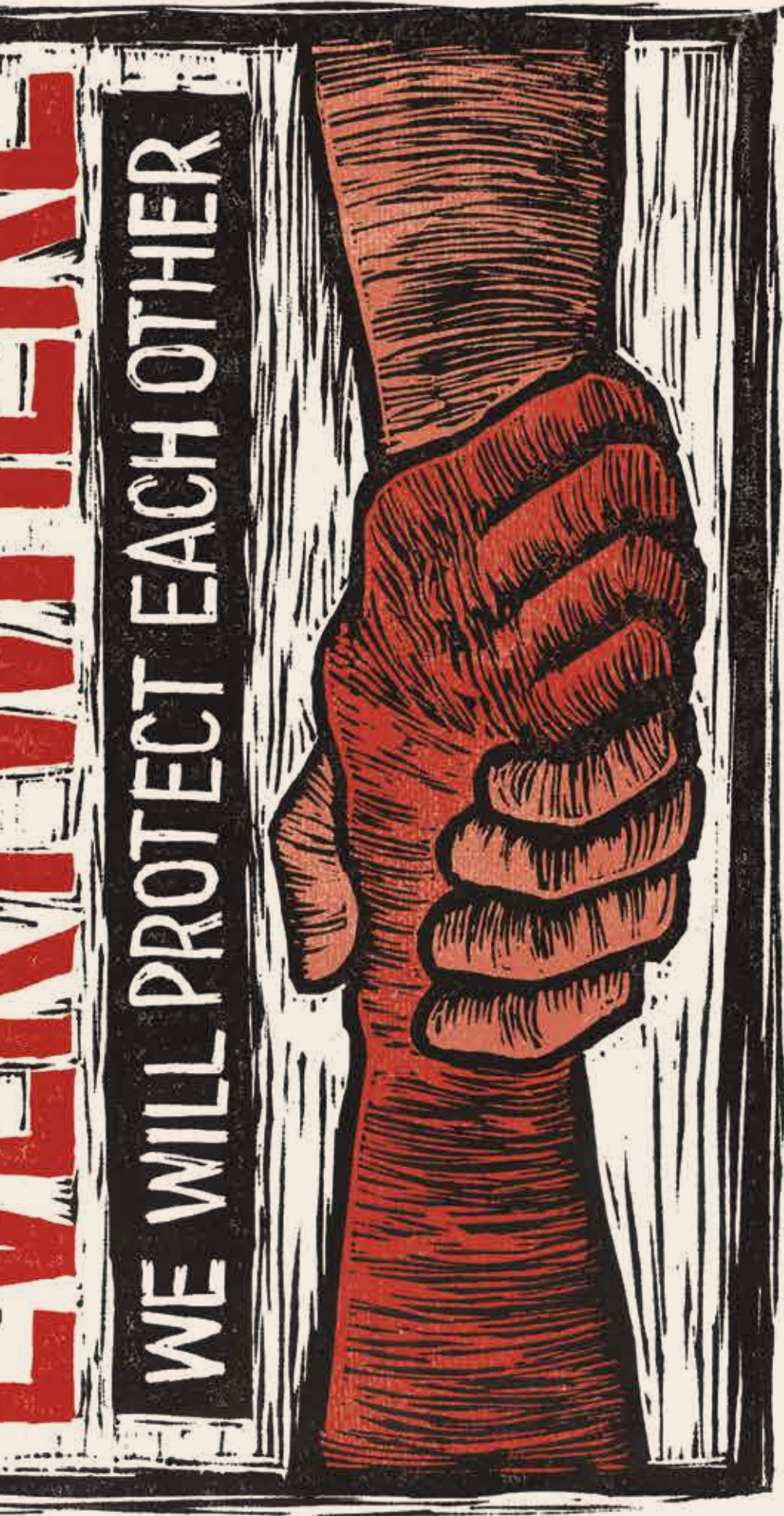
We may reshare your photo on Facebook, Twitter, and other AFSC outlets.

EMILY COHANE-MANN

STYLISH  
SANTUARY







SANCTUARY EVERYWHERE is the simple idea that everyday people can come together to keep each other safe, especially in these uncertain times. We hope to equip thousands of people with tools and training to stop hateful acts and to encourage policies and practices that promote safety and inclusion. Find resources for individuals, schools, colleges, congregations, and communities to create safe, welcoming spaces for all people at: [afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere](https://afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere).





