

Faith, solidarity, and courage

History: Resisting the Vietnam War

How to support immigrants right now The struggle for food justice

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SPRING 2025 VOLUME 106 NUMBER 1





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WHO WE ARE

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) promotes a world free of violence, inequality, and oppression.

Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light within each person, we nurture the seeds of change and the respect for human life to fundamentally transform our societies and institutions.

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COVER PHOTO

AFSC's Jordan Garcia speaks out at a vigil for immigrant rights in front of a detention center in Aurora, Colorado.

Photo: Oscar Juarez





As World War I raged, a group of Quakers in Philadelphia came together to find ways to live out their peace testimony in a time of conflict.

That marked the founding of AFSC in 1917. During World War II, AFSC continued to champion alternative paths for conscientious objectors. We mentored them in nonviolent resistance and trained volunteers to bring vital aid to devastated communities in Europe. Later, AFSC played an instrumental role in the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War.

Today, we reap profound strength from the legacy of our predecessors as we confront formidable adversities. We also plant seeds of change for the next generation to carry forward our mission. AFSC is made for moments like these, compelled to answer with principled, bold action. Social change takes time, and we are steadfast, committing ourselves to persist and intensify our efforts. We refuse to yield to despair. From challenging unjust U.S. immigration policies to advocating for Palestinian rights, we bear witness to and confront oppression in ways that live out our values.

Our efforts are driven by the insight and resilience of those most impacted by injustice. They thrive thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. Together, we will forge ahead with bold, nonviolent actions grounded in love.

Thank you for joining with us.



Joyce Ajlouny **GENERAL SECRETARY**

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



Become a Partner for Peace!

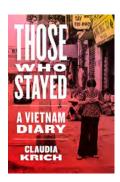
As part of AFSC's community, you join with people around the world working to end violence and injustice. Thank you!

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Visit afsc.org/QAmonthly or call our team in Philadelphia at 888-588-2372.

ALUMNI news





Do you have news or stories to share? Email us at alumni@afsc.org



Tonya Histand DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Claudia Krich and her husband, Keith Brinton, were co-directors of the AFSC Quang Ngai program from March 1973 until July 1975. In her new book, "Those Who Stayed," she offers a personal firsthand account of the collapse of the South Vietnamese government and the beginning of the new Provisional Revolutionary Government. Her vivid descriptions of those days emerge primarily from her journal, which captured the uncertainty, fear, and excitement as the North Vietnamese soldiers arrived.

In December, Vic Yellow Hawk White, former associate regional director in Oakland, passed away. His former wife, Jaqueline Ross, shared these words. "Our beloved Vic has walked from this world and up to the stars. I ask that you offer your prayers and ceremonies your heart directs."

Louise Bruyn passed away in December. In 1982, Louise was hired by AFSC to organize the Boston contingent to the June 12 Rally for Nuclear Disarmament in New York City. It turned out to be the largest anti-nuclear protest in American history, attracting more than 1 million people.

Cliff Lester began his lifelong journey with AFSC in 1953 at the age of 23 in Mexico as his alternative service. In his over 60 years of service to AFSC, he served as regional executive committee clerk, as well as a board member. Cliff passed away in November.

Jane Barton Griffith was the co-director of AFSC's humanitarian programs in Vietnam from 1970 to 1973. Her new memoir, "Two Women, One War," details how she found joy in her friendship with a Vietnamese woman amid the human and physical destruction in Vietnam.



former AFSC Communications staff and currently an assistant professor in the Department of History at Rutgers-Camden, has won two book awards. Her book, "Dreamland:

Carly Goodman,

America's Immigration Lottery in an Age of Restriction," explores the U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery and exposes broader immigration issues.



omen

One

War

e Barton Griffi

Over the past 18 months, our team in Gaza has distributed food and water to hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians, thanks to generous support from the AFSC community. They have provided baby formula, diapers, and other essentials for infants and children. They have delivered hygiene kits with soap, sanitary napkins, and more, as well as mattresses and blankets. And they have provided students with school supplies, educational support, and

But the humanitarian need remains greater than ever. AFSC is now working on the next phase of our relief efforts to help alleviate hunger, deliver lifesaving aid, and provide critical goods and services. We are also exploring the potential for future volunteer opportunities.



