



AFSC West Region News – January 2026

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.



Jordan Garcia of AFSC Colorado on [Denver7](#)

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

AFSC speaks out against war in Venezuela, celebrates Jeanette's freedom

Following the US bombing of Venezuela and abduction of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, AFSC issued this [statement](#) and [explainer](#) decrying this unjustified, illegal, and unprovoked act of war against a sovereign nation. In Denver, Jordan Garcia of AFSC told [Denver7 News](#): "I do think that the fact that Venezuela sits on that large of a reserve of oil is a main motivating factor for the Trump administration."

Last month, AFSC Colorado and partners celebrated the release of immigrant leader Jeanette-Vizguerra-Ramirez following nine months in detention. Read [more](#). And [take action](#) to release all people held in unsanitary and unsafe immigrant detention.



Patrick Jaramillo of AFSC (far right) joins other members of Una Vida Buena, Sana y Alegre Consejo or Good, Healthy, Joyful Life.

People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

Working for right relationships between people, water and the land

After over 10 years of work, AFSC and our partners in the Contra Santolina Coalition recently declared victory after stalling a proposed 90,000 home development that would have robbed communities of life-giving water. AFSC is now working with partners to ensure that economic and political decisions are made with a water consciousness. AFSC is also organizing in support of traditional practices of water and land management that support vibrant communities mutually dependent on each other. Read [more](#).



Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Billboard campaign in LA calls for care, not cages

From [Instagram](#): Our city's youth, mothers, fathers, day laborers, and street vendors deserve to be treated with care, NOT cages. Building the world we want to see is more important now than ever. So Roots for Peace invested in a billboard that says this loud and proud. Our people don't need detention centers or prisons, we need care.



tsim+nuj vang is the new PVI ArteVism Fellow.

Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno

PVI welcomes new ArteVism Fellow

PVI is excited to announce tsim+nuj vang as the ArteVism Fellow. tsim+nuj (chee new) vang (they/them) is a queer HMong movement artist and dance practitioner. They are currently based in Merced (Yokuts Land) California, where they call home. They are a descendant of HMong creatives, farmers, healers, shamans, and immigrant refugees. tsim+nuj graduated from UC San Diego (Kumeyaay Land) in 2023 with a BA in Ethnic Studies and Minor in Dance. Read [more](#).



Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Highlights from 2025 include Neighborhood Defense, Know Your Rights

Project Voice is pleased to share these [highlights](#) from our work in 2025. We created Defense de Barrio (Neighborhood Defense) actions to organize local rapid response teams to meet the needs of the community. We provided Know Your Rights (KYR) information to thousands of community members and worked with allies from faith, labor, and educator organizations. Our KYR Train the Trainer workshop helped develop immigrant and ally leaders to share best practices and information using Popular Education methods.



At the December 2025 Posada Sin Fronteras (photo: Pedro Rios)

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

32 annual Posada Sin Fronteras calls for welcoming migrants

On December 13, 2025, religious, human rights, and civil society groups celebrated the 32nd annual Posada Sin Fronteras event at the border in San Diego while partners in Tijuana did the same at Playas de Tijuana. The event commemorated the nativity story of Jesus' birth, with Joseph and Mary's search for shelter on Christmas Eve. Their journey in search of safe haven is reflected in the experiences of thousands of families migrating to the United States and around the world who face unimaginable circumstances. Read [more](#).



California Healing Justice Program, Oakland

Webinar celebrates Racial Justice Act win in California

Fatimeh Khan, co-director of the CA Healing Justice Program, recently moderated this [webinar](#) celebrating the passage of AB 1071, the latest iteration of the Racial Justice Act. AFSC is working alongside partners to ensure access and clear pathways to justice for both people incarcerated in state prisons and those formerly incarcerated. Read [more](#) from Fatimeh.



67 Sueños, Oakland

67 Sueños welcomes in 2026 – set to celebrate their Quinceañera

From [Facebook](#): With everything that's going on in our communities and the world, we are grateful for this 67 space, our youth, our comrades and community. Check out our [photos from 2025](#). This year it's our Quinceañera, and we want to celebrate it. BUT today we reminisce on being young and fearless. For being believers and dreamers of a better tomorrow. We hope to continue planting and watering seeds in the new year. Watch [here](#).

Short takes

Here's AFSC's [statement](#) on ICE's killing of Renee Nicole Good in Minneapolis and our [action alert](#)On January 17, Friends Meetings around the country will take part in a second round of [Love As Action events](#)....Check out the latest news from AFSC's [Midwest Region](#) and [Northeast Region](#)....Hearty congrats to award-winning author and Phoenix Friend [Nancy Hicks Marshall](#) on her latest [book](#).

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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.