

William Penn House Annual Report Fiscal Year 2005-2006

As we celebrate our 40th year of Quaker witness, we also will look back over the past 12 months and reflect on how well we have met the goals outlined in our mission statement.

William Penn House is a Quaker center for exploring and making visible the Quaker testimonies of peace, community, simplicity, equality and truth.

The William Penn House:

- *Nurtures and celebrates those who “Speak Truth to Power” in pursuit of peace and social justice.*
- *Has a special ministry to youth.*
- *Connects visitors from the United States and around the world with the service and witness resources of Washington, DC.*
- *Serves as a communication center for Friends’ meetings in the Washington area.*

During the year, we hosted **80 different groups, 28 of the groups were Quaker**. Our beds were occupied 6,854 times, which represents that much laundry, breakfasts and cleaning. 73 % of our guests were with groups and 27% were individuals. We continued to increase our occupancy:

Occupancy:	2003	37%
	2004	41%
	2005	50%
	2006	67%

Our guests this year came as first timers, seasoned veterans, youth on mission trips and those who are here to lobby Congress to help move this country in the right direction. **Washington Quaker Workcamps**, which is now a fully integrated program of William Penn House continued its strong ministry to youth and brought many new groups to the House. We also welcomed international travelers who found us through internet search engines.

Our new Program Coordinator, Bernadette Odyniec has developed and hosted our **Teachers of Peace Seminars** which were attended by Quakers of all 4 traditions of the Religious Society of Friends. We jointly hosted with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) the Youth Lobby Weekend. While FCNL was remodeling their building we provided meeting space for their committees. And we developed and hosted an international human rights program for our friends from the University of Washington-Bothell. Bernadette has also worked closely with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and FCNL to redesign our Youth Seminar, **“I Have a Dream”** which will celebrate diversity.

Our Quaker Potluck and Dialogue series continues to be a monthly celebration of gifts and leadings. We average 20 friends from 5 area meetings. One recent potluck shared the ministry of Christian Peacemakers Teams in honor of our Friend, Tom Fox. Other topics have included the law and Quakerism, Alice Paul, Right Sharing of World Resources, and modern day slavery,

As part of our ongoing work to improve the House and grounds, led by Associate Director Patricia Newkirk and board member Chase Clement, we developed and dedicated our front yard as a peace garden with two patios and a peace pole which has the words “**May Peace Prevail on Earth**” in eight languages. We have renovated the Cory Conference Room, and repainted much of the House. We will next upgrade the floors and floor coverings.

We continued our outreach to Friends by attending the Friends General Conference Gathering (**FGC**), the Friends United Meetings (**FUM**) Triennial, and participating in the annual conference of Friends Association for Higher Education held jointly with the Friends Council on Education. We attended Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, World Gathering of Young Friends and took our ministry to the Bayou Quarterly Meeting of South Central Yearly Meeting. Most of the staff remained active with the Friends Meeting of Washington DC, and we also visited many other monthly meetings around the country.

In addition to generous gifts from donors, we were blessed with other gifts including one from the Port Townsend Friends Meeting of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, who gave us a “peace ball” designed and created by one of their members.

We have been working with 20+ Quaker organizations that are pooling their efforts and resources to address the problems of steeply rising health insurance premiums. Together we have formed the **Friends Mutual Health Insurance Group** and will be providing health insurance to our employees in January 2007. For William Penn House, the initial premium is 20% less than what we are now paying and offers better coverage. And Quakers decide the priorities of coverage and all excess premiums are either returned or are used to offset rate hikes.

Washington Quaker Workcamps has been a joyous addition to the life and vitality of William Penn House. We have been blessed by the gifts of the outgoing coordinator, Andrei Israel. Under Andrei’s leadership, the program has grown 10-fold, and the staff has increased from one part-time position to two full-time employees. In the past year, Washington Quaker Workcamps coordinated **34 Workcamps**, 31 in Washington and 4 in other areas. In June, Andrei led a workcamp in **New Orleans**, helping the public library system recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to a grant from AFSC, nine young people from Sidwell Friends School were able to participate in this very moving workcamp. Also in June, Washington Quaker Workcamps returned for the sixth year to **Caretta, West Virginia** for a week-long workcamp with 16 teenage Workcampers. In March, Washington Quaker Workcamps partnered with Sandy Spring Friends School to assist New Empowerment for Women Plus, a local AFSC program in **Logan, West Virginia**.

During the year Patricia also redesigned our website to make it more attractive and interactive. Patricia is also coordinating the **Celebration of 40 Years of Quaker Witness** by leading a 40 mile bike ride in September and planning a celebration dinner in October.

We have continued to be blessed by the gifts of our interns. We started the year with Amy Marie Babcock and Caroline Kernahan who have completed their service with us. Amy Marie now works in a group home for mentally-challenged adults and Caroline works for Habitat for Humanity. In addition to her hospitality work, Janaki Spickard Keeler is helping plan the *I Have a Dream Youth Seminar*. She will be completing her internship in August. Natasha Almonor will continue to share her joy of life and gifts with our guests and fellow staff. Erik Hanson, the

Washington Quaker Workcamps intern, is leaving our program to serve as a math teacher at Friends Community School.

We have developed and grown our programs and services with minor increases in our staff. Our hospitality staffing remained constant with two interns, a janitor, and the Executive and Associate Directors. Our programming staff included the part time Program Coordinator, the full time WQW coordinator, the part-time WQW program assistant Helen McClure (who is returning to American University to complete her doctorate) and since May a full-time WQW intern. We have committed ourselves to providing livable wages and benefits to all of our staff, along with the increase in lodging, programs and donations, we are moving closer to making this commitment a reality

William Penn House staff is supported by an engaged and dedicated board of directors, who participate regularly in our programs, provide volunteer assistance and sound stewardship. Board members are appointed by area Friends' meetings, maintaining our strong ties to the local Quaker community.

FY 2005-2006			
Income		Operating Expenses	
Individual Lodging	\$63,600	Personnel	\$215,800
Group Lodging	\$126,450	Household	\$16,680
Facilities	\$1,200	Utilities	\$12,950
Program	\$2,650	Program (WPH)	\$7,575
WQW	\$35,460	Program (WQW)	\$23,400
Grants (WPH)	\$9,500	Outreach/marketing	\$13,250
Grants(WQW)	\$8,000	Administrative	\$24,200
Donations (WPH)	\$43,080	Fund raising	\$3,200
Donations (WQW)	\$15,460	Total Operating Expenses	\$317,055
Interest earned	\$7,800	Renovations/repairs *	\$28,340
Misc. income	\$3,140	* Funded through reserves	
Total Income	\$316,340		

In the light,

Byron Sandford
Executive Director

