



# American Friends Service Committee

## AFSC West Region News – August 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](mailto:WestNews@afsc.org).



67 Sueños' first mural in 2011 proclaims that everyone has a dream.

67 Sueños, Oakland

### Celebrating young artists and their 19 murals in 15 years

From [Instagram](#): "We have been activating young artists since the summer of 2011. Check out our [mural page](#) and see all the dope art we've been creating with beautiful stories, powerful messages and lots of culture.... We use Artivism to facilitate healing and empower youth, inject missing youth voices and stories into the local social justice movement narrative, and instigate cultural shifts that acknowledge the human rights of all people."



From KREX 5

*Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado*

### **Colorado AG is right in upholding state law following traffic stop**

In this [story on KREX 5](#) about a local deputy providing information to federal immigration officials, Miriam Ordoñez Rodriguez of AFSC says: “Law enforcement is not above the law in any way, shape or form, and we cannot allow a precedent to happen with this traffic stop and what came after it... What [Colorado Attorney General] Phil Weiser is doing is upholding Colorado state law, but also upholding and defending the safety of Coloradans because it is not just undocumented people that we know are racially profiled.”



photo: Khamara Victory

*California Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

### **Advocates against police militarization hold space for families**

The CA Healing Justice Program organized the second Police Demilitarization Convening July 20-22 at the Quaker Center in Ben Lomond, CA. The 34 attendees included advocates and family members of people killed by police. They came from across California: Sacramento, Orange County, Los Angeles, the greater Santa Cruz area, and the Bay Area. We had a healing circle and learned about new research. Workshops focused on organizing strategy, supporting local groups, changing narratives, and how family members and advocates collaborate.





Pedro Sosa of AFSC (back row, fourth from left) joins other indigenous interpreters.

### *Oregon-Washington Project Voice*

## **Celebrating a win for indigenous interpretation in Oregon**

In this [interview](#), Pedro Sosa of AFSC explains the importance of a recent legislative win in Oregon for indigenous language justice. Pedro joined other advocates in talking with legislators. “And that’s why we got this funding,” he says. “We shared our experiences and challenges as interpreters – and also the challenges the communities face when they need interpretation, but no one can pay the interpreters. This money recognizes the time interpreters put in.”



Keiko Kubo (center) works for Tsuru for Solidarity, a group of Japanese Americans fighting for the rights of migrants caught up in America’s inhumane detention facilities.

### *Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

## **Community forum addresses rising concerns about threats to civil liberties**

PVI recently organized *Unheard Echoes: Silencing Due Process*. The multimedia event brought powerful voices together in Fresno to confront the growing threats to civil liberties, due process, and immigrant rights in America. A panel discussion connected the history of Japanese American incarceration, deportations of Mexican Americans, and today’s attacks on immigrant communities and the rule of law. PVI’s ArteVism Collective performed *My Relationship with America*. Read [more](#).



Sayrah Namaste of AFSC NM enjoys a five-mile nature walk in Alaska.

*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

### **AFSC connects with Friends in Alaska**

Sayrah Namaste of AFSC New Mexico recently participated in the annual [Alaska Friends Conference](#) in Wasilla, Alaska under the theme “Faithfulness in a Turbulent World.” Sayrah writes: “Interfaith Minister [Rhetta Morgan](#) led the group in a beautiful workshop called ‘Glory Stories,’ which included walking in the forest and along the lake where we were gathered. A member of the Knik tribe shared the tribal roots of the region with storytelling and photos.” Read [more](#).



From NBC 7 in San Diego

*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

### **AFSC decries staggering budget for detention, deportation**

In this [TV interview](#), Adriana Jasso of AFSC says many of the people welcomed at the border over the past several years are now being targeted in courtrooms. The \$165 billion included in the recent budget bill for immigration enforcement is an “exaggerated amount of money. There is no way to understand the magnitude of what the resources are going to be allocated or how they’re going to be used.”





Students from Roots for Peace's Youth Organizing program paint a banner with a quote from Assata Shakur, "We have nothing to lose but our chains!"

*Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles*

### **Art Build calls for "Community Stoppage" to reclaim power**

Roots for Peace youth joined Garment Worker Center members to create art for a general strike calling for an end to ICE raids. The General Strike is led by the coalition [Summer of Resistance](#) and will be held on August 12. For 24 hours, supporters pledge to No work. No shopping. No school. The demands are: Stop the ICE raids, End the militarization of Los Angeles, Break ties between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents, and Free all detainees.

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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.*