

Quaker Action

AFSC ALUMNI

*Stories of courage
and action*



**American Friends
Service Committee**

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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AFSC alumni from the past several decades. For alumni stories, see page 8 or visit peaceworks.afsc.org.

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Today we work for a more just and peaceful world.
Tomorrow, with your help, we will continue to do the same.

Leave a legacy of peace. Name AFSC in your will, trust, or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, and sustain movements for social change for generations to come.

Call Tim Cravens at 1-888-588-2372, email GiftPlanning@afsc.org, or visit us online at afsc.org/wills to learn more.

LETTER FROM OUR GENERAL SECRETARY



Mariana Martinez, AFSC intern and immigrant rights activist in Florida. Photo: Irit Reinheimer/AFSC

When I think of AFSC's history and the wonderful people who made it happen, one word comes to mind: courage. It takes courage to stand up for peace when a country is gripped in war-fever. It takes courage to stand up for the rights of people who are being blamed for society's ills. And it takes courage to meet face to face with people who others call enemies—and find ways to make the world a better place.

One delight of being general secretary of the Service Committee is that I hear the stories of those who came before me, our esteemed alumni, wherever I go. Meeting and hearing about these courageous souls—people who put their lives and

reputations on the line for social justice and peace—energizes me. So it's only fitting that we devote this issue of our Quaker Action magazine to telling a few stories of our alumni.

This is a perfect time for an alumni issue. First, we want to make sure that everyone who has been involved with AFSC—in any way—can sign up to be a part of our Alumni Network. We already have nearly 1,500 people on our email list and over 360 people on Facebook.

Also, AFSC is reflecting on our past accomplishments and planning our organization's future. Many community members, Quakers, Board members, outside experts, and staff have been meeting to develop AFSC's next strategic plan. These conversations are building on our

rich history and determining what we are called to do in today's world. I look forward to sharing our planning as it develops.

For now, I hope you enjoy these stories of courage, heart, and conscience—the story of AFSC's alumni in action.



In peace,

Joyce Ajlouny
General Secretary

ALUMNI NEWS & NOTES

Former AFSC Western Massachusetts Office Director **Jo Comerford** made history on Nov. 6, 2018 when she was elected as the first woman to serve her district in the Massachusetts State Senate.

Frances Crowe ran AFSC's Western Massachusetts office in the basement of her home for 32 years before retiring in 2006. She recently published her memoirs, "Finding My Radical Soul."



Lanica Angpak, AFSC's first Robert Andrew Stuart Fellow in Philadelphia, uses traditional Cambodian dance to create a space where Cambodian-Americans feel safe to explore their shared identity, culture, and history. In 2018, Lanica was appointed to the Pennsylvania governor's Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Lifetime activist and educator **Patricia Rumer** volunteered with AFSC in Guatemala in 1969. She recently published "Choices: Death, Life and Migration," a book that describes her own life journey.

In September, **Hayes Mizell, Terry Peterson, Janet Wells, John Norton, and Bettye Boone** met for a reunion of AFSC's South-eastern Public Education Program. Hayes says, "Those were great days, and we are thankful for AFSC and other colleagues who provided great opportunities for our learning, supported our experimentation, and forgave our mistakes."

Do you have news to share?
Email us at alumni@afsc.org!



From 1966 to 1968, **Ann Mullin and Shel Stromquist** volunteered in Tanzania with AFSC's Voluntary International Service Assignment program. They worked in small, rural "ujamaa" (African socialist) villages, Ann in the south and Shel in the north. They were married in Tanzania and returned this past summer to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and visit the villages they had lived in. They had deeply moving encounters with several people with whom they had worked, Ann in Liweta and Shel in Mnkonde.



Photos: (Clockwise from left) Don Davis/AFSC, Courtesy Ann Mullin and Shel Stromquist

IN BRIEF

News from around AFSC



Hundreds of faith leaders took part in AFSC's Love Knows No Borders action in December. Photo: Steve Pavey

Love knows no borders

In the fall of 2018, migrants from Central America walked north, fleeing violence and poverty and seeking safety and peace in the U.S. While the Trump administration sent thousands of troops to the U.S.-Mexico border, deployed tear gas on children, and made it harder for people to apply for asylum, AFSC partnered with nine shelters in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico to help meet basic needs for items such as food, water, and children's supplies. We also helped staff a new human rights brigade at the Guatemala-Mexico border and continued to monitor human rights abuses at the U.S.-Mexico border.

In addition, on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day, we launched Love Knows No Borders, a week of action that kicked off with a nonviolent action at the San Diego border by more than 400 faith leaders representing many traditions. The leaders were met by Border Patrol agents wearing riot gear and armed with tear gas, batons, and rubber bullets. Thirty protesters were arrested for crossing a line in the sand in an act of civil disobedience. This action—and more than 70 others organized across the U.S. by AFSC community members and partners—drew national attention to the need for more humane U.S. immigration policies and demilitarization of border communities, prompting The Nation to name it Most Valuable Protest of 2018 (see AFSC in the Media, page 6).

