



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.

"Thus says the Lord GOD: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast." -Isaiah 58: 1



February 1 **March 1**

PEACEMAKERS:

****Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – Saturday, February 28th, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****

**** Monthly TAIZE Prayers for Peace – Friday, Feb. 6th -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave****

TAKE ACTION: Help Immigrant Detainees in Illinois



<https://immigrantjustice.org/ways-to-help/>



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



<https://chicagobond.org/>

Tell Target: ICE OUT NOW



<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-target-ice-out-now/>

1. Demand ICE must leave Minnesota now.
2. Any officer who kills a civilian must be held legally accountable. That starts with legitimate investigations and charges by local officials.
3. Exercise the company's 4th Amendment rights and publicly post signage denying entrance to on-duty immigration agents who do not have signed judicial warrants as required by law, as well train staff on how to respond when immigration agents arrive at stores.
4. Demand: NO additional federal funding for ICE in the upcoming Congressional budget, and ICE should be investigated for human and Constitutional violations of Americans and our neighbors.
5. Restore company commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and honor their commitments to the Black community.



Oppose the Federal Concealed Carry Mandate (H.R. 38 and S.65)

*States have the power to decide who is too dangerous to carry a concealed weapon in public and where concealed firearms cannot be carried... H.R. 38 and S. 65 would create a federal mandate that would **override state gun laws**, forcing every state to recognize every other state's concealed carry standards—including those with weak or no standards at all. This legislation would **make it easier for people with dangerous histories—like those convicted of violent crimes, domestic abusers, and stalkers—to carry a concealed and loaded gun in public in states that wouldn't otherwise let them.***

https://act.everytown.org/sign/CCM-25?akid=317176.5417268.5ORFMg&rd=1&refcode=emne_

INDIVISIBLE [NOTE: The Senate vote on Fri. 1/30 gave ICE 2 weeks of funding]
https://act.indivisible.org/sign/ice-out-for-good/?source=email_20250131&utm_source



Advocate for refugees seeking permanent residency

Refugees admitted to the U.S. undergo [rigorous background checks](#). However, the administration [ordered the review](#) and potential re-interview of refugees already admitted under the previous administration. The administration's [Operation PARRIS](#) continues to [arrest and detain resettled refugees in Minnesota](#) at an unprecedented and escalating rate. These re-vetting efforts subject refugee communities to trauma, uncertainty, and fear of forced return to the very situations they waited years to escape.

Sign Global Refugee's letter urging Congress to keep refugee status intact and ensure refugees can reach permanency here: <https://globalrefuge.quorum.us/campaign/uscismemo/>

the Neighborhood



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates - trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection. To learn more, we invite you to attend our **next Bridge Breakfast on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall.** <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer>



coalition for spiritual
& public leadership

MISSIONARIES OF ST CHARLES
SCALABRINIANS

coalition for spiritual
& public leadership

ASH WEDNESDAY
MASS & PROCESSION
WITH CARDINAL BLASE CUPICH
MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA
MISA Y PROCESIÓN
CON EL CARDENAL BLASE CUPICH

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18

6 PM MASS + 7 PM PROCESSION
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
1101 N 23RD AVE. MELROSE PARK, IL
RSVP: bit.ly/CSPLashWed

REGISTER HERE: <https://csplaction.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/register?id=444&reset=1>

Wednesday, February 18

6:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Mass

7:00 pm – Community Procession

8:00 pm – Closing

1101 N 23rd Ave, Melrose Park, IL 60160



VOLUNTEERS: Community Support Team

No prior experience is needed. Training is provided, and all volunteer work can be done from your own home and mostly on your own schedule. <https://front.moveon.org/volunteer-with-moveon/>

SAVE THE DATE:



FOOD, CLOTHING, SHELTER:



COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT - LOCATIONS:

Boulevard Presbyterian Church 607 Harvard; Oak Park

Edwin Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park

Grace Episcopal (located in the back of the Grace parking lot on the West side of the building.)

A House in Austin; 533 N Pine Avenue, Chicago

Food donations are always welcome – NO open packages, NO fresh meat (no lettuce, salad greens, or tender vegs when temps are below freezing – THANKS!)

OR - monetary gifts can be sent to [this link](#). Please denote Community Fridge Project on the memo line! <https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/>



FOREST PARK COMMUNITY FRIDGE - 7640 Jackson Blvd (Howard Mohr Community

Center) <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=779820051658017&set=pcb.779820098324679>

-Please no open or expired items

-Make sure home packed items are dated and list any allergens

-Please separate larger donations into smaller containers for cleanliness and ease of distribution

-Please avoid glass containers

MORE INFO?? fpfridge@gmail.com **MONETARY DONATIONS:** <https://gofund.me/ae01524c>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! First MONDAY of Every Month

Join the women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles to help provide a ***continental breakfast*** for our clients. (This is a great service opportunity for teens and families and can be shared between households.)