In 2013, frustrated by both the process and the results, our coalition members decided to campaign for a city ordinance instead. Over the next year, we met with young people, parents, grandparents, and others living in heavily policed neighborhoods to learn more about how they experience the police. We asked them what they wanted in an ordinance and researched best practices across the country on racial profiling; police encounters with queer, transgender, or gender-nonconforming individuals; protections for undocumented immigrants; and the so-called “gang database” maintained by police.

In 2014, our group drafted an ordinance and began the long process of building political and public support. We met with city councilors, the public safety commissioner, and chief of police. When we couldn’t get the mayor’s attention, we showed up at events he was attending until he agreed to work with us.

And we collaborated with other groups led by people who feel police presence in their lives every day. Together we knocked on doors in wards where councilors were undecided, phone banked, and showed up at public events. Eventually, local media began covering our efforts.

What started small grew into a big citywide movement backed by a broad spectrum of individuals, community groups, artists, and businesses, with youth of color in the lead. The election of President Trump only added more urgency to our campaign.

Our broad coalition overcame many objections and challenges, and in June, a comprehensive ordinance passed. It moved our city closer to improving police interactions with community members and holding law enforcement accountable to the public.

The Community Safety Act:

1. Prohibits police from using race, ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and other characteristics as a reason to suspect someone of a crime.
2. Prohibits police from holding people solely under ICE detainers and requires public notice of police collaboration with other agencies, including ICE.
3. Requires police to tell drivers why they were stopped before asking for any documents and mandates that police only ask for a driver’s license, car registration, and proof of insurance in most cases.
4. Requires police to inform individuals of their right to refuse consent to a search. Searches must be performed by an officer of the same gender identity as the individual being searched, and the police department will develop public policies for how officers conduct searches of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.
5. Prohibits police from using race, association, and other factors to add someone to the gang database. Individuals must also be able to find out whether they are in the database and how to appeal their inclusion.



Community members urge Providence City Council members to pass the Community Safety Act. Photo: Steve Ahlquist

6. Requires police to establish policies regarding the use of dashboard and body cameras and any other devices.
7. Prohibits police from interfering with members of the public who are recording police activity.

The ordinance goes into effect on January 1, 2018. Our next task is to ensure that the city of Providence fulfills the expectations of community members who contributed to this hard-won campaign over the past five years.

To get the full text of the resolution—and learn how cities like Providence are creating safer, more welcoming communities for all—visit [afsc.org/sanctuaryincities](http://afsc.org/sanctuaryincities).

*Martha Yager served as AFSC program coordinator in Southeast New England. ■*

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

AFSC is hosting free, bimonthly Sanctuary Everywhere webinars for the public.

- Nov. 16, 2017, 8:30 to 10 p.m. ET:  
Bystander Intervention Training
- Jan. 18, 8:30 to 10 p.m. ET:  
Creating Sanctuary Policies in Schools and Cities
- March 15, 8:30 to 10 p.m. ET:  
Who’s Watching? Surveillance in Communities and How to Interrupt It
- May 17, 8:30 to 10 p.m. ET:  
Working to End Abuse in Policing

 **GET UPDATES AND RECORDINGS:**  
[afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere](http://afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywhere)

# MEET AFSC CHANGE MAKERS



Social change begins when courageous individuals undertake the difficult work for justice and equitable rights in their communities—inspiring others to join them in these efforts. AFSC works with people around the world who are bravely standing against injustice to make the world a better place, one person and one community at a time. Every year, we recognize some of these individuals by highlighting their stories in our “AFSC Change Makers” series.

Here are just three of those stories. We invite you to read more at [afsc.org/changemakers](http://afsc.org/changemakers).



## Francis Adjei

When Francis Adjei was a young man, his father was incarcerated. He and his younger siblings quickly came to understand the pain and loneliness children suffer when separated from a parent.

An interest in photography led him to Echoes of Incarceration, a partner organization of AFSC that teaches filmmaking to children of people in prison.

Art became a refuge for Francis, who began to share his story and produce film projects, even leading a collaborative project with Sesame Street that focused on children of incarcerated parents.

This year, Francis was named Stephen G. Cary fellow and began working with AFSC’s New York Healing Justice program, where he supports our Hope

Lives for Lifers project and efforts to reach young people with incarcerated parents.

Today, Francis is helping young people find a safe space as they struggle with the effects of incarceration on their families—encouraging them to use filmmaking and other media to tell their stories to advocate for change.

## Support AFSC’s Change Makers

Throughout our history, AFSC has been a catalyst for change by providing a platform for individuals who have the courage to speak up for a better world—people who bear witness for peace and justice.