—THERESA KIRBY

More: afsc.org/migrantcaravan

Join AFSC's Alumni Network!

Have you worked with the American Friends Service Committee as a staff member, volunteer, intern, or fellow?

Stay connected with the AFSC family by joining our Alumni Network at afsc.org/alumni.

Visit afsc.org/alumni to:

- Join AFSC's Alumni Network.
- Reconnect with former colleagues.
- Stay up to date on alumni events, news, and more.
- Share your news and life updates.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC



AFSC's Roots for Peace Program in Los Angeles. Photo: Crystal Gonzalez/AFSC

Community transformation, from the ground up

For nearly a decade, AFSC's Roots for Peace Program has trained young people in Los Angeles on urban farming to increase community access to healthy foods, improve neighborhood wellness, and address racial injustice. This spring, they will celebrate the completion of one of their most labor-intensive projects – transforming a vacant asphalt lot into a community garden and meeting space for social justice organizing.

Over the past two years, Roots for Peace youth have worked alongside community members of all ages to envision the project, prepare the land, develop an outdoor classroom and kitchen area for workshops, plant and harvest, and paint murals. These young people are working from the ground up to transform their community and build the future they want to see.

“With Roots for Peace, AFSC’s role is one of accompaniment,” says Crystal Gonzales, Roots for Peace director. “It’s really walking with youth, community leaders, and people of all ages to really dream about what their community could look like and help them make that a reality.”

—RONNA BOLANTE

 More: rootsforpeace.blog

AFSC in the media

AFSC staff are working hard to make change on the ground—and in the news. Here are some of the highlights:

On the Love Knows No Borders action

“AFSC supported a powerful ‘Love Knows No Borders’ week of action in December, which saw more than 100 faith leaders from across the country participate in nonviolent direct action in the border region near San Diego. The campaign’s purpose: ‘demanding an end to border militarization and calling for humane immigration policies that respect the rights and dignity of all people.’”

—The Nation Magazine, which named the action “Most Valuable Protest” of 2018

On criminal justice reform

“It’s about time Arizona’s elected officials got the message: Arizonans are ready for change. The fear-based narrative that has held back reforms for so long has lost traction with the public.”

—Caroline Isaacs, Arizona program director, in the Arizona Daily Star

On ending felony disenfranchisement

“What is at stake is not just the rights of those entangled in the criminal legal system, but the very future of our democracy. For democracy can only truly function when those who are impacted by systems have access to the vote.”

—Lewis Webb, New York Healing Justice program coordinator, in Newsweek

Sonia Tuma

Regional director of AFSC’s U.S. West region



Photo: Courtesy Sonia Tuma/AFSC

Sonia has worked at AFSC since 1993. She shares some of her experiences from the past 25 years.

Q: How did you get involved in working for social change?

A: I grew up in a multicultural and multi-faith family; my mom was Russian Jewish, and my dad was Iraqi Muslim. There were a lot of assumptions about how my extended family got along and my parents’ political perspectives. Most of those assumptions were wrong, and I learned early on the value of not assuming what someone believed based on their religious or ethnic backgrounds. My mom was an education activist, and she set an example of how to work for change. I was an activist in high school on several issues, and in college, I focused on Palestine issues, especially the Palestinian feminist movement.

Q: You joined AFSC as an intern in L.A. working for the Middle East Peace Program, which you later directed for eight years. What’s one of the most memorable campaigns you supported in that time?

A: In the mid-’90s, it was becoming increasingly clear that U.S.-led sanctions against Iraq were harming the country’s civilian population, causing the deaths of children and many of the most vulnerable in Iraq. AFSC developed campaigns to teach people about what was happening in Iraq, and to end the sanctions. The campaigns included a curriculum for

elementary students, public speaking and media work, interfaith coalition building, advocacy in Washington and at the U.N., collecting material aids, and, eventually the Campaign of Conscience, an AFSC campaign to break the sanctions by importing water purification devices into Iraq. Over time, we really did change people’s perceptions and eventually, policy.

Q: What are some of the changes you’ve seen in AFSC’s work over the years?

A: The dialogue around Palestine has changed a lot. When I first came, AFSC was seen as radical for talking about a “two-state” solution. Over time, and with the decreased likelihood of a just two-state solution, we’ve focused more on the principle of self-determination. We’re also supporting the use of strategies that undermine the profit motive in a continued occupation.

The way we support youth has also changed. When I came to AFSC, we often worked with young people who were interested in learning about problems in the world and some who wanted to do service projects. Now our work focuses on helping young leaders become active social change agents in their own communities.

