

WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

APRIL 2023

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net we will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

NOTE: View "Walk the Talk" previous issues at: <http://www.stgilesparish.org/peace-and-justice/>

GUN VIOLENCE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/INCARCERATION/CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Join the Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence at St. Edmund Campus (188 S. Oak Park Ave.) "We gather the last Saturday of each month to bring awareness to gun violence." **[NOTE: Location and time for April may change due to the storm damage at St. Edmund. We are awaiting confirmation.]**



"Chicago Survivors (CS) offers crime victim and support services to surviving family members of Chicago homicide victims. Our services are free, voluntary and open to all. Our staff includes bilingual Spanish/English speakers, and all staff can access real-time translation services in other languages." <https://chicagosurvivors.org/program-overview/> **Crisis Helpline: 877.863.6338**



HARVARD Kennedy School

INSTITUTE OF POLITICS 3/28/2023: HARVARD YOUTH POLL: **63% OF YOUNG ADULTS SUPPORT**

STRICTER GUN LAWS -- A MAJORITY ACROSS ALL EDUCATION, RACE, GENDER, AND URBAN/SUBURBAN/SMALL TOWN DIVIDES <https://iop.harvard.edu/youth-poll/spring-2023-harvard-youth-poll-gun-safety-findings>



Still watching.....Illinois SB 2073: Retroactive Parole for Children and Young Adults --

"Senate Bill 2073 would allow people currently incarcerated and convicted when they were younger than 21 to benefit from recent prospective parole laws. The recent laws, [Public Act 102-1128](#) (2023) and [Public Act 100-1182](#) (2019) created the first new parole opportunities in Illinois since our state abolished parole in 1978. Together, the laws ensure no children 17 and younger can receive a life without parole sentence; they also extend parole consideration to most people 18-20.

SB 2073 would apply both bills retroactively to make sure youthful parole opportunities are applied fairly and evenly and bring Illinois in line with most states that have abolished life without parole for children and young adults." <https://restorejusticeillinois.org/legislation/senatebill2073/> Last Action

Date	Chamber	Action
3/31/2023	Senate	Rule 3-9(a) / Re-referred to Assignments



"Mercy in Action Project" Sign up to receive monthly alerts about upcoming executions which include resources for prayer and advocacy. <https://catholicmobilizing.org/action/mercy-actionproject>



<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/stop-the-execution-of-ivan-cantu-in-texas>



"The following link is to an updated list of **currently scheduled executions** in the United States. **Select the prisoner's name to sign the petition** which will be delivered on your behalf to the respective state's government officials". **(Silence is consent!)** <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/take-action/execution-petitions/>

IMMIGRATION



Bethany House of Hospitality "Empowering Young Women Seeking Asylum" - a facility to give unaccompanied young women immigrants, who are aging out of youth detention, an alternative to adult detention when they turn 18 years old. [NOTE: IIM (Intercultural Immigration Ministry of Oak Park Catholic churches) works with Bethany House]

See the **Amazon Wish List** for needs of the new SWG Amate House in Little Village: **(NOTE: new to the wish list are 2 high chairs and 3 strollers!)**

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3CK43HZBHC297?ref=wl_fv_le



YOU can help end human rights abuses by ICE contractors!

Contact: Field Office Director, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 865 SW 78th St., Plantation, FL 33324

Contact: DHS Office of the Inspector General, Attn: Office of Investigations – Hotline, 245 Murray Drive, Building 410 Stop: 2600, Washington, DC 20528

By phone: 1-800-323-8603

By email: dhsoghline@dhs.gov

Script: Hello, I'm contacting you from [STATE] because I'm deeply concerned about the [dire mismanagement of Baker County Detention Center](#). Their ongoing violations of ICE standards and federal laws include [inhumane treatment](#), excessive use of force, extreme medical neglect, racialized harassment, and blocking access to legal counsel. I insist you immediately [end your contract with Baker County Sheriff's Office](#) and release detained individuals to the safety of their communities.

Alternate: Sign the [ACLU Florida petition](#). (Note: You will be added to their email distribution list.)

ENVIRONMENT: - EARTH DAY: Saturday, April 22nd



April 15, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. - Montrose Beach cleanup and nature tours "In addition to beautifying part of Chicago's shoreline, we collect and catalog all the debris we find in order to help analyze the cleanliness of the world's water and beaches. Throughout the morning **we will also lead tours of the natural habitats around Montrose Beach**. This is a wonderful event for adults and kids alike... Come for all or part of the work period. Dress for the weather, wear a hat and sunscreen, bring a filled water bottle and work gloves if you have them. No dogs allowed." **Sign up HERE:**

<https://adopt.greatlakes.org/s/cleanup/a2o8X0000050q8e/aab21695>



Apr 19th, 10AM - ALL DAY - Annual [Illinois Advocacy Day 2023](#) - Springfield, IL "Join an incredible coalition to advocate for climate justice in person in Springfield."

"We're providing two virtual trainings to prepare for Advocacy Day. Learn about the environmental policies we'll be advocating for, as well as advocacy strategies for meeting with your legislator! Please note: The same content will be presented at each training, and a recording will be shared for anyone who cannot join live."