Please help support and inspire a global network of peacemakers by making a gift today at:  
[afsc.org/changemakers2017](http://afsc.org/changemakers2017)





Photo: Steve Pavey

## Jasmine Lopez

At just 10 years old, Jasmine Lopez has been an outspoken advocate for immigrant students and their families in Miami-Dade County in Florida.

Under more aggressive immigration enforcement policies of the Trump administration, parents around the state have worried about bringing their kids to school, fearing they would be picked up by immigration agents. AFSC worked with two school districts in Florida—Miami-Dade and Broward counties—to pass resolutions that would

protect students and their families from immigration raids. Jasmine was an important part of those efforts.

Jasmine, whose father is undocumented, has lived with the constant fear that her parents could be taken away at any moment. With her family's support, she lent her voice and commitment to a grassroots campaign for a resolution to make Miami-Dade schools safer for immigrant students and families.

At a public meeting of the school board, Jasmine shared her personal

story, urging the board and the community to support the resolution. "Our people didn't come to harm this country," she told the crowd. "They came so that their children would have a better future."

Thanks to Jasmine and advocacy by numerous community members and organizations, the resolution passed overwhelmingly—a big step in making our schools safe, inclusive places where immigrant students and their families know they will be protected and supported.



Photo: AFSC

## Zarniel Wolaka

Zarniel Wolaka grew up on the island of Timor in Indonesia and never imagined becoming an activist. But while at university, he became aware of the disconnect between decisions made by government and the realities lived by everyday people. Wanting to help bridge the gap, he took part in an AFSC youth conference in Yogyakarta in 2010.

Working with AFSC, Zarniel and other young people helped to organize the first Peace Torch celebration in Indonesia. They came up with the idea to create a Peace Torch that would travel

across the archipelago as a symbol for peace, diversity, and inclusion, drawing on Indonesia's rich cultural heritage of diversity and mutual cooperation for support. Now an annual event, the Peace Torch celebration has become a rallying point for a movement to stem the country's rising tide of violence and intolerance, especially toward religious minorities.

In addition to organizing the annual Peace Torch celebration, Zarniel founded KOMPAK, an interfaith youth organization that supports freedom of

religion for all. As the leader of KOMPAK, Zarniel was instrumental in resolving the Batuplat mosque case, in which a local minority Muslim community's plan to build a mosque met community opposition—a case that made national news for years.

Today, as a change maker and AFSC partner, Zarniel nurtures the young activists he recruits and hopes that more people will become aware of the importance of religious freedom and become actively involved in defending it. ■



Vietnam Summer volunteers canvassed door to door, held community speak-outs, and more to build public support to end the war. Photos courtesy of Swarthmore College Peace Collection

# VIETNAM SUMMER 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**We look back on a nationwide organizing project that mobilized thousands to oppose the Vietnam War.**

BY MELISSA LEE

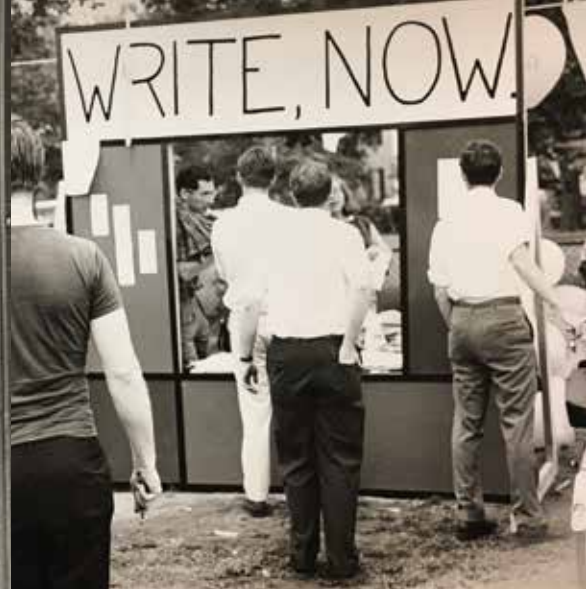
In 1967, media coverage of the war in Vietnam was flooding the airwaves with images of American soldiers in body bags, dead Vietnamese civilians, and villages burned to the ground. In cities across the U.S.—from Pasadena, California to Cambridge, Massachusetts—tens of thousands of young people joined anti-war demonstrations, helping to build a nationwide movement to end the Vietnam War.

Eighteen-year-old Wendy Batson of Kansas City, Missouri was one of these protesters. In the summer of '67, Wendy, a member of the Penn Valley Friends Meeting, had just graduated high school and was preparing to enter college. But after long discussions with her parents and her meeting, she decided she would first take part in a weeklong training for Vietnam Summer in Ohio. The training prepared participants to spend their summers

canvassing door to door, collecting signatures for petitions, organizing community speak-outs, mobilizing support for public referenda on the war, and working as draft counselors.

