

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/>

DEATH PENALTY

"...in the light of the Gospel, 'the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an [attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person](#)' and [the Church] works with determination for its abolition worldwide." (USCCB)

"If we truly believe that all lives matter, and Black lives matter, and brown lives matter and the lives of poor people matter, it's time for us to make sure that our system of justice reflects that." (Sen. Dick Durbin)

1/22/2021: Durbin (incoming chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-Mass., unveil legislation that would seek to end federal capital punishment. *Watch this space for ACTION opportunities!*

GUN VIOLENCE / Domestic Violence

(Due to COVID, there are no volunteer opportunities at this time; but financial support is always welcome.)



<https://www.chicagocred.org/news-events>



GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION EDUCATION CENTER
& ILLINOIS COUNCIL AGAINST HANDGUN VIOLENCE

<https://www.ichv.org/>

PENDING GUN LEGISLATION TO WATCH IN ILLINOIS -

- **HB 2254** - Creates the **Safe Gun Storage Act**.
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2254&GAID=15&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=118046&SessionID=108&GA=101>
- **HB 5170** - ...Amends the **Firearm Owners Identification Card Act**.
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=5170&GAID=15&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=125571&SessionID=108>

"Sine Die" – These 2 bills were allowed to **expire without action - back to square-one!** 😞

- **SB 1966** – Expands **background checks to ALL gun sales ("Fix the FOID")**
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=1966&GAID=15&DocTypeID=SB&SessionID=108&GA=101>
- **SB 2468** - Creates the **Assault Weapon Retailers' Tax Act**
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=2468&GAID=15&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=123022&SessionID=108&GA=101>

Save & share:

Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline **1-877-863-6338**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline **1-800-273-8255** (24/7, English/Spanish)

IMMIGRATION:



Urgent Need: In-Person Post-Detention Volunteers **"Volunteers are greatly needed to greet individuals being released in Broadview, weekdays, 1:45PM-3PM. Please contact Colin McCormick, the Post-Detention Program Director at cmccormick@icdichicago.org.** All COVID PPE will be provided to volunteers who are able to support this great need."

Interfaith Prayer Vigil – Pray at Home: Friday mornings @ 7:15 am - 8:00 am – “Every Friday morning we hold a prayer vigil in solidarity with detained immigrants at 7:15 AM (CST). On the first Friday of every month the prayer vigil is interfaith. On the remaining Fridays we pray the Roman Catholic rosary. All are welcome every week. The prayer vigil is currently ‘virtual’. To receive a link, please email: hello@icdichicago.org.”

PLEASE KEEP PRAYING FOR OUR ALL SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN DETENTION, AND FAMILIES WHO WERE SEPARATED AT OUR BORDERS


(“During COVID-19, in-person pastoral care has been suspended and replaced with video visitation. Below, you will find participant’s names, country of origin, and their request for prayers.”)

Prayer Requests from McHenry

Bode	Nigeria	For the safety and welfare of his children in Nigeria
Christopher	St. Martin	That he reunite with his wife and son, that he have the strength to walk a holy path and keep the negativity out of himself
Rasim	Bosnia	For his release
Andres	Mexico	Pray for his family--his wife, two children and mother
Iilir	Albania	Successful resolution to his appeal, his family--7 sons, 1 daughter
Gayratjon	Uzbekistan	His family and friends

Prayer Requests from Kankakee

Arcadio	Unknown	For his wife and children at home in Chicago and the coming decision on whether to appeal deportation or not
Pablo	Unknown	For the other men of the daily prayer group in jail and for his wife and their 3 small children
Kevin	El Salvador	Pray that he will get a favorable answer from the judge and for his 3 small children, pray for his mother and two brothers - one in Indiana and one in El Salvador
Raymundo	Mexico	Pray for his children, Norma, and Ruby
Julio	Honduras	For the outcome of his hearing Feb 4; For his wife Elsi who is working hard in his absence, For his daughter Adriana who misses him very much, For his son Alex who is too young to understand what's happening
Yasser	Cuba	For healing from COVID and that he can be released when he is well

 **SOJOURNERS** **“Immigration Mondays: Join us to pray and act”**
 “Join us on the last Monday of every month at **12 Noon CDT** for prayer and action in support of DACA and the broader immigrant community. RSVP for *Immigration Mondays* below to receive a zoom meeting link and password!” <https://act.sojo.net/page/19116/survey/1?ea.url.id=614874>



<https://www.votervoice.net/JFI/Campaigns/72538/Respond>

"As Catholics, we affirm the inherent dignity of every person and the ability of refugees to seek security and safety for themselves and family members..."

With your attention and action, this important legislation can move forward in the coming weeks!

1. **H.R. 2146/S.1088, the GRACE Act**, which returns the minimum annual resettlement goal to the historic average of 95,000 refugees;
2. **H.R. 2114 /S. 1123, the NO BAN Act**, which ends six Presidential executive actions that have reduced access to resettlement, asylum and family reunification.
3. **H.R. 5581 the Access to Counsel Act**, which allows access to counsel for asylum seekers, who are inspected by Custom and Border Protection.