AFSC also continues to add tools to the social change tool chest. One example is our economic activism work. It includes the use of Investigate, a database that helps people screen their investments for companies involved in human rights

violations. We also teach people how to use those tools to influence corporations, which are actors in global conflict in a way they didn’t use to be.

Q: What would you say are AFSC’s strengths?

A: AFSC can make connections in ways that other organizations are less able to. Because we’re a multi-issue, international organization, we can see connections between issues and potential partners in a deeper, more interconnected way than organizations who work with one constituency or on one issue.

We’re a values-based organization, which means we’re not just looking for expediency, but rather how we center the needs and experience of the people who are most impacted by the problem.

Q: What motivates you to continue the work that you’re doing amid so many challenges?

A: I truly believe that people can change, and that together, our work can change systems. And I have the experience of seeing positive change result from our work. Even if it’s hard and takes a long time, I know it’s possible because I’ve seen it work.

Finally, the people at AFSC continue to inspire me—our staff, volunteers, and partners are creative, committed, and do amazing work. ■

AFSC International Programs staff in Philadelphia circa 2004.
Photo: Terry Foss

AFSC ALUMNI

Courage and action

BY RONNA BOLANTE

So many courageous individuals have been part of AFSC over the past century—driving our work for a world that respects the rights and dignity of all people.

Here are just some of the people who have shaped—and continue to influence—AFSC today

FRIENDS CENTER

MICHAEL McCONNELL

Visionary antiwar activist

In 2004, the death toll from the Iraq War kept rising. But because returning coffins were banned from being filmed, the real human cost of the war was hidden. Michael McConnell, AFSC's regional director in the Midwest, believed that making these losses visible would change opinions about the war.

Michael was the visionary behind AFSC's widely acclaimed exhibit "Eyes Wide Open." The exhibit started when AFSC staff and volunteers placed 504 pairs of empty combat boots on the Federal Plaza in Chicago, each pair representing a U.S. life lost. "Eyes Wide Open" attracted national attention—and, by 2006, would grow to include deaths among Iraqis and tour nearly every state in the country.

Michael once told an interviewer: "This is a public memorial that allows all of us to have some sense of public grief and mourning. And the public grief leads to political questions—why this war. You have to show the human face of an issue to people to both engage them and to help them understand the big picture."

Michael's antiwar activism began in college, when he was exposed to the realities of the devastation—and role of the U.S.—in the Vietnam War. He was ordained a minister in the United Church of Christ and became a key leader in the Central America sanctuary movement of the 1980s.

In 1990, Michael joined AFSC, serving for more than two decades as one of our chief strategists for work on ending war and violent response to conflict—from developing "Eyes Wide Open" to campaigns on military spending. As a regional director,



Photo: Jon Krieg/AFSC

"You have to show the human face of an issue to people to both engage them and to help them understand the big picture."

he supported programs dealing with the criminal justice system, immigrant rights, and economic justice across the region and throughout AFSC, mentoring staff and championing opportunities for young people to develop their skills in working for peace with justice.

Michael, who passed away in 2013, said: "I love reading about people who have overcome incredible situations to sometimes win—sometimes maybe not win but to make a statement that then lives on and inspires other people. Our victories are always going to be episodic, partial, temporary maybe. But it seems at each step of the way, we have advanced the world a bit and made it more fair, more equitable, more peaceful."



“Since AFSC, I have spent a lot of my life focused on leadership development and building up the leaders for the movement.”

Photo: Louie Ortiz-Fonseca

ERIKA ALMIRÓN

Immigrant rights leader

When Erika Almirón was in high school, she organized a student walkout to protest the closing of her school. In college, she was active with the Latino Student Organization. But she never thought of herself as a social justice activist until she began working at AFSC in 2003.

“The term ‘social justice’ wasn’t even in my vocabulary until I got to AFSC,” says Erika. “Being a woman of color, working-class, and the child of immigrants, I just wanted to figure out ways to support my community.”

At AFSC, Erika worked as a program assistant, providing administrative support to staff advocating for immigrant rights and ending mass incarceration. She was also part of the Third World Coalition (TWC), formed by AFSC staff and committee members of color to guide the organization’s work from the perspective of people of color. She took part in her first immigration protest with AFSC in Philadelphia in 2006—it was just one of the many massive demonstrations that happened across the country that spring.

“To this day, I appreciate all of the TWC folks who saw something in me and made sure I had these opportunities,” Erika says. “I learned enough to start the work that I do today.”

For the past seven years, Erika has served as the executive director of Juntos, a Latinx, immigrant-led organization in Philadelphia. The group was a key leader in a successful grassroots campaign that led the city to pass one of the most progressive “sanctuary city” laws in the country. This year, she is running for Philadelphia City Council, where she hopes to spur even more change.