The experience “kicked off for me, even faster and sharper, a real focus on the war as the primary event of my youth,” Wendy says. “For those three months before I took off for college, there was this heady sense of being swept up and engaged





in real historical issues. When I look back on it now, of course it astounds me what was both put on us and what we were dealing with.”

The Vietnam Summer project had officially launched on April 23, 1967 at a press conference with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam in Cambridge. “It is time now to meet the escalation of the war in Vietnam with an escalation of opposition to that war,” Dr. King proclaimed. “I think the time has come for all people of good will to engage in a massive program of organization, of mobilization.”

The American Friends Service Committee was involved from the start of the campaign, providing \$20,000 to the Vietnam Summer committee to get the project started. The project closely aligned with AFSC’s existing Vietnam Peace Education program, which was also designed to educate and engage people in local communities about the war. In addition to providing funds, AFSC produced a manual for volunteers, fliers and newsletters, and vivid posters designed to generate emotional public response.

The Vietnam Summer project initially called for 10,000 volunteers, but by the end of the campaign, there would be 26,000 volunteers as well as more than 500 staff working on 700 local projects across the country. The impact was profound and far-reaching, activating tens of thousands of people to organize with their neighbors

**“We were not about beating the draft—we were trying to change society.”**

and communities against the war.

Jeff Jaffe was among those eligible for the draft who opposed the war. Like many of his peers, he says he “felt disenfranchised, we had no voice in what was happening because no one was listening to us. But we were not about beating the draft—we were trying to change society. ... We believed that the war and the draft were evil and someone had to stand up against evil.”

Richard Fernandez, co-director of the Vietnam Summer project says “It was also a time of great courage—a lot of people put their lives on the line, put their jobs on the line, willing to risk for the sake of peace. ... We were a generation that for some reason or another thought we could alter the world. There wasn’t anything that we didn’t think we could change for the better.”

Vietnam Summer demonstrated the true power of grassroots organizing and became an example that would shape other movements for years to come.

Activists succeeded not only in influencing the American public, but also in swaying members of Congress and other elected officials, shifting the national conversation and making it difficult to justify continuing the war in Vietnam.

And for countless individuals like Wendy Batson, that summer would become a springboard for a lifetime of working for peace and justice. Wendy went on to work at AFSC for five years, serving in multiple roles—including as a youth anti-war organizer in Chicago and later with her husband Bob Eaton doing post-war reconstruction in Indochina—before moving on to lead humanitarian efforts with other organizations.

“Vietnam Summer was this breathless sense that I was participating in something that really mattered, and I’ve come to realize it was a great gift,” Wendy says. “The trajectory of early community organizing, of early draft counseling, of questioning larger movements within the society, and looking at injustices that began spilling beyond Vietnam ended up—unbeknownst to me at the time—defining my whole life.” ■

#### WERE YOU THERE?

If you took part in Vietnam War activism, we’d love to hear from you!

 **VISIT:** [afsc.org/vietnamsummer](http://afsc.org/vietnamsummer)

# Celebrating AFSC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary around the world

BY MELISSA LEE

Since our founding in 1917, AFSC has been dedicated to achieving peace through active nonviolence. Today, AFSC works in more than a dozen countries and more than 30 U.S. cities, standing with communities struggling against racism, violence, and oppression.

To mark our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, AFSC offices around the world have hosted community events to celebrate our history and affirm our commitment to working for a just and lasting peace.

*Melissa Lee served as an AFSC Communications fellow in Philadelphia. ■*



Our centennial celebration in Newark, New Jersey, where staff focus on advocating for immigrant rights and promoting healing in the criminal justice system. *Photo: Kharon Benson*



In Gaza, participants with AFSC's Palestinian Youth Together for Change program took part in centennial festivities. *Photo: Jozef Nateel*



Attendees at AFSC's Waging Peace summit in Philadelphia were invited to answer the question "How do you wage peace?" *Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC*



Community partners joined AFSC at our centennial celebration in Nairobi, Kenya, including Carrine Umutoniwase of Footprints for Change, Natasha Uwimanzi of AEGIS, and poet Natasha Muhoza. *Photo: George Mimano*





Erica Chenoweth, keynote speaker at our academic symposium in Philadelphia, told the audience, “We can organize and create the communities we want right now. We just do it without asking permission.” *Photo: Don Davis/AFSC*



