



**American  
Friends  
Service  
Committee**

## **AFSC Midwest Digest – May 2025**

*Stories of work from around the region*



### **VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION**

Join us for an AFSC Volunteer Orientation, to learn more about the ways you can give your time, talents, and treasure to support Michigan's women inside prison, as well as help end life and long sentences!



Every First Thursday  
6:30 – 8:00 PM

Register using the QR Code, or at  
[bit.ly/AFSCVolunteer2025](https://bit.ly/AFSCVolunteer2025)

**UPCOMING  
ORIENTATION DATES:**  
MAY 1ST – JUNE 5TH  
JULY 3RD – AUG 7TH  
SEPT 4TH – OCT 2ND  
NOV 6TH – DEC 4TH





### **COMMUTATION WORKSHOPS**

**EVERY THIRD THURSDAY, 6:30 PM  
ON ZOOM, REGISTER AT  
[BIT.LY/COMMWORKSHOPS2025](https://bit.ly/COMMWORKSHOPS2025)**

Join a growing community of people who are working to get women free at the Valley. Develop a strong relationship with a person at the Valley to help support them in writing their commutation and planning for their freedom more generally.



**UPCOMING WORKSHOP  
DATES:**  
APRIL 17TH – MAY 15TH  
JUNE 19TH – JULY 17TH  
AUG 21ST – SEPT 18TH  
OCT 16TH – NOV 20TH

**SCAN HERE TO  
REGISTER FOR  
THE DATE THAT  
WORKS BEST  
FOR YOU!**

### **Michigan Program connects volunteers with women inside prison**

The latest [newsletter](#) of the Michigan Criminal Justice Program features monthly volunteer orientations. These sessions help people learn more about the ways they can give their time, talents, and treasure to support Michigan's women inside prison, as well as help end life and long sentences.

Commutation workshops, also offered monthly, are building a community of people working to get women free at Women's Huron Valley prison. Volunteers develop a strong relationship with a person at the Valley to help support them in writing their commutation and planning for their freedom more generally.



## Spring fundraiser in Chicago to feature documentary on San Quentin

The [Chi Peace Spring Fundraiser](#) on May 21 will feature a screening of *What These Walls Won't Hold* by Adamu Chan – along with dinner, laughter and conversation. The film is a powerful documentary exploring life inside San Quentin State Prison during the COVID-19 pandemic, offering an intimate look at the resilience, solidarity, and hope of incarcerated individuals. Drawing from his own experience, Chan highlights the strength of community, the fight for justice, and the enduring human spirit within and beyond prison walls.



## Community survey in St. Louis points to need for stronger support systems

The St. Louis Peacebuilding Program recently shared the results of its community survey. Recommendations from the survey include the following ways to better support Black youth in St. Louis:

- Expand Mental Health and Trauma support
- Reform school discipline
- Create safe, creative spaces
- Increase economic opportunities
- Promote restorative practices

Stay tuned for more in the next issue of *Pulse Check*, the AFSC St. Louis newsletter.





## AFSC youth intensive builds organizing skills

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 campaign strategy, event planning, and team building. Students left with a sense of confidence in their organizing abilities. This Intensive catered to young people (ages 13-18) of the Minneapolis North community. Read [more](#).



At a mutual aid rally in Des Moines on April 19

## Iowa updates

Check out the latest [Resistance Update](#) from AFSC alums with Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice....Here's the Iowa Hunger Coalition's [statement](#) on Iowa's pilot program in place of Summer EBT....Please hold in the Light the families of former AFSC volunteer [Virginia Smith](#) and AFSC supporter [Cornelia Flora](#).



AFSC Corporation members and staff from the Midwest break bread in Philly.

### **Short takes**

Last month, AFSC Corporation members gathered in Philadelphia. Staff from St. Louis and Michigan led two of the workshops at the annual gathering....Congratulations to AFSC alumni Brynne Crockett for her new position as in-arena host with the Minnesota Lynx of the WNBA and to Jonathan Pulphus, who has a new book, *With My People*, coming out this fall....On May 13, join AFSC's exploration of the role of Palestinian women during the Nakba and in modern Palestinian society. Register [here](#).

### **Get social**

Check out AFSC Midwest on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [X](#) and [Blue Sky](#).

## **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.*