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Updates FROM THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



AFSC's team in Gaza prepare meals for displaced Palestinians. Photo: AFSC/Gaza



PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF

recreational activities.

To read about our efforts, visit AFSC.ORG/GAZA-AID

Kerri Kennedy ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Updates (CONT.)



AFSC's Moses Chasieh (center) speaks at the launch of the new advocacy strategy. Photo: Salama Hub

ETHIOPIA

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

Ethiopia is facing a complex humanitarian situation. Food insecurity, mass displacement, and conflicts are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. In response, AFSC has launched a new Horn of Africa Advocacy Strategy for Peace and Stability (ASPS) with our partner organization Bread for the World. The ASPS was introduced to key stakeholders and representatives through a two-day symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October.

As part of the new strategy, AFSC is developing a Transitional Justice Program. This program will collaborate with local partners to build advocacy networks. We will accompany community peacebuilders in providing trauma healing and educational sessions. We will support local civil society organizations in building their transitional justice capacities and advocacy skills. And we will build partnerships for peacebuilding, transitional justice, and trauma healing.

FIND OUT MORE AFSC.ORG/SALAMAHUB



Moses Chasieh **director**

DIRECTOR SALAMA HUB **UNITED STATES**

AN UPDATE ON STOP COP CITY



Atlanta's controversial \$90 million police training facility known as "Cop City" has officially opened. This happened despite massive public opposition to the project. In the summer of 2023, the Stop Cop City coalition, which includes AFSC, collected over 116,000 voter signatures to stop the project–nearly double the required amount for a referendum. But Mayor Andre Dickens's administration has refused to count these signatures and proceeded with construction.

The damaging impacts of Cop City are already being felt. The clear-cutting of the Weelaunee Forest to make room for the facility has already led to increased flooding in nearby areas. Local residents now face a heavy police presence in their neighborhoods. And the shooting range noise can be heard from over a mile away.

But our coalition isn't giving up. Now we're focusing on demanding transparency and accountability from the Atlanta Police Foundation. We're also working with activists and community groups across the country to stop similar facilities from being built.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK IN ATLANTA: AFSC.ORG/AFSCATLANTA



Jacob Flowers DIRECTOR U.S. SOUTH REGION

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

RESISTING THE VIETNAM WAR

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR PEACE IN VIETNAM

OUAKER ACTION SPRING 2025

As U.S. involvement in Vietnam escalated, tens of thousands of men across the U.S. made a courageous commitment to nonviolence: They refused to fight in the military. AFSC provided crucial support to these conscientious objectors. We also worked alongside those organizing protests nationwide. Together, we challenged war profiteers and built bridges among people on both sides of the conflict.

April 30, 2025, marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. On this milestone, we look back at some key ways war resisters made a difference with support from AFSC.



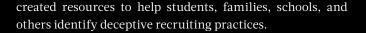
1969 vigil at the White House. PHOTO: AFSC ARCHIVES

OPPOSING THE DRAFT

AFSC was founded in 1917 by conscientious objectors committed to creating alternatives to military service during World War I.

By the Vietnam era, AFSC was one of the main sources of counseling and support for men resisting the draft for moral or political reasons. Tens of thousands of draft resisters received counseling from AFSC staff in Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle, Pasadena, and other U.S. cities.

With the transition to an all-volunteer army in 1973, U.S. military recruiters began to focus on low-income youth and communities of color. To challenge this "poverty draft," AFSC developed educational materials to help young people learn about non-military alternatives after high school. We also



HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

During the height of the Vietnam War, AFSC established the Quaker Rehabilitation Center in Quang Ngai Province.

