

# 2022 Highlights of Courage and Compassion

Your Support in Action



For years, AFSC staff have walked alongside people who have lost family members to Border Patrol violence. (Pedro Rios / AFSC)

## Protecting the Rights of Migrants

Border Patrol has a long history of human rights violations against immigrants. Recently, we helped expose secret units covering up abuse by agents. These shadow units had no congressional authority and were illegally interfering with cases.

The San Diego unit falsified reports and destroyed evidence—preventing families from receiving justice after the deportation, injury, or even death of loved ones.

With our partners in the Southern Border Communities Coalition, we contacted members of Congress and called for an investigation. These efforts led the Secretary of Homeland Security to announce the closure of the units.

This is amazing progress, but reforming an abusive system is not enough. Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement continue to separate children from parents, and harm and neglect people in their custody.

Your support amplifies our urgent call to cut funding to these agencies and embrace humane immigration policies that respect the rights and dignity of all people.

## Helping People Achieve Stable Housing

Lifelong Atlanta residents have been facing displacement and homelessness for years, as gentrification and development forced people out of their homes. The outbreak of the pandemic and inflation have only increased the number of people in dire circumstances.

Our Atlanta Economic Justice Program helps people learn their rights and organize to demand fair treatment from landlords and affordable housing managers.

In 2018, we were contacted by residents of Forest Cove, one of Atlanta's largest affordable housing complexes. Families faced collapsing ceilings, rodent infestations, and leaks. Some tenants experienced health issues, while awaiting repairs and cleanups that never came. Like many people across the country, they felt they had no way to hold their landlords accountable.

AFSC worked with residents to establish a tenants association. In early 2022, the association delivered a demand letter to the owner asking for rent cancellation, the expansion of the maintenance team, and improved security.



AFSC Atlanta provides organizing training and tools to tenants calling for fair treatment. (AFSC Atlanta)

These efforts led to rent cancellation for all tenants! And the urgently needed renovations are now scheduled.

AFSC and partners continue to operate a housing hotline for people facing emergencies, and have released a manual to help more people understand their rights and options. Your support helps us make sure more people can live a life of safety and dignity with access to safe and stable housing.

## Holding Corporations Accountable

In 2020, AFSC and partners launched the “No Dough for the Occupation” campaign, calling on General Mills to stop manufacturing Pillsbury products on stolen Palestinian land.

Faith groups and community organizations from across the country joined our efforts—sending letters to General Mills, spreading the word to friends and family, and even suiting up as the Pillsbury Doughboy for creative public demonstrations.

In June 2022, General Mills announced that it had divested its Israeli business altogether, selling its stake in its Israeli subsidiary and ending its sourcing of Pillsbury products from the factory in an illegal settlement. **This victory shows that when we come together and create public pressure—we can create change!**

This campaign is just part of our work for a just peace in Palestine. In August we released “Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire”—an anthology of writings from Palestinians imagining a future of peace, liberation, and return. With your help, we will continue to advocate for an end to the occupation and call for more individuals and companies to join us.



AFSC staff edited “Light in Gaza,” out in bookstores now. (Nathaniel Doubleday / AFSC)

## Healing the Wounds of War

AFSC believes that to establish peace, we must support healing and rebuilding after war. That is why we worked with partners to establish Building Bridges in Burundi. Through trauma healing, small business ventures, and social cohesion and reconciliation efforts, communities regained stability.

When the project concluded in 2021, the results were powerful. More than 65,025 Burundians had participated in trainings on conflict prevention and resolution, with many receiving support from mental health professionals. Over 18,000 youth and women took part in savings and loan groups. The majority had growth in their businesses and created more jobs, despite the pandemic. Most profoundly, community councils saw major success—helping resolve longstanding disputes and diverting thousands of cases from the legal system.

With more people feeling relief from trauma, economic stability, and restored trust in their neighbors, in 2022 we turned our attention to supporting the country’s efforts to move forward with lasting peace through a truth and reconciliation process.

With your support, we will continue our work to heal the wounds of war on individuals and communities.



Income-generating initiatives have been part of Burundians’ efforts to regain stability and restore peace after conflict. (AFSC Burundi)

**Your steady support helps AFSC’s global community continue all of this important work and more. Thank you!**