



American
Friends
Service
Committee

AFSC West Region News – June 2025

Stories of work from around the region

Welcome to the American Friends Service Committee's West Region monthly newsletter. Please send feedback to WestNews@afsc.org.



Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

AFSC speaks out against National Guard deployment to Los Angeles

The Trump administration recently authorized the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles. Its goal: to quash voices of support for immigrants. People were standing up against yet another round of violent immigration raids that tear our communities apart. Read AFSC's [full statement](#) and [take action](#).

Meanwhile, 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 Adalberto Rios of LA Roots for Peace and Asia Smith of Chicago Peacebuilding.

Beginning June 25, Roots for Peace will host a seven-week Summer Youth Internship. The goal is to deepen youth's collective understanding of intersectionality and social justice. Follow on [Instagram](#).



Jennifer Piper of AFSC as shown on [9News Denver](#).

Immigrant Rights Program, Denver

Coloradoans speak out against ICE detentions at immigration court

On June 5, AFSC and partners held a [press conference](#) in response to increased ICE presence in and outside of court buildings. Recently ICE detained eight people following their immigration check-in. Coloradans are calling for elected officials to speak out and for everyone to take action to push ICE out of municipal, county, state and federal courts. “I’ve never [before] seen one single person detained at immigration court,” Jennifer Piper of AFSC told the [Daily Camera](#). “This is both unnecessary and unprecedented.”



An ICE raid on May 30 in the South Park neighborhood in San Diego - Photo: Pedro Rios

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Community resists ICE raid in San Diego

AFSC and partners recently joined together to condemn an ICE raid at a popular restaurant in San Diego. [CBS8 reported](#): “Community outrage erupted quickly after the incident. Pedro Rios, of AFSC, noted that neighborhood residents gathered almost immediately to protest the raid. ‘It was quite clear that there was just a complete rejection by the community of the federal agents conducting this in their community and neighborhood,’ he said.” Pedro recently [received](#) the Nancy Jamison Social Justice Award for his decades of service.



Alonso Oliveros of AFSC leads a human rights observer training.

Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Training people to defend their rights, support each other

AFSC continues to reach hundreds of migrants across the Pacific Northwest, helping them learn their constitutional and civil rights. People are understanding how to advocate against private prisons that are profiting from human suffering. They're learning about community-led rapid responses for defending against deportations. Together, we are building a more just and equal future for all.

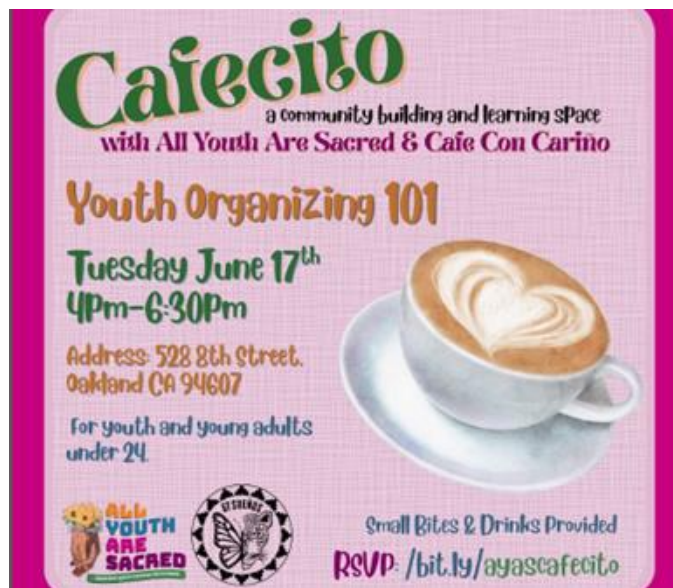


Nu'u Yavi women from Madera serve lunch. Photo: Eduardo Stanley

Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Food initiative looks at inequity, culture and public imagination

On May 30-31, PVI staff members Myrna Martinez Nateras, Estela Galvan, and Joshua Slack attended the last of three colloquia for the [Thinking Food Initiative](#) at UC Davis. This year-long initiative unearthed the systemic roots of food inequity through humanities-based programs that bridge cultural histories, current realities, and public imagination. The gathering encouraged people to think about and experience food through all our senses. Read [more](#) from Joshua and Estela.