Although the rehabilitation center was located in South Vietnam, staff provided treatment to injured civilians on both sides of the conflict. Patients–including young children–received physical therapy and prosthetic limbs and braces made at the center.

From its beginnings, AFSC focused on training local Vietnamese in the skills needed to provide these services. "We hired all local people to work with us and recruited widely for students to enter physical therapy and prosthetic classes," wrote AFSC physical therapist Dot Weller. "Our goal was to build and train the local people so that they could take over when we left. Proud to say we achieved just that."





(This page): AFSC staff care for patients at Quang Ngai Clinic in Vietnam. (Facing page, color photos): Richard Morse, former draft counselor; Peter Woodrow, conscientious objector. (Black and white photos) AFSC draft counselors during the Vietnam War. PHOTOS: AFSC ARCHIVES



Last year, we invited people to share their stories of resisting the war in Vietnam. Thank you to the dozens of people who responded! Here are excerpts from some of those stories and others from our AFSC Archives.

TO READ MORE STORIES, VISIT AFSC.ORG/VIETNAMSTORIES "Once I got to the University of Connecticut and started a postdoctoral fellowship, I reached out to the AFSC office in Cambridge around spring/summer 1967. They had a course on draft counseling and the law–probably three or four sessions. It was an hour and a half drive each way, but I took that knowledge back to the University of Connecticut and set up a draft counseling center. Together with a lawyer, a psychiatrist, and a few others, we started providing draft counseling at the university."

-RICHARD MORSE, DRAFT COUNSELOR

When the war was over, the Vietnamese government took on responsibility for the clinic.

CONFRONTING WAR PROFITEERS

For two decades, starting in 1969, a group of AFSC researchers staffed a program known as NARMIC (National Action/Research on the Military Industrial Complex).

The program was created to research companies profiting from the Vietnam War and produce resources–including fliers, slideshows, and books–for anti-war campaigns.

Using data on Pentagon contracts, NARMIC staff identified and mapped connections between weapons manufacturers. Across the country, community activists could contact NARMIC directly to investigate whether companies in their towns were producing war-related materials. They also received research support for campaigns pressuring companies like Honeywell and General Electric to stop producing weapons of war.

NARMIC's research supported peace activists well beyond Vietnam, including efforts to change U.S. policy in Central America, and the anti-nuclear movement. Today, AFSC's Action Center for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) carries on this legacy. ACCA provides activists with research and tools to divest from corporations complicit in wars, border militarization, immigrant detention,

d the Israeli occupation and apartheid.



"In 1967, a group of us, including my now wife Martha, started meeting. We wanted to resist. ... In the beginning, we leaned heavily on AFSC. They paid a core group of us \$25 a week and they gave us access to their telephones and money to print literature. Vietnam Summer was a time of transition for the anti-war movement. It was a push from college campuses into the community.

After that summer our group formed Philadelphia Resistance. Over the years, I was arrested 15 times. ... We ran a printing press. We got intense media coverage. We refused to pay taxes. We held countless rallies.

All of it was our way to defy, slow down, and make it more expensive for the Selective Service System to continue to operate. Each year, more and more people turned against the war."

—TONY AVIRGAN, WAR RESISTER

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

APRIL 26, 2025 PHILADELPHIA

Courage to Resist: Commemorating 50 Years Since Vietnam

Join AFSC in Philadelphia as we mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. This special gathering will bring together conscientious objectors, draft counselors, community organizers, former AFSC staff, and many others who worked tirelessly for peace.

LEARN MORE: AFSC.ORG/COURAGE



"I was fortunate to be involved with the AFSC project in Quang Ngai at a time when many of the prosthetists and physical therapists were replacing the AFSC staff. A seed planted by past AFSC staff had come to fruition as Vietnamese staff assumed full-time positions.

