



FNVW

Friends for a NonViolent World

E-Letter

February 2025

Hello FNVW community! We are thrilled to be sharing our February news with you all, and we hope your New Year is off to a healthy, prosperous, and hopeful start!

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Interview with AVP Facilitator Chris Solyntjes



Today we are celebrating one of our longest AVP facilitators, Chris Solyntjes!
Read her interview with Adrian Fleur below:

Q: How did you get started with AVP?

A: I've been a peace activist and worked with nonviolence issues since the late 60s. In the 80s, I was at a rummage sale here in Minnesota, and there was a book there that turned out to be an AVP manual from New York. I was curious about it because I could see it was about nonviolence. A year or two later, I saw there was an AVP organization starting in MN. I signed up immediately! Joann Perry was one of the early facilitators who approached me to be a facilitator, which was very encouraging. I was told that if I could find 10 or 15 people who'd be interested in attending a nonviolence workshop, they would hold one in Mankato. So I did that, and then we had a second workshop in Minneapolis. That was the beginning of my AVP journey.

Q: What are some of your successes or favorite moments over the years?

A: A long while ago, there were a couple of guys who came into a workshop at Faribault who were obviously white nationalists. They had their heads shaved, they had racist tattoos, and I thought: *this is going to be tough!* They were all lifers, too. They sat with their arms crossed, they didn't smile, they clearly didn't want to participate. But I remember the moment I first saw one of them smile. And then they came back! They came back and did their facilitator training, and then they became facilitators. I've seen so many examples like this, of people who came into the program in the early days, and how they found community. They express that they finally feel cared about in these spaces, and then they want to become facilitators. They transform so much over the years, and some of them are still with us facilitating today. It's pretty addictive! Being a facilitator and seeing these positive transformations.

Q: What are some of your personal achievements because of AVP?

A: At some point I got the Governor's award for volunteering. I can't remember when, it must have been sometime in the early 90s. I was glad the program got recognized. The Governor at that time was someone that I really disagreed with, and was really not interested in our program or things like that, but the program got recognition and I was really proud of that. It was a big achievement for me personally, and for the program.

Q: What's your advice for upcoming facilitators, especially ones who are youth facilitators working with other youth?

A: They should trust the process and approach every person with love.

Q: What are you looking forward to in your future?

A: AVP is what I'm most passionate about. I will still be facilitating with AVP and I'm looking forward to continuing to be useful. I'm also looking forward to seeing new facilitators come into the program who will carry on the work.

Welcome to our new AVP Facilitators!

Apprentice Facilitators have graduated from their Training for Facilitator's workshop (after also having completed a Basic and Advanced workshop) and are ready to step into the next phase of their training.

This consists of co-facilitating at least three workshops (one of each level) while being supported by a team of experienced facilitators and demonstrating leadership, cooperation and group facilitation skills. We are excited to welcome these folks to the AVP team!

- Ayla Toles
- William Card
- Ariah Hibbler
- Calvin Robinson
- Joseph Greene
- Nancy Stevens
- Tom Gustafson

People Camp - Save the Date!

PEOPLE CAMP
2025

SAVE THE DATE
August 10 - 16

Workshop
HOW WE WIN

Creating successful direct action campaigns for social change



People Camp 2025: How We Win - NonViolent Direct Action for Social Change

August 10-16

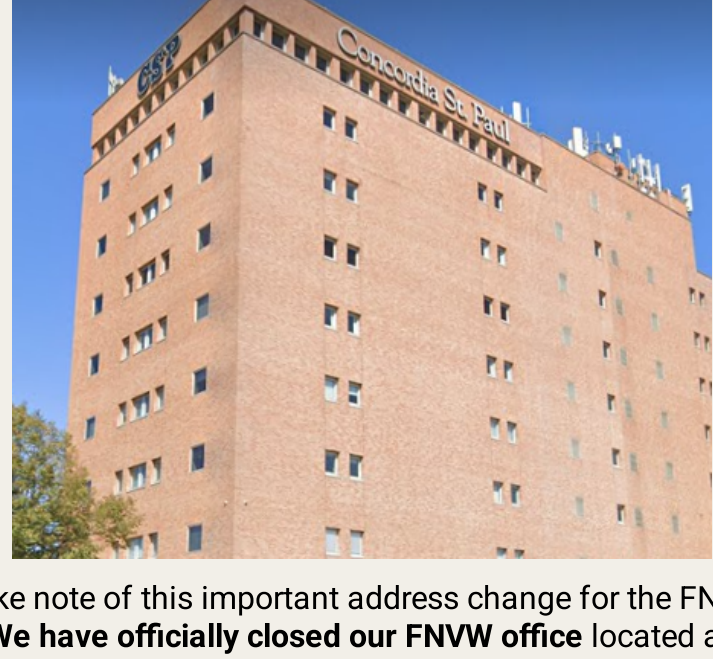
**Northern Pines Retreat Center
Park Rapids, MN**

People Camp is a week-long transformative experience of cooperation, community living, peacemaking, and the exploration of ideas and issues. This is a summer camp experience for the whole family and for anyone who enjoys warm, supportive community, challenging workshops, and lots of recreation in a camp setting.

One of the unique aspects of People Camp is the opportunity to engage in shared experiences with other campers. We have numerous opportunities scheduled throughout the week. We also hold space for Interest Groups and spontaneous gatherings.

For more information about our 2025 offerings, visit our website: fnvw.org/peoplecamp

Important Address Update



Please take note of this important address change for the FNVW office.
We have officially closed our FNVW office located at:

393 N Dunlap St Suite 450E,
St Paul, MN, 55104

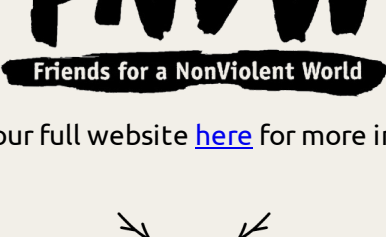
Moving forward, we will only be using our P.O. Box.
Please make sure you are directing mail to our new address, which is:

P.O. Box 4564
St. Paul, MN, 55104

Our office phone number at (651) 917-0383 will remain unchanged.

FNVW works to promote and create peace and justice in our community by using the principles and practices of nonviolence to transform conflict and to address the root causes of violence. Your financial support will help us move our mission forward into the future!

[Donate Today to Support Nonviolence!](#)



Check out our full website [here](http://fnvw.org) for more information!

