



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – April 2025**

*Stories of work from around the region*



### **Chicago youth choose mental health training as one focus of work**

The AFSC Chi Peace Program's Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) is organizing a skill share to help people learn how to respond to mental health crises. The event will be held in Uptown, which has some of the highest numbers of mental health crises calls in Chicago. The skill share aims to equip community members with practical skills and knowledge to address emergencies. We keep us safe! Read more about Chi Peace's work in their [newsletter](#) and follow on [Instagram](#).



## **Twin Cities spring youth Intensive builds organizing skills, sense of unity**

The Twin Cities Healing Justice Program’s Spring 2025 three-day Intensive cultivated the skills of 17 young organizers. CAMP SAFE (Students Accelerating Fiercely Everyday) taught tools such as campaign strategy, event planning, and team building. Students left with a sense of confidence in their organizing abilities and with a clear vision for our next event, which we will be carrying out as a collective. More to come about the Intensive from AFSC staff Prescott Jones and Maddie Foss.



## **St. Louis staff to address “stalwart solidarity” at AFSC Corporation meeting**

At the [AFSC Corporation meeting](#) later this month, Barbara Gunn Lartey, St. Louis Program Director, will lead a workshop exploring the transformative power of audacious allyship. She’ll use the historic relationship between Quaker activist Prudence Crandall (above, left) and her student, Sarah Harris, as a lens to examine the role of individual courage in collective justice movements. Stay tuned for the next issue of The Pulse Check, the quarterly newsletter from St. Louis.



## Michigan program focuses on connecting volunteers with people inside

From the AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program's [April newsletter](#): We are hard at work here at AFSC in Michigan. Right now, we are building out the commutation work and getting more volunteers who are deeply involved in creating relationships with people at Women's Huron Valley prison....We also are in the process of creating new policy strategy to end life and long sentences -- and will be sure to send updates as soon as they are ready to share and be activated on.



AFSC Iowa alums include (going left from center, holding the award): Jody Mashek, Berenice Nava, Erica Johnson and Ann Naffier

## AFSC Iowa alums win prestigious Dingman Award

Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (MMJ) recently received the 2025 Bishop Maurice Dingman Peace Award from Catholic Peace Ministry at a gala in Des Moines. The award celebrated MMJ's commitment to providing legal services, education and advocacy. This [video](#) features remarks by Founding Director Erica Johnson.

## Short takes

[Tell Congress](#) to resume U.S. funding for life-saving Palestinian aid....The US cannot abandon its climate responsibility – [read more](#) and [contact Congress today](#)....AFSC continues to raise funds for emergency aid for people in Myanmar following a devastating earthquake. Please donate [here](#).

## Get social

Check out AFSC Midwest on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [X](#), formerly known as Twitter. *Thank you!*

## [DONATE TO AFSC MIDWEST PROGRAMS](#)

AFSC Mission Statement: *Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.*