“Since AFSC, I have spent a lot of my life focused on leadership development and building up the leaders for the movement,” Erika says. “I think about how important it was for me to be seen and for somebody to see something in me. I want to make sure the people who walk through my doors today have as many resources as possible, so that when we’re gone, there are still people here to lead the fight.”



ANNA GALLAND

Executive director of MoveOn Civic Action

“One thing I value about AFSC is that it has been doing the patient work of building community and advancing a vision of how the world can be.”

Photo: Courtesy Anna Galland

As the head of MoveOn Civic Action, Anna Galland oversees an organization that has helped millions of people across the U.S. create social change and, through its sister organization MoveOn Political Action, helps elect progressive candidates. In 2002, she was a community organizer with AFSC, mobilizing communities in Rhode Island to protest the U.S.’s growing “war on terror” and call for nonviolent alternatives.

Anna had just graduated from Brown University, where she had some experience organizing and campaigning, but AFSC represented her first “proper job as a community organizer.” Her nearly three years with AFSC taught her a lot.

“I learned on the fly how to build coalitions, how to speak from a moral perspective, and how to mobilize,” she says. “Some of the first rallies I organized were through AFSC against the Iraq War. I remember looking around a church in downtown Providence one day, seeing the rafters packed, and feeling so grateful for AFSC’s investment in community organizing.”

In 2007, Anna joined MoveOn, where she has led issue advocacy and electoral campaigns—including working to end the Iraq War, helping to pass the Affordable Care Act, defending the U.S.’s diplomatic agreement with Iran, and supporting presidential campaigns. She also built MoveOn’s open petition platform, which has become a critical tool for tens of thousands of grassroots-led campaigns across the country—especially as communities continue to resist Trump administration policies.

In January, Anna announced that she and co-director Ilya Sheyman will transition out of their leadership after six years of building and transforming MoveOn—quadrupling its budget, tripling its staff, and driving innovative and effective campaigns. She plans to write and reflect on lessons from her time at MoveOn once she steps down.

“We are living in a political crisis, but it’s layered on top of a moral crisis,” Anna says. “In this moment, AFSC has an important role to play in doing the work and having a clear vision for the kinds of values we need to live into. One thing I value about AFSC is that it has been doing the patient work of building community and advancing a vision of how the world can be—day in and day out—for a long time.”



Photo: AFSC Archives

STEPHEN CARY

AFSC leader and Board clerk

Born to a Quaker family in Philadelphia, Stephen Cary led a life of courage, conviction, and action—helping to shape AFSC’s work for nearly 50 years.

Steve came to AFSC as a conscientious objector during World War II, doing manual labor in Civilian Public Service camps in the Northeast as an alternative way to serve the country during war. In 1946, he oversaw our American Quaker relief work in Europe, operating feeding programs for children and helping cities rebuild after the war. Quakers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for these humanitarian efforts in 1947.

“Those years gave my life new direction,” Steve later wrote. “To experience what I had experienced led me to a commitment to spend the rest of my life laboring in the vineyard of peace.”

Steve was a guiding voice for AFSC through the conflicts and social movements that defined the following decades. In 1955, he traveled through Russia as part of an AFSC delegation to promote understanding between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. And he chaired the AFSC committee, which included Bayard Rustin,

“To experience what I had experienced led me to a commitment to spend the rest of my life laboring in the vineyard of peace.”

that wrote “Speak Truth to Power,” the influential document that called for nonviolent alternatives to end the Cold War.

He was active in the Civil Rights Movement, marching with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama (where colleague James Reeb died after an attack by white segregationists). When King was assassinated in 1968—just weeks before the start of the Poor People’s Campaign—Steve implored faith leaders to move forward, writing “It is our conviction that one million must replace the one who has been shot down.”

Steve would later spend 15 days in jail for civil disobedience at the Washington, D.C. demonstration. It wouldn’t be his last time in jail. In 1972, he was arrested for protesting the shipment of weapons to Vietnam by lying down on train tracks as a locomotive carrying bombs approached.

Steve left AFSC in 1969 to work at Haverford College, where he retired as vice president in 1981. He returned to AFSC as a volunteer in 1979, serving as clerk of the AFSC Board and Corporation for nearly 12 years. He died in 2002.

As Jack Coleman, editor of Steve’s memoirs “The Intrepid Quaker,” wrote: “To know his story is to become aware that you have lost the right to ever ask again, ‘What difference can one life make?’ This man, part of a small group of peace-pursuing people, put a check on some of the worst abuses that stem from love of arms rather than arms of love.”

