



American Friends Service Committee

AFSC Midwest Digest – June 2025

Stories of work from around the region

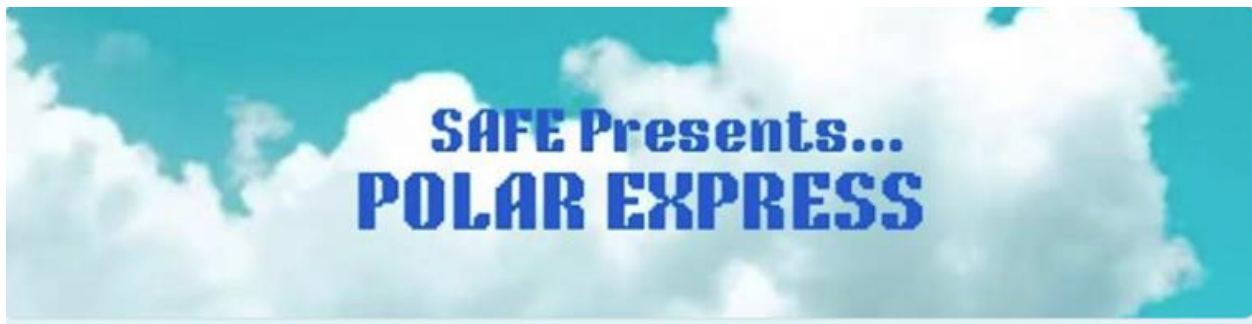


Youth call for alternatives to policing in Chicago. *Photo: Sarah Jane Rhee*

Five years after Floyd’s murder, the struggle for community safety continues

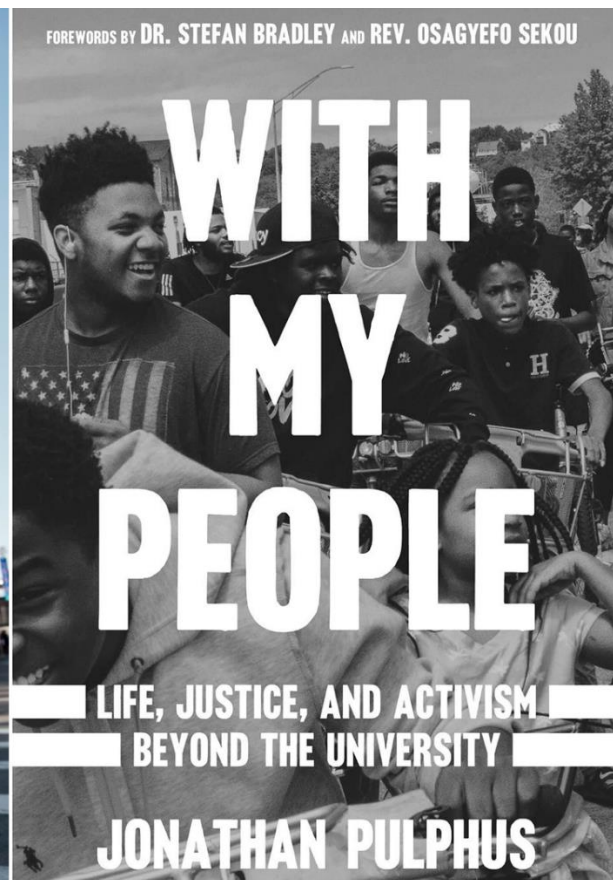
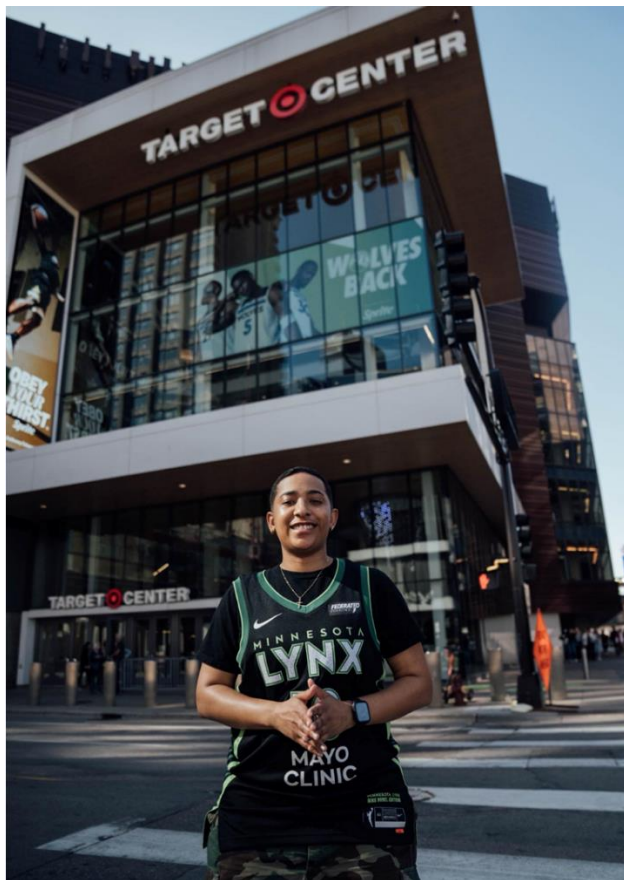
May 25 marked the fifth anniversary of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. His murder—and those of many others at the hands of police—sparked racial justice protests across the country. It also led to calls for meaningful change in police accountability.

But today, that promise remains unfulfilled. Despite these setbacks, AFSC continues to support communities working for real community safety beyond policing and prisons. Read [more](#) from asia smith of Chicago Peacebuilding and Adalberto Rios of LA Roots for Peace.



Twin Cities youth gather to practice wellness skills

SAFE, AFSC's youth program in the Twin Cities, joined other community organizations in hosting an end-of-school year event by and for youth. Young people learned skills to nurture their wellness in a fun and creative environment led by their peers. Held at North Community High School, the event included basketball, yoga, art and games. Follow AFSC SAFE on [Instagram](#).



AFSC alums in the news

Brynne Crockett, former Twin Cities Healing Justice Program Director, recently began as in-arena host for the undefeated Minnesota Lynx of the WNBA. Read [more](#) about her remarkable career....Jonathan Pulphus, former Program Assistant with the St. Louis Peacebuilding Program, shares the cover of his upcoming book, set for release this September. Learn more on his [website](#).



At the 2024 Pride march in Des Moines

Happy Pride! A message of freedom for June -- and all year long

Natalie Holbrook-Combs, Director of the Michigan Criminal Justice Program, and her wife, Tashiena, remind us of Toni Morrison’s words: “The function of freedom is to free someone else.” Natalie writes: “There is joy and peace and care that emerges from within the bowels of this unjust system—when we continue to love and build, we can vision a tomorrow where more liberation is the course. We are tired of always fighting. We are peacing....”



Terry Irish at the AFSC table at Northern Yearly Meeting

Short takes

AFSC Corporation members Terry Irish of Twin Cities Friends Meeting and Guy Lord of Milwaukee Friends Meeting joined AFSC staffer Jon Krieg at this year’s Northern Yearly Meeting in Wisconsin....AFSC alum Jan Flora and his late wife, Neal Butler Flora, were recently **honored** in Ames by the Center for Rural Affairs....Here’s the latest **resistance update** by AFSC alums with Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice.



Get active

On Monday, June 16, join our [webinar](#) to learn from organizers working to build Apartheid-Free cities. And tell Congress:

- [Reject health care cuts and tax breaks for the rich](#)
- [Demand lifesaving aid for Gaza](#)
- [Stop deportations now](#)
- [End the Genocide in Sudan](#)

Get social

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

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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.*