



AFSC West Region News – November 2025

Stories of work from around the region

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



Myrna Martinez Nateras is the founding Program Director of the Pan Valley Institute.

Photo: Claire Hannapel

Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

Gathering in Central Valley lights the way in dark times

In October 2025, the Pan Valley Institute (PVI) and allies convened their second Salt of the Earth Encuentro with a theme of “Cultivating Climate, Food, and Land Justice.” Food has been a particularly powerful way to promote solidarity and cultural exchange across cultural lines.

PVI used storytelling, food traditions, art, and sustainable agriculture to uplift communities targeted by systemic oppression and reclaim their rightful place as cultural and economic leaders. Over three days and three locations, around 120 workers, farmers, chefs, activists, artists, and organizers took part. Read [more](#) from Rick Wilson of AFSC.



Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Oregon and Colorado staffers honored for immigrant rights work

On November 7, the Denver Justice and Peace Committee honored AFSC for all its work across the country in support of immigrant communities. Pedro Sosa of AFSC Oregon writes: “This recognition is for my colleagues, with their unwavering commitment to the struggle for peace and a better world for all, even facing risks and fear.” Jennifer Piper of AFSC Colorado received the John Proctor Award. On this [video](#), catch Piper’s remarks at the 33:46 mark and Pedro’s at 1:13:44.



A Day of the Dead protest in Aurora, Colorado. Photo: Imani Cruz

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

Dia De Los Muertos vigil at GEO Detention Center

On November 3, AFSC and the Center for Service Learning at Regis University hosted a Day of the Dead vigil at GEO Detention Center. People brought photos, flowers, and other items to honor their ancestors and to add to the community altar. Attendees remembered those whose lives were lost in the custody of ICE and CBP, including Melvin Ariel Calero-Mendoza. Participants also called on the Colorado congressional delegation to cut funds to ICE and CBP. Watch [here](#) and learn [more](#) about the latest AFSC work in Colorado.



Photo: Crystal Gonzalez

Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Immigrant support group and bracelet-making workshop

In Los Angeles AFSC staff recently gathered with 10 women to offer support, discuss the impact of local immigration raids, and offer a safety tool. Participants shared concerns, built community, and made bracelets adding their emergency contact information. The idea is that if they are taken by ICE, they can throw the bracelet to an onlooker and ask them to call the number to notify a family member that they have been taken. Participants asked for the workshop to be repeated in December for a larger group.



Two mothers cook *chuleta* and *guisado de pollo* for their families on the community kitchen stove. Photo: Danielle Cosmes

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Collective of migrant mothers in San Diego builds community

Mutual Aid for Moms is a collective comprised of migrant mothers and volunteers based in San Diego who are organizing for food sovereignty and dignified housing in the face of persecution by US immigration forces. At a roundtable conversation hosted by AFSC, one mother asks, “What am I going to do if they take me while my kids are at school?” Read [more](#) from Danielle Cosmes of AFSC.

Advancing racial justice in California

California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Gov. Newsom signs latest Racial Justice Act

All people deserve fair and equitable treatment in the criminal legal system, free from bias or discrimination. Yet people of color continue to face racial bias in charging, sentencing, and prosecutorial decisions. Now, a new law is helping to change that in California, thanks to advocacy by AFSC and partners. The bill guarantees legal representation for any person who raises claims of racial discrimination in their cases. Read [more](#) from Fatimeh Khan of AFSC.



Rebecca Riley, an AFSC New Mexico contractor, explains the "Eat Your Greens" guide for vegetables.
Photo: Sayrah Namaste

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Tribal Home Visiting partnership encourages healthy eating by children

November is Native American Heritage month. AFSC New Mexico program is excited that our partnership with tribal home visitors will be highlighted at an event on November 18 for Native families served by [Native American Professional Parent Resources](#). AFSC NM is proud to support Native families and farmers through partnerships like this. Read [more](#) from Sayrah Namaste of AFSC.



67 Sueños, Oakland

5K Monarca Run set for December 13 in Oakland

Whether you run, walk, roll, or stroll, join 67 Sueños for a beautiful day in community. Your participation will support the leadership of our youth and the future they will create. All funding will go towards our HYPHY (Heal Your People, Heal Yourself) program, staffing needs, and campaign efforts. Learn more and register [here](#).

Stronger with Immigrants Week of Action set for December 10-18

From Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day, through Dec. 18, International Migrants Day, communities across the U.S. are uniting for a Stronger with Immigrants Week of Action. Together, we are organizing actions to take a stand for immigrant rights.

Join us! Organize a vigil, rally, or community gathering in your area. Together, we will denounce immigration raids, detention, and deportation and affirm everyone's right to safety, belonging, and justice. [Learn more and get started.](#)

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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.*