JOSÉ TRINIDAD SANCHEZ *and* MARY McCANN SANCHEZ

Peacebuilders in Central America

During the heaviest periods of the Central American civil wars and into the period of post-peace accords, José Trinidad Sanchez and Mary McCann Sanchez oversaw AFSC's work in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

The couple met in 1984, when Mary—who had grown up in Wisconsin—traveled to Honduras with AFSC as a volunteer translator. At the time, Trinidad—who had grown up farming in the Honduran countryside—worked for Catholic Relief Services, an AFSC partner, assisting Salvadoran refugees.

Mary says: “AFSC played an integral role to uphold the rights of refugees and denounce human rights violations in the region. It was a natural place for me to express my concern about U.S. intervention in Central America.”

For several years, Mary traveled between Honduras and AFSC's Chicago office, where she coordinated efforts to assist refugees and organized dozens of speaking tours and events to build resistance to U.S. involvement in Central America. In 1990, she became AFSC's Central American representative, and was later joined by Trinidad as co-representative.

Over the next decade, Trinidad and Mary administered AFSC funding to local Central American organizations, including more than \$1 million in aid distributed after Hurricane Mitch. They also supported the training of thousands of community members as “barefoot doctors,” midwives, and mental health counselors to improve access to health care in the region.

One of the most lasting impacts of their work stemmed from AFSC's Dialogue and Exchange Program (DEP), which initiated a regional discussion of the devastating impacts of trade agreements. The talks led to the creation of COMAL (Alternative Community Marketing Network), a network of Honduran farmers and small cooperatives.

“COMAL is an example of people discovering how powerful they can be when they are united,” Trinidad says. “As a united force for small co-ops throughout the country, they could discuss what



Photo: Courtesy José Trinidad Sanchez and Mary McCann Sanchez

“Of all the work we’ve done, we’re most committed to AFSC because of its strong anti-militarism position.”

“Nonviolence is the source of strength and joy in our lives.”

they envision for each other and what they want for the future.”

Today COMAL is an independent organization that trains farmers, facilitates access to credit and markets, and helps thousands of Hondurans develop a just alternative rural economy.

Trinidad and Mary now live in Chicago, where both work in social services that support immigrant children seeking family reunification.

“The social scars of the wars are long lasting,” says Mary. “Of all the work we’ve done, we’re most committed to AFSC because of its strong anti-militarism position. Nonviolence is the source of strength and joy in our lives.”

BERNARD LAFAYETTE

Nonviolent activist and civil right leader

For more than half a century, civil rights leader Bernard Lafayette has courageously spread his message about the power of nonviolence to overcome injustice—from putting his body on the line as a Freedom Rider to leading voter registration efforts in Alabama to training countless individuals in strategies for non-violent social change.

In the late 1950s, Bernard was a student activist in Nashville, where he and future leaders in the Civil Rights Movement—including John Lewis and Diane Nash—were trained in nonviolent action by James Lawson of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. In the early 1960s, Bernard joined the newly formed Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), serving as director of its Alabama Voter Registration Project and running voter registration clinics in Selma.

AFSC recruited Bernard in the summer of 1963 to bring his work north to Chicago. He conducted nonviolent workshops for groups throughout the city—tenants struggling with deplorable housing conditions, youth facing violence on the West Side, parents trying to integrate a swimming pool on the South Shore, and Quaker meetings.

Bernard was a critical part of AFSC's groundbreaking work to organize tenants—which laid the foundation for Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to bring their own work to Chicago. In 1966, King hired Bernard to oversee the SCLC's nonviolent direct action program in the city. Two years later, Bernard became national coordinator of the Poor People's Campaign—work that he and others continued after King's assassination that year.



Photo: Howard Dyckoff

“The goal of nonviolence is to win people over by showing them love.”

Bernard continued to promote his message of nonviolence in the decades that followed, teaching and holding positions at several universities where he established curricula and programs focused on nonviolence and peace education.

“The goal of nonviolence is to win people over by showing them love,” Bernard once said in a speech. “We don't feel there are people who are evil. There are people who do a lot of evil things. ... They are conditioned by their environment, so therefore they also can be unconditioned in that sense. They can change, and we have to believe that people can change.”

Inspired in service

We look at organizations that AFSC helped to start.

BY THERESA KIRBY

The American Friends Service Committee was founded in 1917 by conscientious objectors seeking to establish alternatives to military service. Volunteers serving with AFSC met critical needs during and after the two world wars, from feeding starving children to assisting in Europe's reconstruction. In 1947, AFSC and the British Friends Service Council were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of Quakers everywhere for their efforts. AFSC's experiment in non-military service was a success.

In the years after World War II, AFSC established a program called Quaker International Voluntary Service, which later became the Voluntary International Service Assignment (VISA). Thousands of young idealists made two-year commitments to serve in communities across the U.S. as well as in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Central America, and Cuba. The program was life changing for participants and helped inspire President Kennedy's Peace Corps, established in 1961.