During AFSC’s Waging Peace summit, Fabio Cano, Real-Tepper intern in El Salvador, and Lanica Angpak, Robert Andrew Stewart fellow, took part in our alumni gathering. *Bryan Vana/AFSC*



In Guatemala City, Nancy De Paz and César Torres of partner organization Alternativa Artística Juvenil performed a dance with Mayan and Mestizo implements. *Photo: AFSC/Guatemala*

# A Colorado mother who was deported speaks out

BY CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ-SAGARNAGA

*In June, nearly 5,000 people signed AFSC's petition urging U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to grant a stay of deportation to Cristina Rodriguez-Sagarnaga, a mother of three who had lived in the U.S. since she was five.*

*Despite our best efforts, Cristina was deported to Mexico. This is a shortened version of a statement she wrote soon after arriving in Juarez, where she now lives with relatives.*

It has been only five days since my detention, but my life has turned upside down, and it hurts down to the smallest parts of my soul, my heart.

It was only last Wednesday when I was getting ready for my check-in, hoping that God would soften ICE's hearts to approve my stay of deportation and allow me to remain in the U.S. I dropped off my girls with my mom, not knowing when I'd see them again.



Cristina and her three daughters. Courtesy photo

At the check-in, ICE officials denied my stay. I soon found myself in a holding cell, waiting to be booked into an immigration detention center—away from my girls, away from my husband.

On Friday about 5:30 a.m., I learned I was going to be deported that same morning. I went back to my cell to pray for a miracle. I felt desperate. I sat there waiting for ICE to take me, feeling hopeless and resigned.

I soon was on a plane, handcuffed and chained at my feet. When I arrived in El Paso hours later, reality hit me. Everything

became more real as I crossed over to Mexico. I cried as I walked across on the bridge.

I want everyone to know I am so blessed to have wonderful people that support me. I am thankful for their fight for me. It has been very helpful to have my family here to support me. I am getting to know them as I decide the next steps for me and my daughters.

The United States is a country of opportunity, a country known for its diversity. Why are many immigrants, who make up this diversity, being unfairly deported? The immigration system has been harmful for many years. Fixing the system isn't a priority for Congress when it's known that many immigrants work jobs that many Americans won't do. We provide the labor that keeps things cheap.

## Separating families and deporting people is not the solution.

We immigrants are a part of this country. We keep a lot of communities going and growing. Like all of you, we pay taxes. We work and lead normal, messy, complicated lives.

I ask Congress to please make us a priority. We need to stop the deportations that are affecting so many families that have been here their whole lives. Deportations affect thousands of people, and soon we will see the impact on the whole country.

The Trump administration needs to understand that separating families and deporting people is not the solution. The answer is a path to being able to apply for legal status for those many people in the U.S., whose life, family, and contributions are here. That would be humane.

I ask Congress and President Trump to dig deep in your hearts to open a path to opportunity. Opportunity so that many immigrants can legalize and live free in the country that is our home. And I ask all residents of the U.S.—native, citizen, and immigrant—to work united to stop deportations, to stop separating families.

Our country and community are in God's hands. We must account for whether in fact we are a country of liberty and justice for all. For *all*. ■





## SNAPSHOT

# A look at AFSC around the world

Participants in AFSC's Peace by Piece program in New Orleans work on their community garden. Photo: Cfreedom Photography 2017



Left to right, top to bottom:

1. May Day rally for immigrant justice; New Hampshire
2. AFSC delegation visit to DPRK (North Korea)
3. Liberation Summer Advocacy Camp; New York
4. Liberation Summer Advocacy Camp; New York
5. Gaza Unlocked at the farmer's market; Chicago
6. Pinwheel display for Gaza; Vermont
7. Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative
8. Roots for Peace; Los Angeles
9. Centennial celebration, Guatemala
10. 67 Sueños mural painting; Oakland, CA
11. Rallying against white supremacy; Baltimore
12. Human Rights Summit; Washington, D.C.

Photos: Arnie Alpert/AFSC, AFSC staff, IBIS Productions, IBIS Productions, Jennifer Bing/AFSC, Willie Colon/AFSC, Jon Krieg/AFSC, Melissa Stoner/AFSC, AFSC/Guatemala, Malik Hardcastle, Bryan Vana/AFSC, Bryan Vana/AFSC





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# THANK YOU

**for being part of our community!**

Our success in striving for peace and justice over the past 100 years has only been made possible by a large network of volunteers, partners, congregations, and steadfast supporters like you.

Together, we will continue to stand up for the safe, welcoming communities that we all deserve.