



July-Sept. 2010

Atlanta SERO office has a new home!

On July 10th the Atlanta SERO staff moved into their new offices.

Updated contact information :

American Friends Service Committee SouthEast Regional Office

**60 Walton Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303**

**404-586-0460 phone
404-586-0465 fax**

Mailing Address:

**P.O. Box 2747
Atlanta, GA 30303**

Please, come out and help us celebrate at our Open House Party on Friday, October 1st. From 6-8pm.

AFSC - Georgia Peace Building Program

"Be the Change" Youth Convergence By Tim Franzen

The 2010 "Be the Change" youth convergence was a big success. We had high school and college students and organizers from Milledgeville, Athens, Henry County, LaGrange, Atlanta, Aiken, Birmingham, Americus, and Statesboro. There were facilitators from all over the country that provided dynamic interactive education sessions and plenty of opportunities for youth to facilitate their own discussions about the problems that face Georgia. We had about a dozen outside facilitators and performers come in and provide us with information and exercises to help us better understand the links between various struggles to overcome injustices in Georgia.

It was time to pick an issue that we could build a statewide campaign strategy around, which was pretty difficult. Lots of issues were brought up during our brainstorming session. It was clear that folks wanted to confront militarization of our culture and the mind blowing human and economic cost of war. The discussion about racial inequities and spiritually bankrupt spending priorities lead the group to agree on an issue that directly affects young Georgians, Education. This year Georgia public schools are facing the most dramatic budget cuts in history.

Teachers and school workers are facing lay-offs, schools are being shut down, and college students are facing a 36% tuition increase. When our government cries for money to pay for war it rains cash. It's time that we view the war budget for what it is, a

robbery from our communities, our education system, and our future.

We spent Sunday developing a campaign strategy and next steps. We have five assertions that ground and shape this year's campaign.

introduce legislation that's in the spirit our 5 points.

Art Committee. This committee will be bringing the artistic energy to our campaign, developing street art, posters, stencils, maybe even public murals!



EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT.

NO MORE FEE HIKES, TUITION HIKES, OR BUDGET CUTS. Students are not ATMs. We didn't cause this crisis, we shouldn't have to pay for it.

GEORGIA'S BUDGET NEEDS TO BE RE-ASSESSED. We don't want to fix this problem at the cost of other important programs of social uplift that are also being underfunded. We need to explore new solutions.

NO MORE FURLOUGHS OR LAYOFFS. We need our teachers and school workers!

TAKE LOCAL ACTION FOR BETTER EDUCATION.

We have four committees that anyone is welcomed to join.

Lobbying Committee. This committee will help develop legislation campaign and work with Georgia lawmakers to

Community Action Committee. This committee will be planning street actions and working with local elementary schools to develop service projects.

Media Committee. This committee will take on the important task of developing our messaging and exploring ways that we can tell our stories to our communities.

Thanks to: Koinonia Farm
www.koinoniapartners.org

Art as an Agent for Change.
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Art-as-an-Agent-for-Change/56501571389>

Cafe Campesino
www.cafecampesino.com

The Atlanta Friends Meeting House
www.quaker.org/atlanta/

The Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition! Atlanta Chapter

Georgia Peace Building Project



Atlanta SERO Office
www.afsc.org

Betti Knott, Regional Director

Alice Lovelace, Associate Regional Director

Tim Franzen, Peace Education Project Director

Miami Area Office

Lucio Perez-Reynoso, Miami Area Program Coordinator

Marie Jean, Outreach Paralegal

Herman Martinez, Community Social Advocate

Paul Andre Mondesir, Haitian Community Social Advocate

Atlanta Responds to a visit from the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC)

The Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) is a small anti-Semitic, homophobic, anti-American group that regularly schedules protests at high schools, Funerals and synagogues across the country. Based in Topeka Kansas, The WBC was founded by Fred Phelps in 1955; WBC members believe that they are adhering to the teachings of the bible by preaching hate and damnation to a doomed country. Phelps, along with his children and dozens of grand children make up the majority of the congregation's members.

Atlanta students targeted by The WBC and citizens' at large used the WBC visit as an oppor-



tunity to spread a message of love not hate to encourage an atmosphere of tolerance and respect, because our diversity and unity makes us stronger as a city. Counter demonstrations were held at some of the WBC protest spots, but the largest effort

High School to show their support for tolerance, love, and acceptance of all people regardless of sexual or religious orientation, as well as a fundraiser for local charitable organizations communities.

to raise awareness was a student organized counter demonstration organized by Grady

News from Miami Area Office

Does the Haitian Diaspora have the correct and enough information after the earthquake?