For more than a century, AFSC has supported a wide range of efforts to address injustices and promote lasting peace. And like the VISA program, many of those efforts have helped launch others—whether by starting a new nonprofit or by sharing a successful model with others. Here are a few more examples.

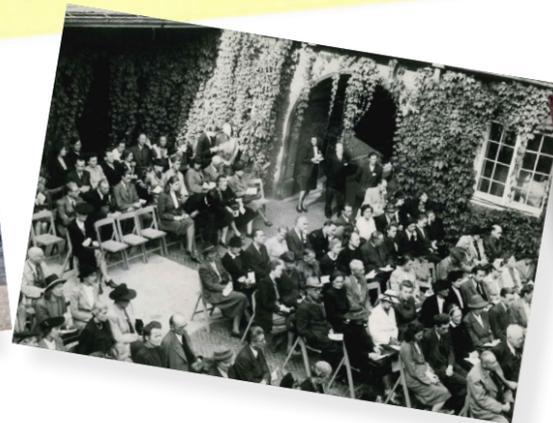
7,000,000
balanced ration for ten
This cost the Army 28% and is being sold
These are being shipped promptly and a plan for the parcels to individuals
making remittances which will release the parcels to individuals, well
in Europe will be in operating shape, so Mr. Nelson hopes, well
before Christmas. They will probably be on sale in all retail
shops and also banks. Mr. Nelson showed real understanding of
the problem, and I believe will make it good.

The question was raised whether parcels could be sent to Germany and there was no opposition except it was realized that because of the postal service in Germany, delivery is uncertain. Mr. Nelson was strongly of the opinion that as soon as possible it should be arranged to send parcels to Germany.

I write you this especially because I know that you and Mr. Thun and others have been deeply concerned about this matter, and I hope you will give this information to them. It is not possible to announce it to the public yet until the machinery is ready for people to make remittances, but it will be announced shortly.

Very sincerely yours,

Clarence E. Pickett
Executive Secretary



Photos: AFSC Archives

Self-help housing

AFSC's first self-help housing program, Penn-Craft, was launched in the coal-mining country of Western Pennsylvania in 1937. Involving communities in building their own affordable housing was powerful—and highly replicable. In the decades that followed, AFSC started several more self-help housing initiatives as well as other kinds of housing work. As the Black Power movement gained prominence in the 1960s, AFSC handed off housing work and funds in support of the newly established Roxbury Action Program in Roxbury, Massachusetts, whose impact can still be seen today. And in the 1960s and '70s, our programs for farmworkers in Florida and California became Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc. and Self-Help Enterprises, which have continued to grow and serve as models for others.

Mittelhof Center

In 1947, AFSC helped found an organization called Nachbarschaftsheim Mittelhof in Berlin, Germany to help people recover from hardships and participate in democracy. Today, the organization has more than 270 employees and volunteers working in 25 locations and has projects ranging from providing daycare to teaching courses, offering family counseling, putting on cultural events, and promoting good citizenship.

Morodok

In 1997, AFSC started a program to help people living in rural communities around Kompong Som Bay, Cambodia, develop sustainable livelihoods. Over time, Cambodian staff established a vision and structure for localizing the work, registering Morodok as a local nongovernmental organization in 2011. The organization continues to work with community groups to assert their rights, manage natural resources, and improve livelihoods.

Hopley

In 2012, AFSC began working with a community of internally displaced people living in Hopley, on the outskirts of Harare, Zimbabwe, supporting them in learning trades and developing sustainable incomes. In 2018, the community built a center for business and livelihoods training with funding from AFSC. The building was completed and officially handed over to the community in November and includes facilities for an internet café, provisions for people with disabilities, meeting and training rooms, and six workspaces to be shared on a rotating basis with up to 600 people. One community member remarked, "This facility is a centre of community life. Within these walls, unity can be created, solutions can be found, and conversations can be held that will change many lives."

Jerusalem Legal Aid

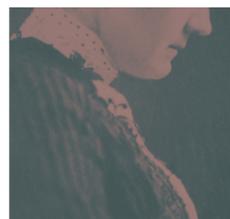
In 1974, AFSC established the Quaker Service Information and Legal Aid Center in Jerusalem to assist families whose loved ones had been detained under Israel's "preventative detention and selective deportation" policies, particularly in cases involving violations of civil rights. In 1997, the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Center became an independent organization, continuing to provide pro bono legal aid and advocacy in defense of human rights.

Guess who?

Name the prominent figure who worked or volunteered with AFSC.

RESEARCH BY

Don Davis,
AFSC Archivist



1 Thirty years after founding Hull House, this pioneer social worker traveled to Germany in 1919 under the auspices of AFSC to assess the needs of the country and its children after World War I.