* Choice of muffins, doughnuts, instant oatmeal, or cereal for **40 people**, plus fruit (no apples, please)

* 2 Gallons of milk, and juice or bottled water for **40 people**

Sign up for the monthly dates online SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/> (Next open opportunity to volunteer is available in **April, 2026**)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Dinner Providers** - Prepare hot dinner meal for 40 to be dropped off by 7:00 PM. Dinner providers can also volunteer for evening hosting if they want to stay and serve.
- **Breakfast Providers** - Donate breakfast supplies for 40 (cereal, fruit, juice, yogurt, etc.).
- **Lunch Providers** - Donate bagged lunches for 40 (sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, etc.) for guests to take with them when leaving the shelter the next day.

- **Evening Hosting** - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (shift can be split) - Interact with guests, set up, and clean up.
- **Morning Hosting** - 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM - Assist with breakfast and clean-up.

Both **INDIVIDUAL and GROUP** volunteers are welcome and much needed.

Volunteers can sign up for one day, a few days, or ideally for an ongoing monthly commitment.

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact **Cherrell Jackson** at cjackson@housingforwar or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201



Centro San Bernardino is OPEN – (St. Bernadine School) 815 Elgin Ave., Forest Park
Volunteers in the “free stores” are offering clothing, coats, boots, and bedding as well as a breakfast space and a children’s playroom. Donations are accepted on Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Saint Bernadine School, 815 Elgin Ave, Forest Park. Please, only seasonal (winter) clothing, boots, coats, and bedding.

To donate online through GiveCentral use the link: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36149>

OR send donations to Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL 60302. Include a note that the donation is for the “Migrant Ministry”.



HUNGER

“Volunteers are critical to every aspect of our operation, providing over 2,000 hours of collective time every month...We offer volunteer 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.”

COMPLETE THE NEW VOLUNTEER FORM HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

Drop-Off hours at the Food Pantry: 848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL) 9am-4pm Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donatefood>

DONATE HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donate>

CREATION CARE:



Protect the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

“Tribes were meaningfully involved in developing the management plan, which provides a clear roadmap for protecting and conserving nearly 2 million acres of slot canyons, stone arches, sacred petroglyph panels, plants for medicines that Native peoples continue to use today, and ecosystems for animals and pollinators. ...Some Utah Representatives want to open up these sacred ancestral lands to development and harmful resource extraction...” <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/grand-staircase-escalante-national-monument/>



Tell State Legislators: PASS THE ILLINOIS FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT ACT

(SB130/HB3961) (Interfaith Green Network formally endorsed this legislation in March of 2024)

Sign HERE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScu64EVBfXgxDGr0H6SSjsIyz6P>

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

VOTE!!



274 days until the mid-term elections

General Primary Election: March 17, 2026

February 5, 2026: First day to vote early or by mail.

February 17, 2026: Last day for regular (paper) voter registration.

February 18, 2026: First day of grace period for in-person voter registration and voting at election authority and early voting sites; continues through Election Day.

March 1, 2026: Last day for online voter registration. Grace period registration is still available at election authority and early voting sites.

March 12, 2026: Last day for election authority to receive vote by mail applications.

March 17, 2026: Primary Election Day! Polls are open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

>>TEENS: If you will turn 18 on or before the date of the General Election (Nov. 3, 2026) REGISTER NOW! << Illinois Online Voter Application: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

...more...



REGISTER:

https://www.raceconsciousdialogues.org/register?mc_cid=266bfa95ec&mc_eid=a3bbbebe66

UPCOMING ⚡ 6 spots left

Spring 2026 - COMMUNITY - Whiteness & Anti-Racism - Sunday Afternoons (for those who identify as white)

Register

Sun, Mar 1, 2026, 2:00 PM CST – Sun, Mar 22, 2026, 5:00 PM CDT

Kinfolk CoLab, 405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park, IL [Map](#)

[Add to calendar](#)

Dates Breakdown

Sun, Mar 1, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CST	Session 1: Whiteness & Socialization
Sun, Mar 8, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 2: Identity, Privilege & Power
Sun, Mar 15, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 3: Solidarity & Racism Interruption
Sun, Mar 22, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 4: Systemic Oppression & Moving Forward



Walk the Talk “*Lights in the Darkness*”



Now more than ever, we need to search for, and lift up, those people, businesses, groups, and organizations whose work is a light of **hope** in the darkness. Here’s ours for this week – **send yours** to marynpaul@comcast.net



West Garfield Park **LEGLER LIBRARY (115 S. Pulaski)** now includes the **second library food pantry in the country and the first for Illinois**

<https://thetribe.com/2026/01/food-pantry-at-chicagos-legler-library-addresses-need>