During my tenure, I was able to secretly take photographs of political prisoners who had been tortured. In 1973, when I returned from Vietnam, these photographs added witness to a major anti-war campaign highlighting how the U.S. government was funding the imprisonment of thousands of innocent Vietnamese civilians. Amnesty International and AFSC sponsored me on a speaking tour to urge Americans to take action to stop the U.S. government from funding the war."

-JANE BARTON GRIFFITH, VOLUNTEER IN VIETNAM

Showing solidarity with immigrants

An interview with

O+A

AMY GOTTLIEB U.S. MIGRATION DIRECTOR

The United States should welcome immigrants with dignity and ensure their rights are respected. But since taking office, the Trump administration has enacted policies that endanger the lives of millions of immigrants, violate their rights, and devastate families and communities.

As a Quaker organization, AFSC's work is led by our belief in the inherent worth of all individuals. We join with people across the country who recognize that immigrants make our communities stronger.

In this interview, U.S. Migration Director Amy Gottlieb discusses how immigrants and allies across the country are calling for welcoming, dignified, and just immigration policies, with support from AFSC.



Amy Gottlieb speaks about immigrant rights. PHOTO: LINDA SABLE

Q We often hear "Why don't immigrants just come here legally?" Could you explain some of the reasons why that's difficult for so many to do?

People migrate for a range of reasons-to seek safety, to seek better opportunities, to seek refuge from climate disasters. Most people in the U.S. believe that our immigration system should be welcoming and fair, but many aren't aware of the many barriers immigrants face. People can't simply "get in line" for an immigrant visa. Visas generally depend on family relationships and country of origin, with wait lists that can stretch for decades. There are also huge backlogs in visa processing.

For people seeking to legalize their status, there's no pathway to citizenship–even if they have lived in the U.S. most of their lives, have children here, work and pay taxes, and are already part of our communities.

Q How will policy changes implemented by the Trump administration affect immigration in the U.S.?

The administration has moved to vastly expand deportations, putting millions of families and community members at risk for separation. They've increased raids and arrests and threatened sanctuary cities and states. They ended a longstanding policy that discouraged Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers from entering or making arrests in schools, hospitals, places of worship, and other sensitive areas. That could deter immigrants from getting emergency care, sending their kids to school, or even practicing their faith.

Now it's even harder for people to come to the U.S. The administration has shut down the U.S.-Mexico border, closing the door on people seeking safety and opportunities. They have also suspended the refugee program for at least four months, stranding thousands of refugees who have already been approved for admission.

In addition, the Trump administration is attempting to revoke citizenship from some U.S.-born children of immigrants–a constitutional right. At least 20 states have sued to challenge the order. In an initial response, a federal court said that the revocation is blatantly unconstitutional.

Q How is AFSC supporting immigrants and other community members?

AFSC programs across the U.S. have been providing support to immigrants and allies for decades. In recent months, we have ramped up our efforts. We are providing more Know Your Rights trainings so immigrants, their family members, and other community members understand what to do when ICE shows up. We're supporting rapid response efforts in neighborhoods

(Above): AFSC immigrant leaders (left to right: Betty, Hilda, and Maria) conduct A Know Your Rights training in Colorado. PHOTO: GABRIELA FLORA/AFSC (At right): Providing humanitarian aid to migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in San Diego. PHOTO: PEDRO RIOS/AFSC

that are targeted by ICE or Border Patrol and assisting people if they or a loved one are detained. We're also working with families to create emergency plans to prepare for such situations.

In San Diego, California, AFSC is providing humanitarian assistance to migrants at the border. In New Jersey and Florida, we're continuing to provide immigrants with legal representation and social work services. In Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador, we're planning to provide support to people deported to these countries. This includes providing humanitarian aid, documenting human rights violations, and advocating for just policy changes.

In all our efforts, we make sure people understand the historical and political reasons behind these anti-immigrant policies. We support them in organizing for the changes we want to see and are guided by their leadership.

Q How can allies show solidarity with immigrants right now?

