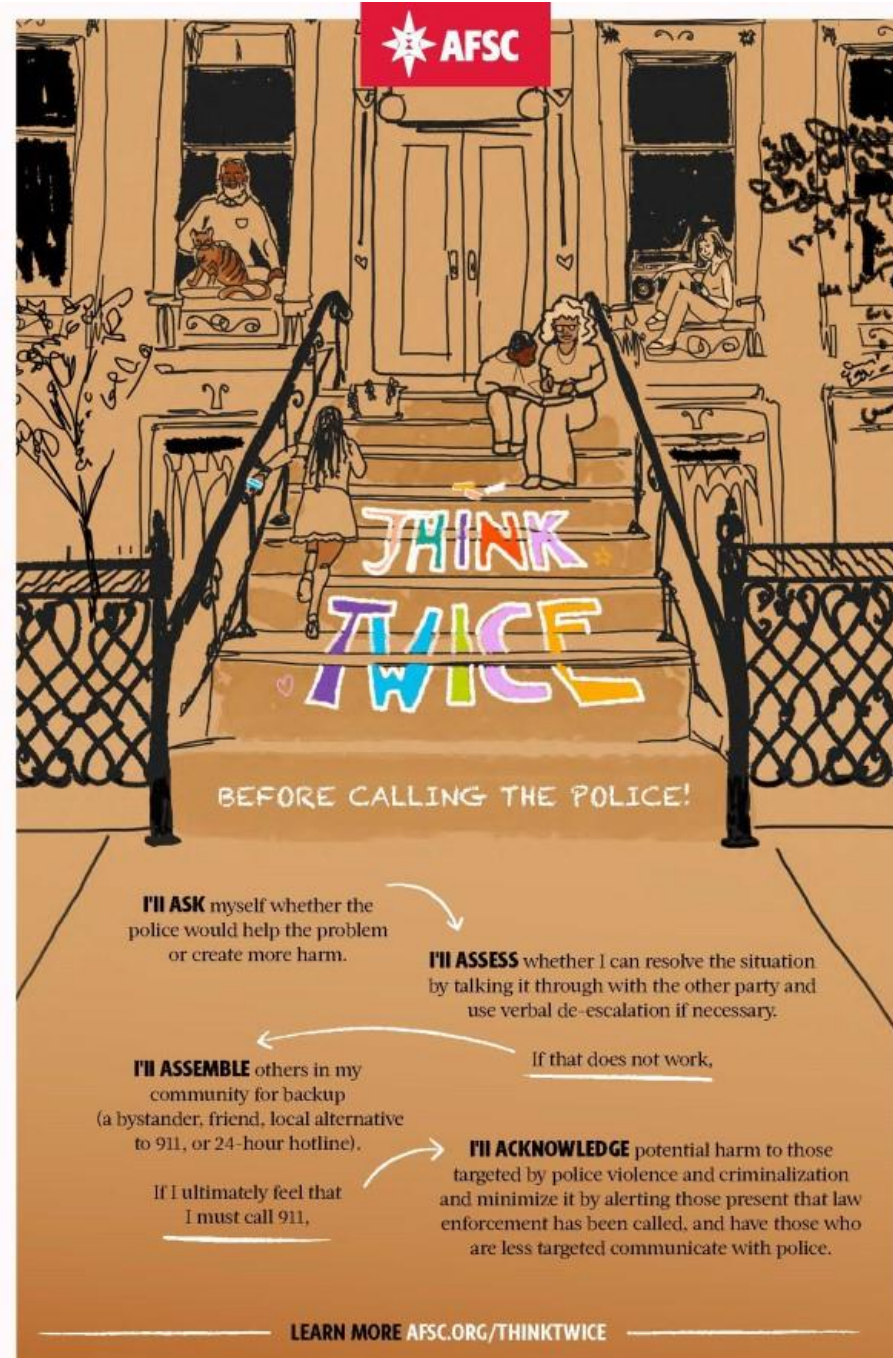


# AFSC Midwest Digest – April 2023

Stories of work from around the region



[Download this “Think Twice” poster](#)

## “Think Twice Before Calling the Police” webinar series to begin in May

Many people have an understanding that police violence targets certain communities. Many want to avoid calling the police but don't know what to do in case of an emergency. Join us in a four-part series that will provide you with concrete skills and strategies to avoid calling law enforcement unless absolutely necessary. [Register today](#) for Thursdays in May at 7 pm CT. And if you haven't already, [take our pledge](#) to Think Twice Before Calling the Police.

## **Graduation marks new phase in St. Louis youth organizing for abolition**

From [Facebook](#): In late March, members of AFSC's Youth Advocates for Healing and Liberation (YAHL) participated in a graduation session at Saint Louis University. The event marked the beginning of a new phase in youth organizing and reviewing the tenets of abolition. Members watched [Derecka Purnell's segment with Trevor Noah](#) around her new book *Becoming Abolitionists*, discussed what they learned, and tackled challenges they had felt. Additionally, members gave feedback on their hopes for the Youth Council moving forward. Shout out to YAHL members Grace, Naim, and Yosiyah for their brilliant insights.

## **Ending juvenile life without parole, pushing for Second Look legislation**

In this [video](#) from Safe and Just Michigan, the late AFSC Michigan alum Danny Jones shares his story in support of the work to end juvenile life without parole sentencing in Michigan. In this [article](#), Pete Martel of AFSC-MI explains how Second Look legislation would provide a goal to people serving long sentences and give them a reason to participate in educational and vocational programs. "It's a reason to hold on to hope," Pete says. AFSC is joining with partners at an April 19 [rally and press conference](#) in Lansing for the introduction of Second Look legislation. Register [here](#).

## **Twin Cities program works to reduce suspensions and expulsions**

According to Brynne Crockett, Twin Cities Healing Justice Program Director, AFSC is shifting its work to focus on reducing suspensions and expulsions in schools. AFSC staff have also been deepening relationships with local Friends. In their most recent State of Society report, Twin Cities Friends Meeting writes: "TCFM supports AFSC and has two representatives, one on the Midwest Executive Committee and the other on an advisory board..." Follow AFSC's [Instagram account](#) for updates.

## **Storytelling and survival from Gaza**

In this [interview](#), hear from Refaat Alareer, one of 11 Palestinian writers who contributed to AFSC's anthology *Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire*. Refaat talks about how Israeli bombings and violence in Gaza have affected his family—and why he shares these stories with the world. "Telling stories is a human act—it's an act of life, of insisting on living," he says. "But it's also a political act." Click [here](#) for more recommended readings and media on Gaza.

## **Come work for the AFSC Midwest Region!**

May 2 is the deadline for applications for our [Regional Finance and Office Associate](#). You have until May 5 to apply to become our next [Associate Regional Director](#). Stay tuned for more job openings, including Chicago Peacebuilding Coordinator. Today is Debbie Southorn's last day in that position. We thank her for years of inspired, creative service and wish her the very best.

## Short takes

Check out the latest [update](#) from AFSC alums with Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice and these [photos](#) from a [People's Prayer Breakfast](#) in Des Moines.... AFSC alum Brant Rosen shares his [thoughts](#) about Passover and liberation for Palestinians....[Speak out](#) to expand free school meals to more children....View AFSC's recent webinar on [Values-Based Financial Planning](#)....Join us at noon CT on Tuesday, April 18 for [Defining a Faithful Farm Bill to Protect our Climate](#).

## Grateful for your support

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