



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



From left, AFSC staff Rick Wilson, Alonso Oliveros and Sayrah Namaste rally for immigrants outside the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, WA (photo: AFSC)

*Oregon-Washington Project Voice*

### **Friends and AFSC rally against immigrant detention**

In late July, dozens of Friends from the Pacific Northwest [joined](#) AFSC staff from around the country to rally against the ongoing incarceration of immigrants and inhumane living conditions at Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) in Tacoma, Washington.

This Quaker Solidarity Day came midway through the annual sessions of North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM), held in nearby Olympia. Alonso Oliveros, Program Associate with Oregon Project Voice, said it was great to see energized Quakers take action and hear from detained community members. “It’s so important to keep them in the Light under such inhumane conditions,” Alonso said.



At a press conference in Denver, people urged Gov. Polis to issue a public health order regarding tuberculosis cases at the GEO detention center. (photo: Gabriela Flora)

*Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado*

### **Advocates demand transparency about conditions at ICE facility**

In June, a case of tuberculosis was confirmed at the ICE detention center in Aurora, CO, run by the for-profit GEO Group. A dozen more cases have since been reported. AFSC and partners have demanded public health inspections. But GEO and ICE refused to let public health officials into the facility. After weeks of sustained pressure, the state issued a public health order. And when GEO failed to comply, the attorney general sued the corporation. "It is a dark hole, and we need our agencies to go inside," said Miriam Ordoñez Rodriguez of AFSC. Read [more](#).



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

### **Summer Freedom School provides social justice training for LA youth**

For six weeks this summer, Roots for Peace worked with South Central youth to deepen their collective understanding of intersectionality and social justice. Through hands-on activities and skill shares, youth developed leadership, communication and organizing skills while building friendships and connecting with like-minded people. Stay [tuned](#) for more!



C.P. Ellis and Ann Atwater offer one example of restorative justice. (Photo: Facing History 2016)

*California Healing Justice Program, Oakland*

### **AFSC releases new restorative justice toolkit**

When someone causes harm, restorative justice offers an alternative to punishment—one centered in accountability and repair. AFSC’s California Healing Justice Program has long worked to make restorative modalities the default method of addressing harm. That’s why we launched a new [Restorative Justice Toolkit](#). In a recent interview, Fatimeh Khan of AFSC discusses what restorative justice can look like and how the toolkit can support communities. “At its best, restorative justice creates conditions for truth-telling, meaningful accountability, healing, and changed behavior,” Fatimeh says. Read [more](#).

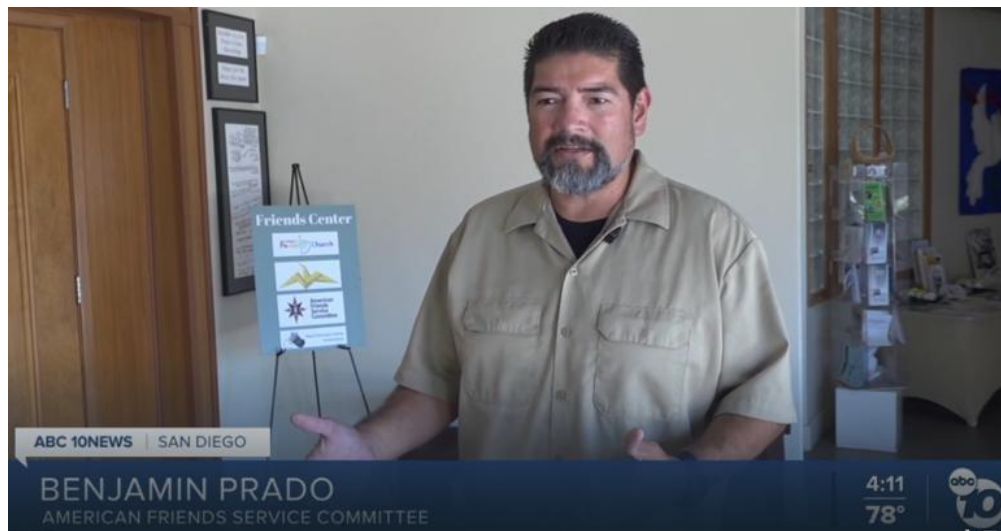


Patrick Jaramillo leads a workshop on sustainability at the Festival. Photo: Jen Siverman

*People of the Land Program, Albuquerque*

### **Garlic Festival celebrates land, water, food and community**

AFSC New Mexico recently co-sponsored a Garlic Festival held at Sostenga Farm on the campus of Northern New Mexico College. In this [interview](#), Patrick Jaramillo, AFSC NM Program Co-Director, describes how the festival is one example of how AFSC and partners work together to promote sustainability and cultural heritage in northern New Mexico.



Benjamin Prado of AFSC on [San Diego ABC 10News](#) (screenshot)

*US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego*

### **AFSC speaks out against the inhumanity of ICE electric shock gloves**

ICE's proposal to spend up to \$20 million on electric shock gloves is disgusting, according to Benjamin Prado of AFSC. He told [San Diego ABC 10News](#) that it's "completely perverse to use these tools of torture as a means to detain individuals in order to subdue them." California lawmakers agree; they recently passed a first-in-the nation ban on the gloves.



*Pan Valley Institute (PVI), Fresno*

### **PVI set to launch campaign focused on migrant wisdom, land stewardship**

PVI's new "Salt of the Earth Campaign" will honor the rich histories and vital contributions of immigrants, refugees, Indigenous peoples, and people of color to regional agriculture, sustainable local economies, and the vibrant food culture of California's Central Valley. The [launch](#) is set for September 17 in Madera, CA. Read [more](#) from Joshua Slack, PVI ArteVism Cultural Organizer, about how PVI changed his life – and why you should be part of PVI's next chapter as an independent org.



67 Sueños unveils their 22<sup>nd</sup> mural. (photo: 67 Sueños)

67 Sueños, Oakland

## **Latest mural portrays the love of generations of youth**

From Jackie Garcia-Martinez of AFSC: On July 25, 67 Sueños unveiled mural #22! This mural was a love letter to our *gente*, honoring the stories of migrant youth, their dreams, and their power. This mural reflects 15 years and 15 generations of the stories that 67 Sueños has had the privilege of lifting up.

This mural has the faces of many of our youth, connecting them to the different generations of 67 Sueños. Each of their stories shows the beauty of the dreams and aspirations that live in our communities -- and most importantly, that every story has value and must be uplifted and protected.

Help us continue to uplift stories for the next 15 years! Join us November 13, 2026 for a celebration of 15 years of Youth Power: Uplifting Stories Through Palabra y Color. [Get your ticket today!](#)

## **Small takes**

Please join Friends in [Eugene, Oregon](#) on September 7 for the next Love as Action vigil in support of immigrants and opposition to authoritarianism....Join AFSC's next Protect, Resist and Build monthly [webinar](#) on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 5 pm PT....Check out AFSC's latest [resource](#) for people facing deportation....AFSC and other rights groups are [suing](#) the Trump administration over targeting the ICC.

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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.*