67 Sueños, Oakland

Youth Organizing 101 set for June 17 in Oakland

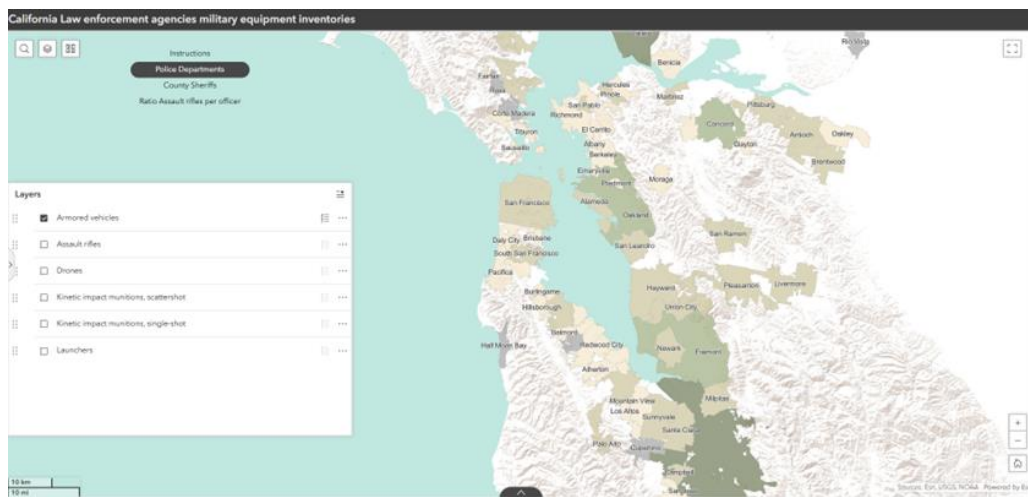
From [67 Sueños on Instagram](#): We are so excited to invite you all to our Cafecito in collaboration with Cafe con Cariño. Join us on June 17 from 4-6:30pm for a training and *círculo* focused on youth organizing. We'll be highlighting budget advocacy as an opportunity to build power! A *cafecito* is a grassroots community building and learning model. RSVP [here](#).



People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Resist and Build gathering focuses on solidarity economics

In early May, AFSC NM program co-director Sayrah Namaste presented at the 2025 Resist and Build gathering in Atlanta, which was attended by 200 people representing solidarity economy groups across the US. She worked alongside AFSC staff from New Orleans, Atlanta, West Virginia and New Hampshire (photo above). AFSC gave a Farming for Social Change workshop that was very engaging. Sayrah brought back new tools and ideas to the communities AFSC serves in New Mexico. She has organized a Solidarity Economies *platica* in Albuquerque on June 29 at the Albuquerque Peace & Justice Center to share the knowledge.



California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

New story map visualizes military equipment used by local law enforcement

AFSC has a new visual resource for understanding military equipment used by police and sheriffs, created by Magali Ruer, a geographer working with AFSC. The resource includes a “story map” – a web page that includes maps, text explainers, and stories – [“Police Militarization in California’s San Francisco Bay Area”](#). The story map explores why police assault rifles are dangerous, shares brief stories of people killed with them, and connects users to possible actions.

The story map includes [an interactive map](#) of the number of assault rifles, drones, projectile launchers, armored vehicles, and projectiles (including scattershot munitions), for all police and sheriff departments in nine Bay Area counties. The map – which can be [viewed on its own](#) – also has an instructions page for how to navigate and use the map and a tab for seeing the *ratio* of the number of weapons per officer for each agency. [Please let us know what you think!](#)

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](#); and [End the Genocide in Sudan](#).

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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.*