

WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

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.



FEBRUARY 2024

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God..." (Matt. 5:9)

**** Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence - Saturday, February 24th, at 6:00 PM** (following the 5PM Mass) **at ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****

An Evening with FR. JOHN DEAR – Monday, March 11th, 7-9 PM McDonough Hall (St. Giles) – 1101 N. Columbian "Peacemaker, author, and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, **Father John Dear**, will be with us to talk about and sign copies of his new book, his life's work: ***The Gospel of Peace: A Commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke from the Perspective of Nonviolence.*** It is the first ever commentary on the Synoptic Gospels from the perspective of active nonviolence in the tradition of Gandhi and Dr. King. In this original work, Fr. John walks us through every line of the three synoptic Gospels pointing out Jesus' practice and teachings on nonviolence, peace, and universal love..."

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJ5KIsn7haoMB_KOo01vfEPWQx4VXBhrp-6KV03y5IXj_PBQ/viewform



sarah's inn
together strong

Housing Forward and Sarah's Inn to launch Safe Bridge Housing for domestic violence survivors.

MAYWOOD, Illinois (February 16, 2024) - **Housing Forward**, which works to end homelessness, and **Sarah's Inn**, a comprehensive domestic violence agency, are coming together to form Safe Bridge Housing, a housing program designed for families fleeing domestic violence. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will provide up to two years of housing and case management services for households experiencing domestic violence in west suburban Cook County.

The partnership brings together two well-established organizations whose joint goal is for survivors to find and maintain safety through stable housing. Survivors will have access to low-barrier, temporary housing and the financial support necessary to help them quickly move into and maintain permanent housing....

<https://sarahsinn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Safe-Bridge-Press-Release-FINAL.pdf>



<https://www.cawc.org/about-programs/> Multi-lingual shelter, hospital services, education and outreach programs, counseling, court advocacy, and more! **[CAWC 24-HOUR HOT LINE: [773.278.4566](tel:773.278.4566)]**

o **National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233**

- [Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline 1-877-863-6338](tel:1-877-863-6338)
- [National Sexual Assault Hotline \(all ages\) 1-800-656-4673](tel:1-800-656-4673)

o [Trevor Line \(for LGBTQ teens and young adults\) 1-866-488-7386](tel:1-866-488-7386)

o [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **DIAL 988**](tel:988) – 24/7, toll-free everywhere

"Let us pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country." – Pope Francis



Urge President Joe Biden and his administration to honor the sanctity of life by prioritizing an **end to the federal death penalty. <https://catholicmobilizing.org/biden-end-federal-dp>**



DEATH PENALTY

ACTION

"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". <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/take-action/execution-petitions/>

URGENT ACTION NEEDED:

February 28, 2024 [Thomas Creech in Idaho](#)

February 28, 2024 [Ivan Cantu in Texas](#)

March 13, 2024 [James Harris, Jr in Texas](#)

Where to political candidates stand, on eliminating the death penalty? TRACK THE CANDIDATES HERE: <https://deathpenaltyaction.org/2024candidatepositions/>

"For I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25: 36



"Companions Journeying Together, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, provides a forum to personally impact the emotional, spiritual, and social lives of the incarcerated and their families. Our vision is for a society that lives by the principles of restorative justice." <https://cjinc.org/>

- **Aunt Mary's Storybook Project:** <https://cjinc.org/projects/amsb/>
- **Cards Project:** <https://cjinc.org/projects/cards-project/>
- **Pen Pal Groups:** <https://cjinc.org/projects/pen-pal/>

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25: 35



Centro San Edmundo (200 S. Oak Park Ave.) is looking volunteers on

Mon/Tues/Thurs. Help with any of the various jobs (greeters; toiletries distribution; clothing distribution; play with the children; set-up; clean-up) Serve breakfast or Provide Breakfast foods.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA8AB2AA5FDC43-46986558-breakfast#/>

Help sort clothing on Mondays. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA8AB2AA5FDC43-46925280-sorting#/>

The most important needs are housing and jobs. We continue to look for apartments to house families. The families that we are hosting are doing well, and there is a continuing need for mentors to accompany these families. With the new Temporary Protective Status for asylum-seekers from Venezuela, we are trying to find ways to help them complete those applications.

If you are interested in volunteering for Migrant Ministry, the accompaniment of the migrant families we have resettled into Oak Park, or if you know of an available home or apartment, please contact **Margie Rudnik** at margaretrudnik@gmail.com, or **Celine Woznica** at immigrantministry@gmail.com.



848 Lake Street, Oak Park – <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

"A variety of volunteer shifts are available, during weekday, evening, and weekend hours. We offer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level." [Volunteer Orientation](#) Mar 20 2024 | 6 - 7pm



Coming April 1-30: Annual "CAN DO" Community Challenge (Food- and Fund-Raiser) -

<https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/events/can-do-community-challenge-2024>



"Volunteers are a key part of operating our emergency warming shelter for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. The volunteer opportunities for this shelter are:"

- **Evening Shelter Host:** Volunteers help get set-up for the evening, greet the shelter guests as they arrive, help them to set up their sleeping area, host dinner, and interact with clients until lights out;
- **Overnight Attendant:** Volunteers support staff in ensuring a safe experience for the shelter guests;
- **Breakfast Host:** Volunteers serve a light breakfast, help shelter guests exit and assist with light clean-up;
- **Meal Provider:** Volunteers donate a full hot dinner, and/or continental breakfast, and/or sack-to-go lunches for 15 people.