One powerful thing we can all do is to share how immigrants strengthen our communities. We can shift the narrative away from anti-immigrant rhetoric by having hard conversations with family and friends, writing letters to the editor, and hosting community discussions.

Keep writing, calling, and meeting with members of Congress and local officials–even those who may disagree with us. Take part in protests and other actions in your community. Public witness in support of humane policies can pressure elected officials and inspire others to join.

Consider getting involved in immigrant accompaniment programs. Depending on where you live, you may find an AFSC program or other organization that supports immigrants through court processes, ICE check-ins, and other appointments.

While organizing for policy change takes time, we know from history that it works. Stay grounded during these challenging times and don't let the negative news overwhelm you. Celebrate the victories, no matter how small. Focus your energy where you feel you can make the most impact.

Remember that we're part of a larger community of people working from a place of love, respect, and welcome. We're not just resisting harmful policies. We're building toward a just immigration system that treats all people with dignity.



GET OUR POSTERS



Download our free posters to show your support for immigrant rights.

Use them at protests and display them in your workplace, congregation, or other spaces.

MORE: AFSC.ORG/MIGRATION-POSTERS

Sowing seeds of justice

From wartime relief to global food rights, AFSC's commitment to food justice has spanned continents over the past century.

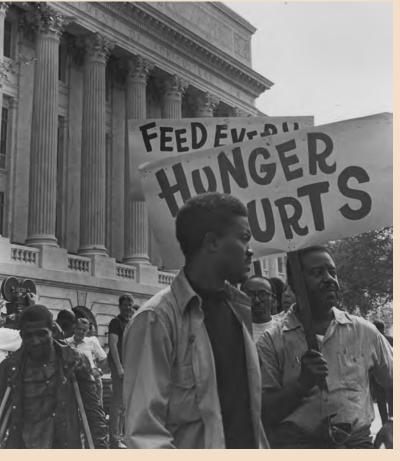
BY RICK WILSON

n the wake of World War I, Quakers and the newly formed AFSC began providing food for children in danger of starvation in war-torn Europe. In the following years, they would feed hundreds of thousands of children in Germany, Austria, Poland, and Russia. Although they had no way of knowing it, their efforts would grow into a century-long commitment to food justice that continues to this day.

Rooted in Quaker values, AFSC works for a world where no one goes hungry, where communities have the resources they need to thrive, and where food systems promote equity and stewardship of our environment.

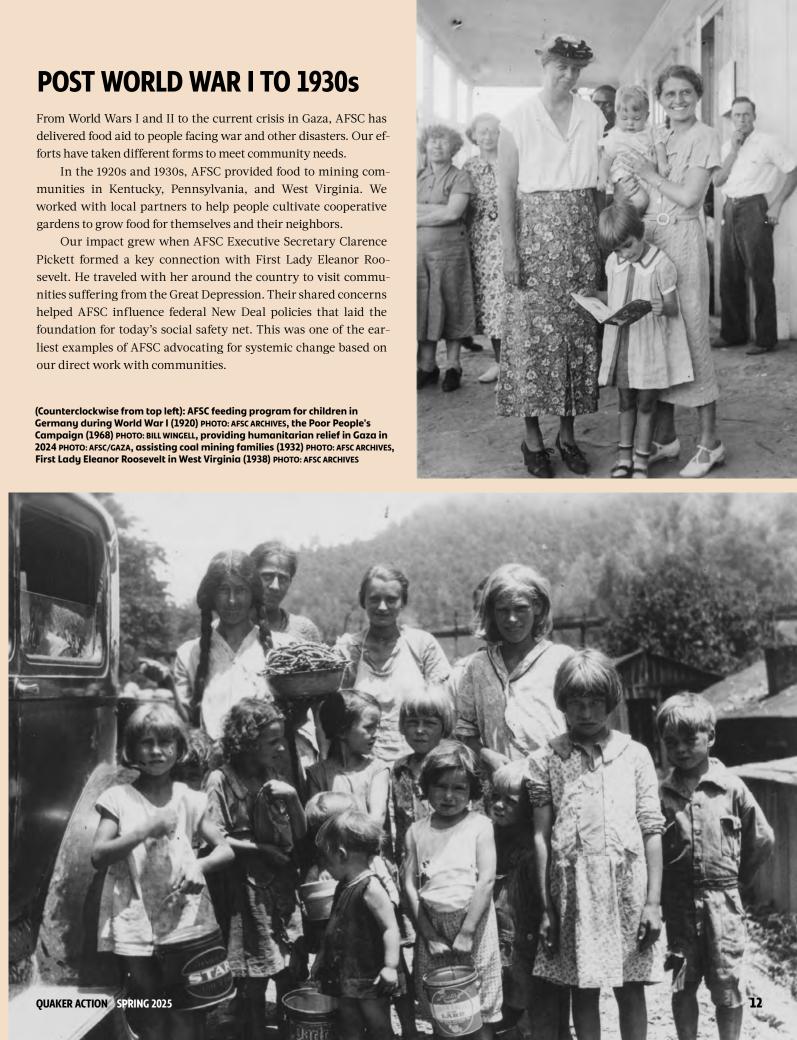
Today, it would be difficult to find any organization in the world that has worked for food justice for as long, in as many different places and ways. Here's a look back at our history.







