



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – December 2023**

*Stories of work from around the region*



AFSC Michigan staff include (l to r) Pete Martel, Cozine Welch, Lawanda Hollister and Skylar Gillette

### **Making the case for Second Look legislation in Michigan**

In this recent [opinion piece](#), Cozine Welch, a statewide organizer for the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program, writes: “The first thing our state legislators should do before the end of the 2023 legislative session is pass the Second Look Sentencing Act. This bill would allow courts to reevaluate sentencing after incarcerated persons serve a certain amount of time in prison and no longer pose a risk to the community. Given the repeated failures of Michigan’s criminal legal system, this legislation couldn’t be more necessary.”

If you live in the area, please join AFSC for our [Annual Mixer](#) on December 13.



Youth at North Community High School in Minneapolis

## **SAFE Program promotes restorative practices in the Twin Cities**

From [Brynne Crockett](#), Twin Cities Healing Justice Program Director: AFSC is in a formal partnership with Minneapolis Public Schools to implement a Restorative Practices program within North Community High School. In our SAFE program (Students Accelerating Fiercely Everyday), we provide trainings for students and faculty.

SAFE also trains a 12-member youth board cohort who meet monthly to learn about organizing and mobilizing against systems of oppression. Together, we create campaign work around public safety and reforming the punitive measures taking place in the education system specifically related to suspension disparity gaps.



## **Quakers in Iowa call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza**

Friends and allies (above) [visited with US Senate staff in Des Moines](#) as part of AFSC's recent nationwide [No Tax Dollars for War Crimes](#) Day of Action. Des Moines Valley Friends have also been "[beading for worship](#)," creating necklaces commemorating all people killed in Palestine and Israel.

A blue-tinted advertisement for a hiring opportunity. The background shows a blurred image of people in a meeting. In the top right corner is the AFSC logo, a star with an 'X' inside, and the text 'American Friends Service Committee'. The main text is white and reads: 'We Are Hiring!' in a large font, followed by '"REGIONAL FINANCE & OFFICE ASSOCIATE"' in a slightly smaller font. Below that, it says 'Support our social justice work in the Midwest by providing high level technical assistance!'. At the bottom, it says 'APPLY TODAY!' and provides the URL 'afsc.org/job/midwest-regional-finance-and-office-associate'.

## **Come work with AFSC!**

Applications for the [AFSC Midwest Regional Finance and Office Associate](#) position are due December 1. The job can be based in Chicago, the Twin Cities, Ypsilanti, MI or remotely, with Midwest locations preferred... Applications are due December 31 for the [St. Louis Peacebuilding Director](#) job opening.

## **Short takes**

Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC General Secretary, recently appeared on [Democracy Now!](#) to reflect on the shooting in Vermont of three students of Palestinian descent. See all of our [resources on Gaza and Israel](#)... Throughout AFSC's history, we have provided relief to people forced to leave their homes because of war, natural disasters, and other crises. Over the past year, we have assisted earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria, families displaced by war in Ukraine, and refugees from Somalia. Now we're distributing food and other essentials to people in Gaza. [Here are some ways we're making a difference, thanks to supporters like you.](#) Read our latest [Acting in Faith newsletter](#)... Take action now to [Stop Cop City](#).

## **Get social**

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