AFSC West Region News – November 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.



Created in 2026, 67 Sueños's most recent mural honors the stories of migrant youth, their dreams, and their power. Photo: 67 Sueños

67 Sueños, Oakland

Help us celebrate 15 years of youth power on November 13 in Oakland!

It's time to celebrate 67 Sueños's Quinceañera! We want you to join us for a night full of art, storytelling and youth legacy. You are key to youth stepping into their power. Now more than ever we are calling on our community to build the future. Help us pass on the mic to the next generation of leaders for the next 15 years!

Special guest performers include Los Rakas and Alba & Gustavo. Special thanks to the many Madrinas and Padrinos (godmothers and godfathers) who have donated money to make our 15ñera happen!

Join us on Friday, November 13, 2026 for a celebration of 15 years of Youth Power: Uplifting Stories Through Palabra y Color. Get your ticket TODAY!



Members of Polk County Folks Together (PCFT) role-play scenarios confronting anti-immigrant agitators at a Human Rights Observer training. Photo: Alonso Oliveros

Oregon-Washington Project Voice

Human Rights Observer trainings support vulnerable members

To oppose attacks on our immigrant neighbors, AFSC Oregon Project Voice mobilizes allies and community members to train as Human Rights Observers. These HROs support immigrant communities in these dark times, keeping families together and ensuring that migrant families are supported. Read more from Alonso Oliveros of AFSC.



Colorado staff and partners prepare to door knock on Amendment 81. Photo: Marine/CIRC

Immigrant Rights Program, Colorado

Canvas and phone bank builds opposition to anti-immigrant amendment

On November 3, Coloradoans rejected Amendment 81, which would have permanently amended the Colorado Constitution and undermined state laws limiting ICE authority in Colorado. Under the measure, state and local law enforcement would have been required to determine people's immigration status and notify ICE when they charge Coloradans with certain crimes and before a court has decided if that person is guilty. AFSC staffers Miriam and Lupe report that every door knocked and phone call made resulted in people agreeing to oppose the measure, which failed. Follow AFSC Colorado on Instagram.



Roots for Peace (RFP) Program, Los Angeles

Latest Freedom School mural breathes hope amid struggle

Roots for Peace recently completed its 11th annual Freedom School! Twenty high school students spent six weeks with AFSC building community, analyzing injustice locally and globally, and celebrating resistance. They called on each other to understand and improve interpersonal dynamics as they grappled with the painful reality facing immigrant families in Los Angeles and across the country. In culmination, students worked with Jackelinne Gallardo, a local artist who is also a prior AFSC Joe Franko Intern. Together, they designed and painted a mural that breathes hope while lifting current struggles. Follow RFP on Instagram.



Adriana Jasso of AFSC speaks at the October 2026 Day of the Dead vigil at Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego. Photo: Pedro Rios

US-Mexico Border Program, San Diego

Vigil honors those who have died in ICE custody across the US

In the Latin American tradition of Día de Muertos, AFSC and community partners in San Diego recently held a vigil and built an altar as an *ofrenda* at the Otay Mesa Detention Center. The altar honored those who have died in ICE custody across the country, including Guillermo Pascual Vergansa, a Guatemalan national who died days before at the facility. AFSC staffers Benjamin Prado is quoted here and Adriana Jasso and Pedro Rios here about his death.



People of the Land Program, Albuquerque

AFSC New Mexico applauds court rulings that pause massive AI data center

AFSC NM staff are part of a statewide coalition advocating against hyperscale data centers. Recently the New Mexico Supreme Court agreed with environmental advocates and paused two permits for Project Jupiter, a massive hyperscale data center planned for Doña Ana County. Two articles quote AFSC NM Co-Directors Sayrah Namaste and Patrick Jaramillo. We recently worked with 46 New Mexico organizations to buy full page ads (see above) in several newspapers around the state to oppose Sen. Heinrich's support for a bill that will fast track permits to data centers and fossil fuel companies.



Police demilitarization advocates convene in California. Photo: Kavena Hembira

California Healing Justice Program

AFSC hosts third statewide convening on demilitarizing police

In July 2026, California Healing Justice convened the third statewide gathering of organizers, impacted families and advocates for police demilitarization, in the redwoods at the Ben Lomond Quaker Center, near Santa Cruz. It was two days of collaboration, joy and inspiration. The gathering had 35 people from across the state and included members of Love Not Blood, family members who have lost a loved one to police killings. Read more from John Lindsay-Poland of AFSC.

Short takes

Check out the first Salt of the Earth podcast from Pan Valley Institute…. Donate now to AFSC's emergency response work in Gaza….Watch this recording of AFSC's recent Protect, Resist, and Build webinar focused on civil resistance and election defense.

Your support matters

Your gifts of time and money make a real difference. Please be in touch with any West Region program by visiting afsc.org. Please share this subscription link for this newsletter with others. Thank you!

DONATE TO WEST REGION PROGRAMS

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.*