From May 31st to June 5th, 2010, Miami office received the visit of Jorge Lafitte, Regional Director AFSC Latin America and Caribbean International Division.

The Haitian community was very shocked and concerned for their relatives, families, friends and the country following the January earthquake. All their news came from TV and local radio.

However, the recent visit of Jorge revealed a significant level of updated information in the Diaspora about the real impact of this tragedy.

My three years of excellent relationships with all the sectors of the Haitian community in Florida permitted us to build an extensive agenda for Jorge's visit.

We met with: —The Mayor of North Miami. —A successful

Politician attorney who is running for the US Congress. —The best national reference in the Haitian culture. —A very representative group of Haitian students. —The Haitian American Women Organization. —A Former Haitian Premier Minister. —One of the strongest Haitian activist in Florida. —The Miami Haitian American Grassroots Coalition. —The most famous Haitian group of activists in the Diaspora (VEYE YO). —One of the best Haitian attorney in immigration issues. —The most prestigious Haitian Center of services for the Haitian community.

And, we finished this wonderful marathon with an immigration drive and a community meeting in Immokalee for more than 60 people.

Participants had a lot of questions about TPS and their specific cases. They were also able

to learn, with details and precision, the truth about the city of Port-au-Prince after the earthquake.

We made all these important and diversified contacts in four days.

Our observation, after visiting with these diverse and relevant sectors of the Floridian members of the Haitian Diaspora, is they don't have correct and updated information .

Now, after this experience, our goal is to build an efficient network with sectors and specific independent individuals and coordinate the circulation of the right information concerning Haiti.

We will put more energy into this urgent need after we complete the crucial work around the TPS issue. This is, also, a crucial challenge.

Paul-Andre Mondesir

New Orleans Project Area Office

Malcolm Suber, Project Director

Ahmané Glover, Community Activist

Office of the Carolinas

Ann Lennon, Area Coordinator

Lori Fernald Khamala, NC Immigrant Rights Program

New Orleans Peace Recycled Art Program By Ahmané Glover

The New Orleans Peace Recycled Art Program The power of peace comes alive through artistic expression in two summer programs in the 9th Ward neighborhood in New Orleans.

The Peace Recycled Arts Program is for youth ages 6-17 and about 180 students from the Total Community Action Summer Program and the Desire Street Ministries Summer Program get to participate.

The Program encourages students to work as a collective to discover the power of peace through activities like Peace Building Hands and the Peace Relief Foil Sculpture.

Through a series of twelve projects over the course of 6 weeks, young people are able to mold tin cans, scraps of cardboard, plastic bottles, and other recycled materials into a creative message of peace for all to see.

The Peace Recycled Art Program was created as a homage to the recent Gulf Coast Oil Spill, local environmental issues and peace building efforts.

The program embodies the belief that everything in a community is connected, so we must empower our youth to artistically learn and reflect on peace concepts while also learning the value of recycling materials to help our environment.

* The Peace Building Hands activity allows students



to create cardboard images of their hands being used as peace building tools.

* The Peace Relief Foil Sculpture allows students to use foil and house hold objects to create a sculpture that demonstrates the effects of violence in their communities.

The young people who participate will be a step closer to a peaceful world with the creation of their final project, "Step-Out Against Violence Painted

Shoes." Each student will be given a pair of recycled shoes from Goodwill to use as a canvass to paint a walking billboard for peace. This project will carry the message that "Our feet carry us everywhere we go, so let's create shoes that help us step towards peaceful solutions."

Donations for the Peace Recycled Art Project poured in from numerous local businesses and non-profits. Some of them are: The Green Project donated 30 cans of recycled paint, tile and wood slabs, and fabric. Allied Recycling and O.C. Hailey Recycling donated plastic bottles, cans, cardboard and reusable household items.

Ahmané Glover
Community Activist
504-565-3596
aglover@afsc.org



Miami News

The Miami AFSC office continues to offer TPS Clinics to clear up questions regarding the process. The events are promoted through a network of pastors, fourteen radio interviews, six radio shows, and over 1,200 flyers distributed all throughout Fort Myers. Miami staff involved in these clinics are Paul Mondesir, Lucio Perez-Reynoso, and Marie Jean. Paul was responsible for the logistics and promotion of the clinics, while Lucio and Marie provided most of the legal services

Recently, Alejandro Mayorkas, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, announced a new deadline of January 18, 2011. The new deadline was announced at a town hall meeting with community leaders on the six-month anniversary of the devastating earthquake.