2 This U.S. senator from Vermont was a University of Chicago student when he joined an AFSC summer work camp that placed volunteers as attendants in mental health facilities and other state institutions.



3 From 1953 to 1954, he worked as a community organizer with AFSC in San Francisco, helping to register Mexican-Americans to vote and speaking out about workers' rights. He would go on to head the United Farm Workers, which AFSC also supported.



4 Before becoming the first African-American woman elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, she worked for AFSC's Interracial Section in the 1920s. She gave numerous speeches to primarily white audiences across the U.S., hoping to "lift the curtain that separates the white people and the colored people, to lift the curtain of misunderstanding that is so dividing us."



5 This Grammy-award winner blues singer volunteered with AFSC in Indiana for a high school community service project in 1967. Project volunteers went door-to-door, surveying residents in lower-income neighborhoods to inform decisions around integrated housing.



6 Author of "The Berlin Stories," he served in 1942 as an assistant director in AFSC's Cooperating College Workshop at Haverford College, which trained foreign scholars and teachers on American teaching methods and helped orient them to life in the U.S.



7 This political activist's relationship with AFSC began in high school. When her Alabama school closed in response to efforts to integrate schools after Brown v. Board of Education, AFSC provided her scholarship money to attend the integrated Elizabeth Irwin School in New York City and found a family to host her.

Answers:

(1) Jane Addams, (2) Bernie Sanders, (3) Cesar Chavez, (4) Crystal Bird Fauset, (5) Bonnie Raitt, (6) Christopher Isherwood, (7) Angela Davis.

Opening doors and hearts

An interview with Morena Mendoza, Lis-Marie Alvarado, and Kathy Hersh



(Left to right) Lis-Marie Alvarado, Morena Mendoza, and Kathy Hersh. Photo: Bryan Vana/AFSC

In the spring of 2018, Morena Mendoza and her 11-year-old son, Antonio, fled El Salvador, fearing gang violence in their native country. They joined other families and many other migrants who were part of a caravan that walked hundreds of miles through Central America to seek asylum in the United States. But when Morena and Antonio arrived in the U.S. on April 27, they were detained—and separated—as part of the Trump administration's inhumane "zero tolerance" policy. Morena was locked up in an immigration detention center in San Diego. Antonio was sent more than 2,700 miles away to a shelter in New York. It would be three months before they were reunited.

As of this writing, Morena and Antonio are living in Miami

as they await the outcomes of their immigration cases. Like many migrants, they want to stay in the U.S.—and find the safety and peace that we all deserve.

They are not alone in their struggle. They are being accompanied by AFSC, which provides them with legal support; Miami Friends Meeting, which hosts them in a house on their property; and other community members who believe that all migrants should be welcomed with compassion.

In this interview, Morena shares her story. She was joined by AFSC community organizer Lis-Marie Alvarado and Kathy Hersh, clerk of Miami Friends Meeting.

Morena, why did you leave El Salvador for the U.S.?

Morena: I come from a very rural poor area of El Salvador. It's very difficult to live there with children because of gang violence. That's what caused us to leave. We were directly impacted.

Why did you join the caravan to get to the U.S.?

Morena: We didn't have funds to hire a coyote to guide us, and the caravan provided a safer environment than traveling alone. It was a community. People needed to abide by certain rules – to prevent violence against women, to respect the LGBTQ people in the caravan, particularly trans women.

What was the journey like?

Morena: It took us a month and five days. The walking was hard, particularly for Antonio. He was tired all the time and sad. We had to cross through difficult terrain, sometimes through water.

We relied on donations of food, water, and clothing when we passed through different cities. The children took priority when it came to food.

Although it was hard, there was a sense of solidarity among us. Sometimes we'd dance, sometimes we'd protest.

What happened when you reached the U.S.-Mexico border?

Morena: When we arrived, I turned myself in at the entry point at San Ysidro. Border Patrol agents put us in a facility we call "hieleras" because it's cold like a freezer. Then an official came and took Antonio away, and they put me in detention.

They handcuffed me and told me they were going to charge me as a criminal because crossing into the U.S. was illegal. They told me my child was going to be sent somewhere else. I started crying. I couldn't even say bye to him or giving him a kiss.

Continued on page 18

What was your experience in the detention center?

Morena: For two months, I had no idea where my child was. I kept asking the officials in the detention center. I thought they could have killed him. I was also scared because I heard rumors about children being given to other people for adoption.

I cried all the time. I was forcibly medicated with pills that made me fall asleep, and I didn't eat.

They also made us work. We were supposed to get paid two quarters a day, but sometimes we didn't get paid. They told me if I didn't work, they were going to give me a bad mark and not allow me to get [my immigration] papers. I was hopeless. I only wanted to die at that point.

When did you find out where Antonio was?

