



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC West Region News – July 2023

Stories of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee’s West Region monthly newsletter. Please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.

WE STOPPED THE CONTRACT!

We call on Mayor-Elect Johnston to:

- **withdraw the RFP,**
- **initiate a community driven process and**
- **prioritize a new, vibrant system of welcome.**



Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

In a major win, AFSC and partners stop \$40M migrant shelter contract

Thanks to a true team effort between AFSC Colorado, AFSC Economic Activism, and partners on the ground, Denver city leaders have put a halt to a \$40 million contract with the private security company Gardaworld to house 1000 migrants. “The real question is, does Denver want to be the guinea pig for sheltering of vulnerable people with a corporation that has no experience doing that, and only experience in policing and military-style operations?” Jennifer Piper of AFSC asked the [Denver Post](#). “My answer is no,” Piper said.



Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

ArteVism closing ceremony set for July 22

ArteVism Fellow Rodolfo Robles Cruz writes that the [Pan Valley Institute](#) will be holding a closing ceremony for the ArteVism program on Saturday, July 22. The event will feature an interactive mural, a beading session, and a folklórico performance as we gather to reflect on the culmination of our work. Learn more about the event [here](#).

MULTIPLE PROJECTILES ARE INHERENTLY INDISCRIMINATE.

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Community questions safety of scattershot munitions

Thanks to California Healing Justice organizing, Alameda County community members recently [called on county leadership](#) to oppose the Sheriff's plan to stockpile "less lethal" munitions. Both local community members and international experts also called on the county to issue a ban on using the dangerous, indiscriminate "scatter shot" munitions. ([Scattershots](#) are "less lethal" munitions that issue a spray of munitions, making them impossible to aim.) While no decision in either direction was reached, the county will likely continue its deliberations over the coming months.



People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Farm to School project completes successful eight-year run

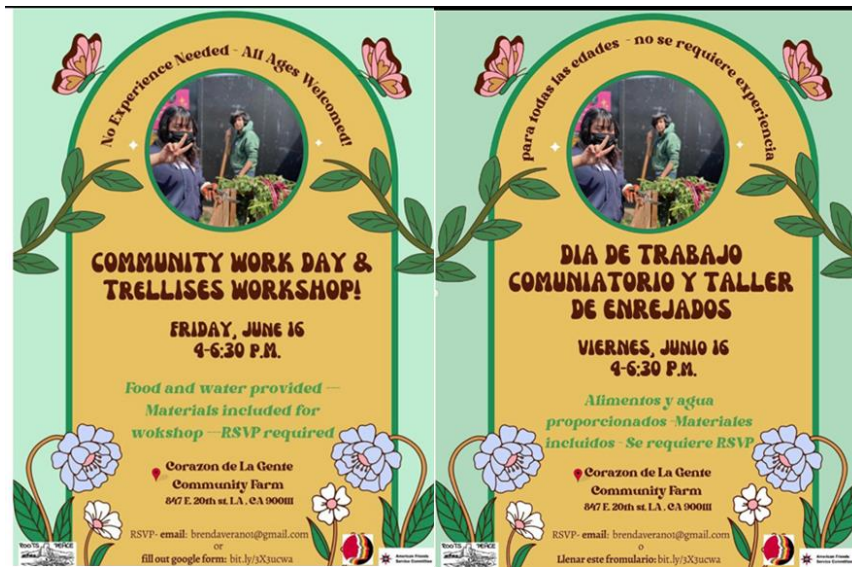
After wrapping up the 2022-23 school year in June, the AFSC New Mexico's Farm to School project is transitioning. Since 2015, AFSC NM has worked with the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, multiple school districts, and charter schools to direct state money to schools to purchase locally grown food. Recently a slate of new food and hunger legislation was passed in New Mexico with far more robust financial and administrative support available to both schools and farmers. Read [more](#) from Patrick Jaramillo of AFSC.



Project Voice Immigrant Rights Program, Oregon-Washington

Successful fundraising concert boosts work for immigrant rights

Pedro Sosa reports that AFSC Oregon Project Voice hosted our online annual fundraiser event on June 14 to recognize the work and impact with our community partners. Music was provided by Los Jornaleros del Norte, a group of day laborers based in Los Angeles, playing *cumbias* and *corridos* about the plight of workers. In this [video](#), community partners highlight our work and share their experiences as participants of AFSC's popular education and leadership development.



Roots For Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Trellises workshop builds community

Roots For Peace alumni joined community members for a June afternoon workday and trellises workshop at Corazon de la Gente Community Farm. As described on [Instagram](#), trellises are very helpful for your garden or plants. They serve as a support for plants like tomatoes (which are in season) by weaving their vines through and helping plants not become invasive.



US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

San Diego community members in solidarity with Floridians

From [Facebook](#): AFSC's US-Mexico Border Program joined a recent Todos Somos Florida's press event announcing their caravan to Tallahassee, Florida, where people supported migrant workers and their families. The group denounced Gov. DeSantis' SB1718 law and other anti-migrant initiatives. We expressed our solidarity with those on the caravan and with the people of Florida organizing against the measures that target working migrant families.



67 Sueños, Oakland

New mural reflects youth interest in healing

In week two of their latest mural process, 67 Sueños youth chose a theme and brainstormed images that represent their visions. They presented their ideas to the amazing Artist @amendtdk, who we have the honor to continue working with this year! We are so excited to see the youth's vision come to life! It's all a beautiful process. Check out [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for videos.



Short takes

Apply today for AFSC's limited-seat, [Restorative Justice co-learning cohort](#) to be held online every other Wednesday from Sept. 6–Nov. 15....Tell Congress: [Don't send cluster munitions to Ukraine](#)....The Quaker Worship Group at Sing Sing prison has written this [minute of support](#) for AFSC's North Star vision document.... [Apply today](#) to serve on one of AFSC's governance bodies....Check out the [Quakers Today podcast](#).

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