Our impact grew when AFSC Executive Secretary Clarence



1940s - 1960s

During the mid-20th century, our efforts expanded beyond immediate aid to confront the root causes of hunger and inequality. From Appalachian coal towns to California farm worker camps, we witnessed how hunger intertwined with labor exploitation and racial discrimination. We began to link food security with broader struggles for economic justice and civil rights.

In the 1950s, AFSC joined with migrant farmworkers organizing for basic services, such as access to water and safe, clean housing. This work evolved into Proyecto Campesino in Visalia, California. This program supported political organizing, offered citizenship classes, and kept immigrants informed on issues affecting them.

AFSC staff also played a key role in the struggle to establish the United Farm Workers (UFW) union. We provided meeting places, collected funds for strikers, and paid the salary of the union's chief negotiator. In 1975, UFW head Cesar Chavez acknowledged how essential AFSC's support had been to the UFW. In turn, we acknowledged the great value of participating in the union's "practical demonstration of a nonviolent movement." Today, AFSC's work with farmworkers is as vibrant as ever in California's Central Valley, Oregon and Washington, New Mexico, and many communities around the world.

During the 1960s, AFSC collaborated with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many others in the Poor People's Campaign. The campaign brought hunger and poverty to the forefront of American consciousness, tying them to the broader issues of economic and racial inequity. It also created a coalition of poor and working people.

The impact of the Poor People's Campaign was significant. Within a year, food programs launched in the 1,000 neediest counties in the U.S., and Congress appropriated \$243 million to expand school lunches to more hungry children, according to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The federal government also began planning a new nutrition assistance program for mothers and children. That became known as the vital WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program.







1970s - 1990s

Over the years, AFSC has partnered with communities worldwide to build sustainable food systems and promote food sovereignty. Our efforts are rooted in the knowledge that lasting peace grows from well-nourished communities with control over their own resources.

In the Pacific Northwest, AFSC supported Native Americans in their struggle for fishing rights in the 1960s and '70s. We published the book "Uncommon Controversy," which championed Native respect for the environment and helped shift public opinion in favor of Native rights.

In Honduras, AFSC worked in solidarity with liberation movements in Latin America through much of the 1980s and beyond to oppose U.S. military intervention. One result of that work in Honduras was the formation of COMAL (Alternative Community Marketing Network). The independent organization has since helped thousands of farmers access credit and markets while building a more equitable rural economy.

