

William Penn House

Annual Report
Fiscal year 2007

A Friend of William Penn House recently stated that there has been a lot of good talk about William Penn House and the clarity of our vision. How well I remember the refining of that vision. The same year that I became Executive Director, the Board of Directors went through a series of visioning sessions and discerned this 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; Is a hospitality center on Capitol Hill rooted and grounded in Quaker faith & practice.

As we look back over the past twelve months, our success is measured by how well we followed, nurtured and met these goals.

But to follow our mission statement we must also be a **well managed Quaker business**. Our average **occupancy for this period reached 64%**, up from 62% FY 06; 50 % FY 05, 41% FY 04 and 37% FY 03. Through the success of our lodging activity we were able to incorporate into William Penn House the programs and ministry of **Washington Quaker Workcamps** and to create an ongoing structure for programs on peace and social justice (**Testimonies for Our Times**). We have been able to repaint and upgrade the House and grounds to provide a comfortable and welcoming refuge in the heart of our nation's Capitol.

Our 30 guest beds were occupied 6,883 times over the past twelve months. This alone provided over \$215,400 in revenue up from \$184,800 in FY 2006. We met this increase in activity without increasing our hospitality staff. As our Workcamp and Testimonies programs became established they provided revenue of over \$36,200. Our staffing for both the Workcamps and the Testimonies programs remains at 2 ³/₄ equivalent employees.

Through our participation with the **Friends Mutual Health Group**, we were able to reduce our cost for health insurance by 20%. Following sound fiscal management we stayed within budget on our expenses and exceeded our budget for revenue. At the same time we addressed the issue of employee salaries and raised these to an acceptable level.

For over 5 years we have hosted our **Potluck and Quaker Dialogue** series. We meet on the first Sunday of each month. Each of our speakers is a local Quaker or person who works for Quakers and they share their leadings and callings. Normally 20-30 local

Quakers attend, representing 3-4 monthly meetings. This year we have worked closely with the local offices of the **American Friends Service Committee** and have continued our solid relationship with **Friends Committee on National Legislation**. In conjunction with AFSC, we offered our well received youth seminar “**I Have a Dream**”, which focused on equality and community to both Quaker youth and urban youth from DC. We have continued our joint sponsorship with FCNL of the annual Young Adult Lobby Weekend.

We have now hosted three **Teachers of Peace** seminars. Our former program coordinator, Bernadette Odyniec, worked with a committee of educators from 5 different states to develop this seminar that now attracts educators from each Quaker tradition and from non Quaker schools as well. The outreach to public school teachers has been rich and rewarding. The Workcamps coordinator, Felix Unogwu, led a **Workcamp in New Orleans, 2 in hamlets in West Virginia and 41 in the DC area**. Through working together the program staff has focused our Workcamps and programs on the issues of Poverty and Privilege. These **Poverty and Privilege** programs will combine a workcamp experience with seminar content. We have reached an agreement to jointly host a **workcamp for an area Quaker group and an inner city school**. We were sad to have to say good bye to Bernadette in June when she accepted a job with the Wildlife Federation.

Our work is very ecumenical. We host and lead Workcamps for youth groups from many faith traditions. I continue to be impressed by **the idealism and commitment** to serve that is continually shown by the young people who grace our doors. At the same time individuals from a broad spectrum of beliefs stay at the House while they **lobby Congress on an endless rainbow of issues. We remain a source of affordable lodging** for the ongoing rallies and demonstrations that are a fact of life in DC. We develop long term friendships with FCNL committee members who regularly stay at WPH and with others who journey frequently to Washington. As space is available we are blessed with international travelers and others who are visiting the museums and monuments which grace this beautiful city.

The work of William Penn House has been enhanced and enriched through the service of **our interns**. In the past 12 months the interns have been: Natasha Almonor, who now teaches English as a Second Language, Holly Hardin, attendee of **Piedmont Friends Fellowship** meeting, now a middle school teacher in North Carolina, Janaki Spickard-Keeler who now manages a neighborhood coop, Stephanie Kirby, who returns to St Mary’s College in New Jersey, Kate Smith, member of **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting**, who will be teaching in Spain. Lynnette Lusenaka, a member of **Nairobi Yearly Meeting** will continue her internship with us while working on a master’s degree in international studies.

Patricia Newkirk, member of **South Central Yearly Meeting**, continues to guide us in the renovation and upgrading of the House, which has played a significant role in our increased usage rates. Judy Hubbard, member of **Baltimore Yearly Meeting**, and Messyla Mboup work constantly to ensure that the inviting atmosphere of the House

greet all of our guests. Last February, while Patricia was traveling in Australia, we were blessed by the service of Janet and Ken Stockwood of **Friends Meeting of San Antonio, South Central Yearly Meeting**, who served as Friends in Residence.

Through the internet we now host young people and other adults from around the world. The discussion at the breakfast table and in the living room consists not only of a myriad number of accents but other languages as well. Since we are 5 blocks from the Capitol and Library of Congress, we host numerous scholars in addition to families and individuals who are vacationing in this wonderful city.

We are truly blessed.

FY 2007 Income		FY 2007 Expenses	
Lodging	215,400	Personnel	247,400
Programs, WQW	36,200	Fund Raising	7,600
Donations	89,300	Admin	24,400
Grants	13,700	Program	76,000
Investment income	10,500	Property Reserves	15,900
Bequests	1,800		
Other	4,400		
Total	\$371,300	Total	355,400

Capital Improvements and Repairs \$14,800

Byron Sandford
Executive Director