<https://www.housingforward.org/get-involved/volunteer>



"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...

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

"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof..." Psalm 24:1



Support the **Vehicle Electrification Standards** bill (Illinois SB2839/HB1634) that addresses transportation pollution through setting clean vehicle standards:

- Advanced Clean Trucks Rule - *Medium- and heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers must increase new Zero-Emission-Vehicles sales up to 40 - 75%, depending on vehicle size*
- Heavy Duty Low NOx Omnibus Rule - *Reduces cancer-causing tailpipe pollution in diesel combustion engines sold*
- Advanced Clean Cars II Rule - *Carmakers must increase new Zero-Emission-Vehicles sales every year up to 100% in 2035*

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/illinois?actionid=ar0417522&id=70131000001iOuIAAU>



SAVE THE DATE: 2024 CLIMATE LOBBY DAY in Springfield, IL.

"This year, environmentalists will come together to push for legislation that advances our policy goals in the Power, Buildings, and Transportation sectors while also creating good jobs, protecting consumers, and safeguarding our communities. **JOIN US** at Lobby Day to rally at the statehouse and meet with your state representative and senator about these critical bills. [Sign up to attend Climate Lobby Day](#) on May 9! **Be sure to check off "Sierra Club Illinois"** on the sign-up link.

<https://ilenviro.org/2024-climate-action-lobby-day/>

**** What YOU can do in 2024 - help to ensure that every eligible person in this country is given the opportunity to VOTE! ****



<https://americansofconscience.com/02-16-2024>

- ❖ **Prevent AI-generated campaign advertisements - Contact:** [U.S. Election Assistance Commission](#); Commissioners Christy McCormick, Chairwoman; Benjamin W. Hovland, Vice Chair; Donald L. Palmer; Thomas Hicks

Address: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20001

Phone: 866-747-1471 (toll free) or 301-563-3919

Email: clearinghouse@eac.gov

Script: Hi, I'm a resident of [ZIP] joining a [bipartisan request to the EAC](#) to expand its [AI Toolkit](#) to:

- Provide guidance to state and local election administrators on preventing the use of AI-generated disinformation in campaign ads.
- Ensure that officials are aware of the support and information that the Commission makes available.

I request that you respond publicly to the [January 30 letter](#) from Sens. Klobuchar and Collins to reinforce public trust in our elections. Thank you.

- ❖ **Urge your state to ensure campaign ads contain only accurate information**

33 states (including ILLINOIS) have pending legislation that would regulate the use of computer-modified video, audio, and images intended to deceive the public (also known as [deepfakes](#)) in election communications. Use [this tracker](#) from Public Citizen to find the bill number(s) for your state.

- ❖ **Encourage young potential voters to register today:** Approximately [10,000 Americans turn 18 each day](#), and anyone who will be 18 before Election Day on November 5 can [pre-register](#) so their registration becomes [immediately valid on their 18th birthday](#). Remind your young friends that registering to vote [gives them a voice in crucial local issues](#) like housing costs, reproductive rights, community policing, and education.

...and more...



February 28: Understanding Venezuelan Arrivals in Illinois (10AM-11:30AM)

Join **IDPH's Refugee Health Program** for a webinar presented by Dr. Kathleen R. Arnold, Director of the Refugee and Forced Migration Program at DePaul University.

-Factors contributing to Venezuelans fleeing their country (country conditions in the country that make it impossible to return.)
-Effects of a more hostile context of reception for these arrivals in contrast to Ukrainians.
-How to support new arrivals effectively and stop the spread of misinformation.

Registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/24d2eryx>



The Neighborhood Bridge is HIRING!

The Neighborhood Bridge (<https://theneighborhoodbridge.org>) is seeking an Executive Director who will interact with Austin area schools, connecting school families and other residents with the network of service providers active in the area to meet their needs. View the position listing and forward it on to possible candidates: <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/3822692113/>.



Grace Episcopal (924 Lake St., Oak Park) is hosting 28 young men on an emergency basis and need our help to sustain this effort. There are two volunteer opportunities to consider: Help with Wednesday dinners, or helping with laundry. More information and volunteer Sign-Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/23677D700AEC9E59-emergency1#>



The Race Conscious Dialogues are designed to deepen awareness of identity, privilege, positionality to power and more, then integrate learning with everyday life. The foundational series consists of 4 sessions, 3 hours each, and are held both in-person and online. Spring 2024 Cohorts (April 4th - 25th) are **now open for registration**. Virtual Sessions on Thursdays, 9am-12pm. <https://www.raceconsciousdialogues.org/>