

William Penn House 2005 Annual Report

We ended our 2005 fiscal year in very good shape. This year we have been very aware of the ongoing need to be good stewards. We see stewardship as a holistic approach; good fiscal stewards, good stewards of our building, good stewards of our legacy and good stewards of our staff. We also wish to be a model of how a successful business can be operated following Quaker principles and processes.

Fiscal stewardship: we again lived within our means and kept our expenses below our income. We accomplished this through the generous donations of our donors; through increased lodging income and other income from space use, programming income and other miscellaneous sources of revenue. At the same time we closely controlled our expenses while still maintaining quality service.

Stewardship of the William Penn House; This year we continued our program of painting the House, redoing the floors, and renovating the Cory Conference Room. Using the Craig's list we were able to upgrade our appliances while keeping the costs in line. Our goal is to have the House in good shape as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary in 2006. The House itself will be 90 years old in 2007. Maintaining and upgrading this old House is a joy yet is always a challenge.

Stewardship of our legacy: we developed a new and ongoing peace studies seminar. We continued to host FCNL committees and committee members and continued our sponsorship with FCNL of the Youth Lobby Weekend and the new Family Lobby Days. Our cooperation with Washington Quaker workcamps has been a tremendous success and truly rewarding. Through Andrei Israel's leadership, the workcamping program has grown and matured. The boards of William Penn House and Washington Quaker Workcamps worked throughout the year on how we can move forward and we have. Effective July 1, 2005, Washington Quaker Workcamps is no longer a separate organization but is now a program of William Penn House. Through this change, the two organizations can work together to provide an excellent workcamping opportunity for youth.

The ministry of Washington Quaker Workcamps continues to grow in exciting new directions. This school year we have provided spirit-centered service-learning experiences for three times as many young people as last year. New partnerships with service organizations have expanded and deepened our work projects, and new groups of young people have joined our circle. But through all these exciting changes, our work remains grounded in the spirit that has guided Quaker workcamps for nearly a century—the understanding that 'work is love made visible' and the belief that service is an essential part of our spiritual development. We continue to support the work of Friends' schools by providing extra-curricular service-learning programs grounded in Quaker faith and practice, thereby reinforcing the work in the classroom. In 2006, Washington Quaker workcamps will be jointly offering with Baltimore Yearly Meeting a workcamp in Israel/Palestine.

As a Quaker business, we have a set price that we honor. We have worked this year to properly compensate our employees, so that working here is rewarding other than just the work. As a Quaker business we are providing a need that in Washington

only we are able to meet: comfortable, clean accommodations in a safe and enjoyable environment. We offer worship seven days a week and provide a service to an ecumenical mixture of activists, tourists and youth seeking to serve.

At the same time we are providing an opportunity for future Quaker leaders to learn, grow and be exposed to our broader faith community. Our interns come from a broad range of Quaker traditions. They have included youth from Friends United Meeting, Evangelical Friends International, Friends General Conference and Conservative Friends. Each has found the commonality of our goals and testimonies and our respect for each others traditions helps to bridge any gaps. From here, our former interns have gone to work for Friends Committee on National Legislation, found employment with other NGOs, been active with their yearly and monthly meetings. We encourage these bright and energetic young people to experience the best that Washington has to offer; museums, monuments, training to lobby, work as peace activists and to work with those who are disadvantaged.

Most of the staff live at the House as a community where they worship together, share meals, spend time as friends experiencing the variety of activities that DC has to offer. This year we have celebrated this community and their contributions by going to see the Washington Nationals baseball team, and by enjoying dinner at local restaurants. All but one of the staff is active with the Friends Meeting of Washington. The staff members are active with local, regional and national Quakers. Each year we try to visit at least 5 yearly meetings. This year, our associate Director will be attending the Friends United Meeting Triennial. Two other staff members participated in the Friends General Conference Annual Gathering of Friends

We are in our third year of hosting a Quaker potluck and dialogue series where our guest speakers share their leadings, interests and passions. Each speaker is from a local meeting and the other participants worship among various meetings. We also coordinate newspaper advertising for the local meetings and refer the callers to the nearest monthly meeting.

We continue to be guided by a dedicated and involved board of directors who represent the area Quaker meetings. Through their support, enthusiasm and wise counsel, the staff feels appreciated and motivated to continue our effective ministry.

Working for William Penn House, having this opportunity to serve Quakers and activist of other faith traditions and living in this dynamic and exciting city have been a blessing. Without the support of Friends and friends from throughout the world, this would not have been possible. So each day the staff of William Penn House is thankful for the gifts that we have been given.

Byron Sandford

Executive Director

7/13/2005