"Mayorkas said an estimated 70,000 and 100,000 Haitians are expected to apply. So far, 55,000 have applied, and about 35,000 have been approved."



Atlanta SERO Office
60 Walton St., NW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-586-0460
Fax: 404-586-0465

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 2747
Atlanta, GA 30303

July 13: Dinner and Discussion at WonderRoot, 7:30pm

School Career Alternative Project (SCAP) weekly potluck/planning meetings **each Wed at 6:30pm, Atlanta AFSC office.** All are welcomed.

Miami, Florida Office
111 N.E. 1st Street 3rd Floor
Miami, Florida 33132
305.600.5441

Weekly Creole Radio Program hosted by Paul Mondesir . July 27 /August 3,10,17,24,31. Tete Ensemble Radio Station, 1580 AM, www.radioteteensemble.net

July 8 : TPS and Immigration clinic in Homestead hosted by Marie

July 11 : Presentation about AFSC work in the Haitian Community after the earthquake at the Friends Meeting House of Fort Myers.

July 7,14,21,28 : Meeting with a group of Haitian students to prevent violence and reduce stress PTS after consequences of earthquake in Haiti.

July 24 : Conflict resolution in Fort Myers (4th and last meeting)

August 7 : Two Mega Community Conference about Haitian Solidarity in Port Charlotte, Fl.

Office of the Carolinas
6306 W. Market St.
Greensboro, NC. 27409
Phone: 336-854-0633

Saturday, July 10, 9:30am-12:30pm

Understanding Immigration Policy and Your Rights – a FREE workshop and community lunch. Spanish and Arabic language interpretation available. Allen Jay Recreation Center – 1073 E. Springfield Road, High Point, NC. Sponsored by the Institute for the Study of the Americas – Latino Migration Project, Center for Global Initiatives, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For more information, contact Sandra Hinderliter, 919-260-1115, sandra.hinderliter@gmail.com.

July 14-16th NC Conservative Yearly Meeting at Guilford College

Thursday July 15th Immigrant Solidarity Committee meeting in Charlotte NC, Friends Meetinghouse, 570 Rocky River Rd. West, Charlotte, 28213, 6pm potluck, 6:30pm meeting. Call AFSC for more info, 336-854-0633.

Wednesday, July 21st FHRP Program Committee luncheon in High Point, NC, Springfield Friends Mtg. 10:30 am

Monday, July 26th Triad Educators for Social Awareness Interest meeting. Greensboro, NC. 7pm.

Monday, July 26th Immigrant Solidarity Committee meeting in Durham NC, Durham Friends Meetinghouse, 404 Alexander Ave. Durham 27705, 6:30pm.

Thursday, August 19 Immigrant Solidarity Committee meeting in Charlotte NC, Friends Meetinghouse, 570 Rocky River Rd. West, Charlotte, 28213, 6pm potluck, 6:30pm meeting. Call AFSC for more info, 336-854-0633.

Monday, August 23 Immigrant Solidarity Committee meeting in Durham NC, Durham Friends Meetinghouse, 404 Alexander Ave. Durham 27705, 6:30pm

AFSC's Distribution Center in High Point is now open every Wed.

Friends Humanitarian Response Project Distribution Center
606 E. Springfield Rd.
High Point, NC 27263
(336) 885-6921

New Orleans Project Area Office
1137 Baronne Street
New Orleans, LA 70112
504.565.3596

Second Saturday of Each Month – 11am – 3 pm. Farmers' Market will be held at Hunters Field Corner of St. Bernard

Saturday Sept. 18—Peace is Power—Giant Puppet Parade. (in celebration of the International Day of Peace). **2-5pm.** Start and End point: Hunters Field St. Bernard & N. Claiborne Avenue and N. Claiborne.

What are we doing? By Juan Miranda, AFSC Intern

The Area Office of the Carolinas, located in Greensboro, coordinates three main programs: the Carolinas Peace and Economic Justice Program, the NC Immigrant Rights Program, and the Friends Humanitarian Response Program (in High Point, NC). This summer, six interns, are working tirelessly on several projects.