In North Korea, we have collaborated with local farmers to boost crop production amid food shortages. This partnership has helped farmers improve food security while bridging divides amid geopolitical tensions. These efforts are part of AFSC's longstanding work to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula, which continues to this day.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

2000s TO THE PRESENT

Today, AFSC's food justice work reflects the multifaceted, interconnected nature of global food systems. Our projects span continents and approaches, but they are all rooted in the knowledge that just, sustainable food systems emerge from the wisdom and leadership of local communities.

- **In Africa**, AFSC has supported community food production in Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, helping build food security and resilience.
- In Guatemala and El Salvador, we have helped Indigenous communities grow traditional crops, reclaim ancestral farming techniques, and move toward food sovereignty.
- **In Los Angeles and New Orleans**, community gardens supported by AFSC serve as spaces for gathering, community organizing, and growing food to meet community needs.
- In New Mexico, we collaborate with historic land-based communities to protect access to land and water. Our work ranges from helping local farmers develop climate-resilient farming techniques to ensuring more low-income children have access to locally grown food.







(Facing page): Native fishermen in Washington. PHOTO: WARREN ANDERSON; Labor leader Cesar Chavez. PHOTO: AFSC/ARCHIVES; A farmer in North Korea (2017). PHOTO: AFSC/ARCHIVES. (This page): Women's agroecological school in El Salvador. PHOTO: OMAR PONCE/AFSC; Community garden in New Orleans. Photo: PETER NAKHID; Connecting students with locally farmed produce in New Mexico. PHOTO: CORE-VISUAL

TOWARD SYSTEMS CHANGE

The right to food goes far beyond charity. It's a fundamental right recognized by the United Nations. It means having reliable access to enough nutritious, culturally appropriate food to help people live with dignity, free from hunger and fear.

AFSC's food justice work includes working for systemic change through public policy. We advocate for expanding free school meals, increasing funding for WIC, and strengthening SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) to ensure more low-income people have the nutrition they need. We also work with partners for a just and equitable Farm Bill. This crucial federal legislation protects SNAP; funds climate and conservation programs; and supports small farms, urban food production, and rural communities.

In 2024, AFSC launched the No Hunger Summer campaign, urging governors to implement the federal SUN Bucks program. This federal program provides low-income families with grocery benefits to help kids get the food they need while school is out.

Recently we have partnered with the U.S. Right to Food Community of Practice and the Global Solidarity Alliance for Food, Health, and Social Justice. These groups recognize how poverty and corporate-driven food systems fuel both hunger and environmental damage around the world. Instead of normalizing food charity, they call for approaches grounded in rights, justice, and solidarity.

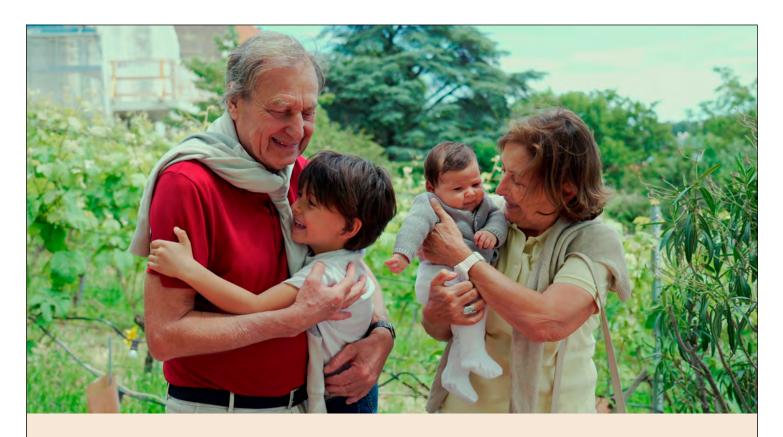
From wartime relief to systemic change, AFSC continues to evolve to meet community needs. We remain as committed as ever to building more just, equitable, planet-friendly food systems to nourish communities for generations to come. ■



Quaker action for a just world 1501 Cherry Street Philadelphia, PA 19102 afsc.org



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Thank you for your support!