Morena: I was lucky. Different organizations had access to the detention center. One of them gave me a lawyer who helped me through the hearings. The lawyer was able to locate my child. I was so relieved and happy to know where he was and that he was relatively OK.

I talked to him twice by phone during the three months I was in detention.

Lis-Marie, how did you help Morena get out of the detention center?

Lis-Marie: I had learned from [immigrant rights organization] Mijente that I could sponsor someone from the caravan. When she was allowed out on bond, I got the money to bail her out. Lucio Perez-Reynoso, program coordinator in our AFSC office in Miami, agreed to help with her legal case.

I paid for a plane ticket to get her from San Diego to Miami. When I was waiting for her at Miami Airport, I had a sign with her name on it, but I knew it was her as soon as I saw her. It was shocking to see how destroyed she looked. She was wearing an ankle monitor and carrying a little trash bag.

How were you able to reunite Morena with Antonio?

Lis-Marie: It was complicated. It took about a month after Morena arrived in Miami. Antonio had been put in a foster home, and the agency was impossible to get in touch with and hostile towards me and Morena. I kept calling, sending emails. As a last resort, I told them I was going to pick him up myself and bring the media with me. Someone from the center finally brought him here to Miami.

Kathy, why did Miami Friends Meeting decide to host Morena and Antonio?

Kathy: Our meeting has always had a consciousness about refugee and immigrant rights. When AFSC started the campaign Sanctuary Everywhere, we really felt we needed to give accompaniment to help.

We already had a room prepared in a house across the street from the meeting house. And we were all united behind the idea of having a room in case anyone needed it—no questions asked. Two churches nearby are also providing support.

What does that accompaniment look like?

Kathy: People at the meeting go above and beyond to help Morena and Antonio. In addition to accommodations, we arranged for them to get medical care, dental care, and therapy. Members drive them to those appointments and provide support for immigration appointments.

Antonio had only finished the fourth grade. We helped him enroll in a school equipped to work with students who come in older and don't speak English, and he's also in an afterschool program and being tutored. One member of our meeting has a son who is fluent in Spanish, and he and Antonio have become buddies.

Accompaniment is also being with them socially, so they have friends and support. When Morena celebrated her 31st birthday, we had a party at a Salvadoran

restaurant, and dozens of people were there. I have no doubt that she feels loved.

Morena, what do you want people to know about the experiences you've had?

Morena: I am immensely grateful for the support I have received, particularly from people like Lis-Marie and Mariana Martinez from AFSC, Kathy, Jane Westberg from Friends Sanctuary Committee, and so many others. I thank God for putting these people in my way.

I want President Trump and other elected officials to open their hearts, welcome immigrants, and give people a chance to have a new life. Separating families is wrong, and migrants shouldn't be attacked or discriminated against.

For the public, please continue supporting immigrants. That has made a huge difference for me.

What's next for Morena and Antonio's efforts to stay in the U.S.?

Lis-Marie: Morena's next court hearing is yet to be determined. It's been a collective effort to provide them with legal, emotional, and other forms of support so they can be independent and as happy as they deserve.

Trump talks about a crisis at our border, but people like Morena and Antonio are not the crisis. The crisis is our government failing to respond to people in need.

It's been wonderful for AFSC to accompany them with Miami Friends Meeting—and it's a representation of what's happening around the country. People are opening the doors of their houses and hearts to welcome people like Morena and Antonio. Theirs is a powerful story that captures the difficulty of navigating our asylum system and the inhumanity of the current administration, while reminding us all what love and solidarity can do. ■



SNAPSHOT

A look at AFSC around the world

AFSC's Love Knows No Borders action in San Diego in December. Photo: Naaz Modan/CAIR



- Left to right, top to bottom:
1. Africa leadership team meeting; Burundi
 2. AFSC migrant caravan delegation; Mexico City, Mexico
 3. AFSC's Peace by Piece program; New Orleans, Louisiana
 4. AFSC's South Region retreat
 5. Agricultural work; North Korea
 6. We Are Not at Risk campaign; Latin America and Caribbean region
 7. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Des Moines, Iowa
 8. 10th anniversary celebration of Washington D.C. as a human rights city
 9. Love Knows No Borders solidarity walk; Philadelphia
 10. Shelters for migrant caravan members; Mexico
 11. Bystander intervention training; Frederick, Maryland
 12. TPS caravan in Little Haiti; Miami, Florida

Ronna Bolante/AFSC, Nathaniel Doubleday/AFSC, Nathaniel Doubleday/AFSC, Bryan Vana/AFSC, AFSC/Asia AFSC/Latin America and Caribbean, Jon Krieg/AFSC, Bryan Vana/AFSC, Don Davis/AFSC, Jacob Flowers/AFSC, Bryan Vana/AFSC, TGimmy Photography



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AFSC's Love Knows No
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Photo: Naaz Modan/CAIR



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