AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
(AFSC)
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
(SERO)

Southeast Region

Southeast Region Office

SERO works on issues related to youth, immigrants, social justice, economic justice, and peace building in ways that are flexible and responsive to changing community needs.

The AFSC office in Atlanta, GA, located at 189 Sams Street, Suite A, Decatur , GA , 30030, is the regional headquarters for the SERO. This office also hosts the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution program.

SAYMA has to representatives on the SERO Executive Committee (EC), Geeta Jyothi and Peter Furst. The EC meets quarterly, the next meeting is scheduled for June 17th &18th in Durham, NC. The October meeting was our first meeting in the new location at 60 Walton St in downtown Atlanta. The December meeting was in Miami and the March Meeting was back in Atlanta.

The Southeast Region includes 8 States, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Currently there are SERO programs with paid staff in 4 of those states, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana.

The Area **Office of the Carolinas**, located in Greensboro, coordinates three main programs: the *NC Immigrant Rights Program*, *Carolinas Peace and Economic Justice Program*, and the *Friends Humanitarian Response Program* (in High Point, NC). These programs each attempt to find alternative solutions to social problems based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. The **High Point** office of the American Friends Service Committee runs the *Friends Humanitarian Response Program* (FHRP, formerly EMAP), which provides material assistance to those in need. Much of the support comes from local Friends Meetings that provide the material that is distributed.

Miami - The *American Friends Immigrant Services Program*'s (AFIS) primary focus is to strengthen understanding and respect among cultures, as well as increase awareness of migration and the rights of immigrants. Our programs aim to provide direct immigration representation and assistance for refugees and immigrants. *Immigration Legal Services:* The Legal Services Program provides legal assistance, consultations, and referrals for clients regarding immigration matters. The program works in collaboration with other legal services clinics to provide the best and most comprehensive legal assistance for immigrants. *Community Advocacy* : A large part of the AFIS program deals with human rights and community organization. The Community Social Advocacy Program works to secure the

rights of immigrants in South Florida through advocacy and political action for a positive legal environment. After the granting of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians that are in the country illegally, the Miami office has been working with and advising Haitians in all of south Florida, from Miami, to Fort Myers to Immokolee about their options.

The **New Orleans** *Peace & Economic Justice Project* works closely with residents of the 7th Ward and the Desire /Florida neighborhood in the 9th Ward to fight for peaceful neighborhoods with economic security. Their *Peace Building & Conflict Resolution Project* includes a campaign to counter military recruitment among high school youth, training in community organizing and conflict resolution using a human rights frame, community action and advocacy, and an annual Alternative Jobs Fair. They work with others groups in the city to re-build a peace movement, and also sponsor peace education talks and film screenings. The *Economic Justice Project* partners with other worker rights organizations in the fight for a living wage, including the campaign to pass a 'First Source Policy' at the New Orleans City Council. They are building the fight for food access and food security by assisting in the campaign to reopen Circle Food Store, the only Black owned supermarket in New Orleans, located in the heart of the 7th Ward.

The **Atlanta** *Peace Building Program* works with local activists, students, schools, veteran groups, and the faith community for truth in military recruitment and to promote non-military post high school options in the region. They seek to educate parents, schools, and young people about what options and alternatives to the military exist. The aim is to change the overall culture of militarism. This work is rooted in the Quaker belief of "that of God in every person" and the AFSC's historical commitment to peace and conscientious objection. They recently worked with the ACLU of Georgia and several Georgia legislators to create legislation that urges the creation of safeguards against abusive, dishonest, and illegal military recruitment practices. Through the Student Career Alternatives Program (SCAP), free career counseling is provided at several Atlanta area High Schools on a monthly basis.

The best way to keep up with AFSC's Peacebuilding work in Atlanta is through the Peacebuilding Program's blog: afscatlanta.blogspot.com<http://afscatlanta.blogspot.com>. The blog is updated regularly with stories, photos, and videos about a variety of projects coming out of the Atlanta office. Guest writers doing related work in the area sometimes appear on the blog to give our readers a wide perspective on the exciting peace and justice work coming out of the city. Keep up with the excitement by bookmarking our page or scrolling to the bottom and clicking "Follow" to get notified when we update the blog with a new story.

Windows and Mirrors is a traveling exhibit that provides an opportunity to see ourselves in depictions of the war in Afghanistan through the eyes of artists and children.

The exhibit includes 45 unique 4-foot by 6-foot panels created by artists memorializing Afghan civilian casualties, alongside images about living with war collected from Afghan schoolchildren.

This exhibit will be in the SERO Atlanta Office from August 25, 2011 to September 21, 2011. This exhibit was recently at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.

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http://afsc.org/region/southeast-region
\Submitted by Peter Furst, SAYMA Representative to SERO

Location

AFSC Georgia Peace Center
60 Walton Street, NW between Forsyth and Fairlie
Atlanta, GA 30303
See map: Google Maps
Contact Information:

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