ENVIRONMENT



Interested in Being Trained as a Solar Installer? Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feja-solar-jobs-training-program-orientation-sessions-tickets-128258704237?emci=9a63a33b-e354-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&emdi=a3625e5a-c155-eb11-a607-00155d43c992&ceid=813638>

THURSDAY January 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY January 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY February 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY February 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY February 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Solar Jobs Training Program provides 12 weeks of comprehensive training that prepares students for careers such as Solar PV Installers, Site Surveyors, Project Managers, Sales, and Design! Students will also receive a stipend, transportation assistance, job placement assistance, and more. Register to attend one of the upcoming orientations



SIERRA CLUB

ILLINOIS CHAPTER

You can help **pass H.R. 1**, the "*For the People Act*"

- **Expand voting access & restore voting rights:** Create a nationwide automatic voter registration system and have same day voter registration, restore the Voting Rights Act,
- **Protect our elections:** Safeguard our election infrastructure from hostile actors;
- **Strengthen ethics laws:** Curb the influence of corporate polluters by requiring the President to disclose their tax returns, put tougher restrictions on lobbying, prevent elected officials from spending taxpayer dollars to settle sexual harassment lawsuits;
- **Fixing our broken campaign finance system:** Empower small-dollar donors, support small-dollar public financing of elections, and combat the influence of "dark money" unleashed by Citizens United
- **Let the people pick their elected officials, not politicians pick their voters:** Ban partisan gerrymandering and increase protections for communities of color.

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/National?actionId=AR0307194&id=70131000001iOuIAAU>

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1

To expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

Introduced in Congress 1/4/2021: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1/text?loclr=cga-bill>



"To learn about our COVID Response and **Emergency Housing Assistance**, click

here: <https://www.housingforward.org/covid-19-updates>

Follow the links in bold to [volunteer your time](#) or [donate to our Emergency Response Fund](#). If you are in need of housing assistance, call us at 708.338.1724, visit www.myentrypoint.org or call 1-877-426-6515."

Housing Forward volunteer opportunities:

- **Economy Shop Opportunities** Housing Forward was fortunate to be named one of the beneficiary non-profits at [The Economy Shop](#) in Oak Park. We require 20 volunteers to help us run our room when it reopens. Volunteers work a variety of shifts and jobs, which include sorting donations, stocking the racks, staffing the room on sale days, and more. **We have an immediate need for a volunteer Room Chair.** For more information, please reach out to Enid Johnson at volunteer@housingforward.org or 708.338.1724 ext. 220. Megan Knight, Volunteer Coordinator can be reached at 338.1724 ext. 202.
- **Auxiliary Board:** Housing Forward' is currently seeking new board members to work on our main annual fundraiser, the Have-a-Heart Gala taking place February 2021. This board gathers items for the event's silent auction and members can choose from a variety of assignments such as soliciting local business for donations, preparing donation solicitation packets, picking up donated items, assembling baskets of smaller auction items, helping the day-of to set up auction areas, etc. The time commitment and assignments can vary based on personal interests and schedules. Minimal group meetings are held with a majority of work done from home. If you are interested in joining this dynamic, fun group we encourage you to [apply](#). If you have questions, please contact Trisha Marchand at 708.338.1724, ext. 230 or via email at tmarchand@housingforward.org.
- **Associate Board:** Housing Forward' Associate Board is an innovative group of young professionals who are committed to furthering the friend-raising and fundraising efforts of Housing Forward. This new board will provide individuals the opportunity to develop new skills and broaden professional social circles while working to end homelessness. If you are looking for an opportunity to put your creativity, talents and skills toward a great cause, we encourage you to [apply](#). If you have questions about the Associate Board, please contact Trisha Marchand at 708.338.1724, ext. 230 or via email at tmarchand@housingforward.org.
- **Graphic Designer:** Are you looking for a place to volunteer your talents? Housing Forward is looking for skilled volunteers with a passion for helping others. If you are a graphic designer or graphic artist and able to spare a few hours on an ad hoc basis, we could use you! Potential projects include designing event flyers, posters, general collateral development, print/electronic ads, signage, etc. This volunteer opportunity will require access to a personal computer and design software. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Carrie Bankes at 708.338.1724, ext. 283 or via email at cbankes@housingforward.org.
- **Photography:** Volunteers needed to photograph various fundraising events, dinners, benefits, etc. Must have access to own equipment and willing to share photographs via Dropbox and other social media. Time commitment varies, depending on agency events and personal preference. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Carrie Bankes at 708.338.1724, ext. 283 or via email at cbankes@housingforward.org.



"One Earth Film Festival" returns March 5-14, 2021!

If you took advantage of ONE EARTH's many opportunities to view films on line this year, please consider becoming a member and/or making a donation to support them. https://www.oneearthfilmfest.org/donate-now?mc_cid=278d900b1d&mc_eid=518b1e7fd8

"We're getting a new look and a new name! GCC Midwest Inc. is now One Earth Collective. Our 501(c)(3) organization will retain the same board of directors and has a new logo and new digital home at www.oneearthcollective.org.

One Earth Collective has three program areas: **One Earth Film Festival**, which celebrates its 10th anniversary season in 2021; **One Earth Youth Voices**, which focuses on programs for youth ages 8-25; and **One Earth Local/Green Community Connections**, which focuses on local sustainability programs in Oak Park and River Forest, Illinois"