



**WILLIAM
PENN
HOUSE**

Dear Friend,

December 2009

William Penn House is changing. William Penn House is staying exactly the same. Both of these are true as we look back on a year when we've been blessed, once again, with record occupancy, an expansion of our programs, and an ever-deepening sense of mission. Although we are clearer than ever in the essential role we fill as a Quaker Center in our nation's capital, through the always evolving gifts of our staff and guests we are able to expand and grow every time way opens.



William Penn House has always been a place where people come together, but our array of conversations and actions has become broader and richer than we might have ever imagined. Our programs and Workcamps have really come to maturity this year, and we are hitting our stride in reaching people both within and beyond our Quaker communities. Witness a few of the ways that listening and action have come together here:

- ❖ We just hosted a group of Midshipmen from the U.S. Naval Academy to discuss their calling in the military. We sought to move beyond our differences as both pacifists and soldiers found a safe place to speak and listen, replacing judgment with appreciation.
- ❖ Our program director, Brad Ogilvie, has carried his tireless work on preventing the spread of HIV to the halls of the White House. Brad is sitting on a committee that includes representatives of the CDC and NIH to develop community-wide approaches to stopping the spread, while advocating to the FDA for approval of over-the-counter self-administered HIV tests.
- ❖ Brad has also taken our Teachers of Peace program on the road, developing an on-going program with the Education Department at Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio in partnership with a high school principal in Ohio.
- ❖ Our Coordinator of Washington Quaker Workcamps, Greg Woods, led 32 Workcamps this year (the most ever!) gave 535 people, many of them teenagers, a chance to both serve and listen as they expanded their roles in the surrounding community. Our partnership with the Mayor's Conservation Corps helped us engage youth from Washington DC's Anacostia neighborhood with environmental projects throughout the city. Our Friends High School Workcamp attracted youth from meetings affiliated with Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends United Meeting (FUM) to explore the theme of service through Friends Testimonies.
- ❖ Our Hospitality Coordinator, Faith Kelley, reminds us through her careful and engaging presence that hospitality is a ministry and that it remains a vital part of who we are.
- ❖ We're hosting potlucks on a wide variety of topics, not once, but twice a month now. Some recent conversations included:
 - How life changing illness affects ones spiritual life.
 - Addressing racism in our meetings.
 - Spiritual growth as a gay adult.
 - Friends Peace Teams in Latin America.
 - American Indians and Quakers, yesterday and today.

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■ **A Quaker Center
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All this comes amidst the daily work of the House as it bursts at the seams with record occupancy. Hotels are content if they can fill 50% of the beds on average. This September we had 88% occupancy for the month! Of course, all of these guests find more than just a bed and a meal. The hospitality and interaction with people from all over the world of social justice work sets William Penn House apart from any hostel or hotel.

Despite the huge successes we have enjoyed this year, the recession and the quickly climbing costs of health care have left the House stretching to meet its obligations to its staff. The staff size has been reduced by attrition this year, after saying goodbye to our invaluable Associate Director Patricia Newkirk, leaving everyone's time and energy stretched a little thinner. Everyone at William Penn House receives full health benefits for their work here. With the rocketing costs of health care, this has put even more pressure on the House to keep salaries low, and maximize our resources.



You have a unique opportunity to help William Penn House meet its obligations to the people who work here and to the many people who have come to count on us to be a place where Friends testimonies live through our actions.

Your contribution of:

- ❖ \$28.30 will subsidize one student's stay for one day of the FCNL Youth Lobby Weekend.
- ❖ \$84.90 will subsidize that student for the entire three day FCNL Youth Lobby Weekend.
- ❖ \$480 will cover the costs for a small group of 12 participants to stay the night for a William Penn House program.
- ❖ \$250 would cover the cost of the WPH/WQW program for those 12 youth.
- ❖ \$850 will allow a larger group to use the whole House for one night while attending a program.
- ❖ \$520 will cover the costs of health insurance for one of our interns for a month.
- ❖ Our Executive Director, Byron Sandford, is committed to making this William Penn House a beacon and incubator for the next generation of Friends.



I can assure you that your gift will be put to its best use as we plan for the upcoming year at William Penn House. This is truly a donation where every dollar counts. Thank you for considering us in your annual giving, and we look forward to seeing you here at the House soon.

In Peace,

Deborah Haines
Clerk
William Penn House Board of Directors

Attached: Planned Giving brochure, [A Legacy of Giving](#)

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