Interns lobbying for the rights of undocumented

Jessica Langley, our year-long VISTA volunteer, has taken on the task of contacting schools in the area to promote peace tables. The idea behind these peace tables is centered on violence-free conflict resolution. She is also researching the NC anti-bullying legislation passed last year. This is being done to the end of gathering the information to make it available on the AFSC website as a resource for people.

Stephen Furr has also been busy creating a Letters to the Editor Project. He is currently working on the details of the program designed to serve as a platform for people

to promote positive views on immigration in various newspapers around the state.

Ronal Castellanos will be doing outreach to farm labor camps to conduct a survey to see if our farm workers kits meet the needs of the workers and how to improve them. He has also been working on promoting Know Your Rights workshops to the undocumented immigrant community.

Megan Fair is assisting the Chicago Office in planning the national travelling mural exhibit honoring the civilian casualties of the Afghan war that will be coming to Greensboro. She is working along with Jessica to establish a network for local educators who have an interest in the issues of peace and social justice. The name for this network is Triad Educator for Social Awareness (TESA) and a monthly e-newsletter is being compiled to be sent out to all the educators that have so far been contacted.

Michelle Grisaffi organized the Movies Without Borders Gala, showcasing short films created in the movie-making class for immigrants and refugees led by our partner organization Faith Action International House. Michelle is also currently working with the Immigrant Solidarity Committees in Charlotte and Durham. The Durham group recently supported a city council resolution banning city travel to Arizona because of the racial profiling law there. The Charlotte group recently held a training on how to identify and respond to extreme anti-immigrant groups in the mainstream media.

Juan Miranda is working with a local coalition to organize and inform people of a congressional assembly that will take place on August 15th. The goal of the assembly is to press for a humane immigration reform. Juan will also be working on a new Digital Story-telling project.

These are just a few of the many projects that the Area Office of the Carolinas is working on this summer.

[Ann Lennon, Area Coordinator](mailto:carolinas@afsc.org)
carolinas@afsc.org



Djenie and Jessica at the Movies Without Borders Premier Gala.



Megan and Jessica explain the Friends Humanitarian Response program to a group of middle school students

Students pack survivor kits for local people who are homeless.



Detroit June 22-26, 2010

**Erica Schoon, Intern
American Friends Service Committee,
Atlanta, GA**

We were at workshops—AFSC's youth organizing against military recruitment, video messages from the Zapatistas about "The Other Campaign," the legalization of marijuana, justice and water issues, justice and sports, transformation theory, socialism, anarchism, etc. Some of us also attended opening and closing ceremonies and the evening plenary, with panel members from all over the US and even international speakers.

We were at concerts, parties, and spoken word events by the river and at venues around the city. We explored the city and learned about the tough issues Detroit is facing. Some of us even saw a HUGE art installation called the Heidelberg Project taking up a whole block of houses, many of which are run

Most of all, we were meeting people from all over the world doing important work, having discussions and debates, and getting a sense of the spirit of the people working for change in the US! Many of us on the Atlanta caravan did not know each other before this trip, but we hope to continue to work together in the future and to bring more Georgians on board with us.



**Ann Lennon
Area Coordinator Carolinas**

Students, activists, feminists, immigrants, preachers, and community organizers all convened in Detroit for the US Social Forum. The festivities began with a high-spirited march with people from all over the country who held one common thread: the desire for change within our respective communities. Seeming to lead the beat of the march, Cakalak Thunder (from Greensboro, North Carolina) got everyone to merge in sync. It was an amazing couple of days with interesting workshops about organizing around community issues, also, how to transform our movements. It was amazing to see the similarity of responses to local issues in other communities and new ideas that were generated by talking with each other. It was very inspirational to see and hear from youth as they lead workshops. The USSF is proving to be an opportunity to network with people in the social justice movement throughout the country as we collaboratively work to build stronger, healthier communities.



**American Friends
Service Committee**

Place
Stamp
Here



EVERY YEAR, bequests from AFSC supporters like you foster work close to home and around the world. We value all the bequests—large and small—that ensure the stability of our on-going witness for peace, justice, and human dignity.

By naming AFSC in your will or trust or as a beneficiary of your retirement account, you can reduce your family's taxes and continue your commitment to Quaker service. Best of all, it's quite easy!

To learn more about including AFSC in your estate plan, call our Gift Planning Office in Philadelphia toll free at 1-888-588-2372, ext. 3, or visit our website at:
www.afsc.org/giftplanning