Training Times:

- Thursday, April 13, 2023, 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))
- Thursday, April 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Advocacy Day Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023
- **Tentative Schedule:**
 - 11:00 a.m. Arrive at State House
 - 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Rally at Lincoln Statue
 - 12:30-2:00 p.m. Meet with legislators
 - 3:00 p.m. Load buses for the return trip
- **Location:** Illinois State Capitol
- **Address:** 401 S 2nd St, Springfield, IL
- **Busses will be picking up from locations around the state.** Please reach out to Christina at christina@faithinplace.org if you have questions!

Register HERE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGKjQDO6dio5iKDXS69v-uihpjWVOeElwYUv>



Join BUILD Chicago, Openlands, One Earth Collective, Field Museum, Friends of the Parks, Interfaith Green Network, Oak Park Climate Action Network, Seven Generations Ahead, and many other partners in an Earth Day clean-up of Harrison St and Columbus Park! **IN PERSON: Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CDT [Central] Columbus Park (pavilion north of Field House), Chicago**

Meet at pavilion/shelter house north of Columbus Park Field House on Central Ave, Chicago.

Schedule on Saturday, April 22, 2023:

- 9:00 a.m. sign in at the shelter/pavilion
- 9:00-11:30 a.m. trash clean-up, garden prep & mulching
- 11:30-12:30 p.m. reflection & lunch

Sign-up for clean-up:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJGNODU1ykprgtbm3OCZi12DPxqh4wGOVB2XE02dQdbmsLDQ/viewform>



SIERRA CLUB
ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Support **Illinois HB 3119 (Carbon Dioxide Transport Act)** – Protect Illinois from unregulated carbon capture. **READ MORE**

HERE: <https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/Illinois?actionId=AR0383503&id>

FOOD AND SHELTER:



“The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty... From serving meals at our Health Outreach Bus and volunteering at our Youth Housing Programs to becoming a member of our Associate Board or organizing collection drives, there are multiple ways for individuals and groups to support the work of The Night Ministry and improve the lives of the young people and adults we serve.”

<https://www.thenightministry.org/other-ways-to-support>

- [Meals and Food Items](#)
- [Clothing](#)
- [Hygiene/Personal Care Products](#)
- [Gift Cards and Ventra Passes](#)
- [Survival Supplies](#)



Volunteers needed for the SHELTER at St. Catherine/St. Lucy, 38 N. Austin Blvd.

1. Evening – 6:30p until 10:30p (3 volunteers)
2. Overnight – 10:30p until 5:00a (2 volunteers)

3. Morning – 5:00a until 7:00a (2 volunteers)

MEALS needed: Volunteers donate a full hot dinner, and/or continental breakfast, and/or sack to-go lunches for 25 people **Volunteer HERE:** <https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>



"Beyond Hunger's **CAN DO** Community Challenge is a local hunger relief campaign during the month of April designed to heighten awareness about local food and nutrition security. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/CanDoCommunity>

The following non-perishables are our most needed items

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Canned Chicken Soup
- Cheerios' Cereal
- Canned Mixed Vegetables
- Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste
- Bagged Rice (White or Brown)
- Refried and Dry Beans (Pinto and Black)
- Canned Pineapples
- Canned pinto and black beans

You can drop off all donations during open hours on **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. – 848 Lake Street, Oak Park**



Westchester Food Pantry

Support: "Spring Fling Artisan Market" Sunday, April 23, 10AM-4PM – 1938 S. Mannheim – **Free admission** "...proudly serves the communities of Bellwood, Berkeley, Broadview, Hillside, Hines, La Grange Park, Westchester, and Western Springs." <https://westchesterfoodpantry.org/donate/>



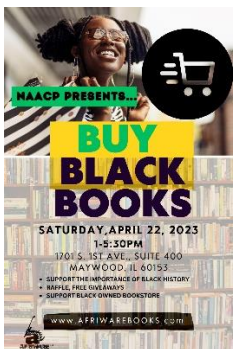
"We welcome **volunteers** to assist with the day-to-day operations that make Oak Park Community Fridge possible. Become a fridge manager to maintain our fridge, stock the fridge by distributing food from our partners, and help with behind-the-scenes operations." <https://www.opfridge.com/volunteer>

...and more...



One Earth/City of Chicago - Earth Day Mini Film Fest – 4/19-4/23 – FREE virtual 'watch parties' or in person at 6 local venues <https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/earth-day>

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS: AFRIWARE BOOKS – 1701 S. 1ST AVE., Suite 400



FOR YOUR REFERENCE...

DIRECTORY: (post and share these numbers widely, please!)

- National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233
 - Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline 1-877-863-6338
 - National Sexual Assault Hotline (all ages) 1-800-656-4673
- CAWC/Connections for Abused Women & Children <https://www.cawc.org/> ○ SARAH'S INN:
24-HOUR CRISIS LINE: [708-386-4225 \(phone\)](tel:708-386-4225) / [708-669-6149 \(text\)](tel:708-669-6149) ○ Trevor Line (for LGBTQ
teens and young adults) 1-866-488-7386
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **DIAL 988** – 24/7, toll-free everywhere