
Benevolences 2017-18

Peace and Justice Committee

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ALAMANCE ORANGE PRISON MINISTRY

(Updated January 18, 2018 by Hank Elkins)

ADDRESS

PO Box 804, Graham, NC 27253-0804

DESCRIPTION

Background: (History and Purpose): Alamance Orange Prison Ministry (AOPM) serves men incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center (OCC) in Hillsborough (a minimum security state prison) and works with outside groups for the transition of men to civilian life. Our own Transition and Support Committee (T&S) works closely with AOPM in assisting men (partners) both before and after release, by providing support circles to help our partners as they return to the community. The T&S Committee works with the Chaplain to assess the needs of our partners, including identifying appropriate housing, and coordinating with the IFC Community House to place men in temporary housing.

A new chaplain was appointed in Fall 2017 to succeed Jerry Love. AOPM expenditures approximate \$50,000/year, with the chaplain's position funded 100% by AOPM. About \$15,000 is raised through the annual pecan/Brunswick Stew sale in which our Meeting participates. The balance of the budget comes from contributions by faith organizations and individuals. We are exploring the feasibility of AOPM's providing financial assistance for Parents' Day activities as well as materials for the pre-release course (heretofore covered by Our Children's Place and individual contributions).

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Asta Crowe, Maria Darlington, Hank Elkins, Nancy Fisher, Rita Kuwahara, Tom McQuiston, Richard Miller, Paul and Joyce Munk, Bonnie Raphael, Ann Shy, Tom Smith, David Schneider, Monteze Snyder, Carolyn Stuart, and Byron Stevens, participate in this prison ministry. Men from OCC attend our Meetings for Worship on a regular basis, brought by Meeting sponsors, and are an integral part of the monthly Transition & Support Committee meeting. Men have shared their experiences through forums; several work with Friends in various capacities serving the community once released from prison. The Ready Singers from OCC have performed at our forums.

The Meeting sponsors two or three Meetings for Worship a year at the prison, attended by approximately 40 men living at OCC. The Meeting has also established a Returning Citizens Financial Assistance Committee (ReFAC) to help partners with basic needs of clothing and personal items when they are released. Members of the group participate in and assist with the annual Pre-release course and the semi-annual Parents' Day at OCC.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

(Updated by Lloyd Kramer, Jan. 14, 2018)

ADDRESS

1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102 www.AFSC.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine. Founded by Quakers in 1917, AFSC was a co-winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

Programs: AFSC's major efforts are focused on criminal justice, economic justice, humanitarian assistance, immigration/migration, peace building/conflict prevention, and youth. It defines its top priorities in 2018 as the following: ending discrimination that flows from racism, sexism, and homophobia; building peace and nonviolent responses to social conflicts; defending immigrant rights and sanctuary for immigrants; ending mass incarceration; and building economic justice. All of these programs and priorities reflect core Quaker values and converge with the values of CHFM.

Activities: In 2017 AFSC has continued to work actively on all of the programs listed in the previous paragraph through wide-ranging campaigns and projects that are listed on the AFSC website. The goals and campaigns of the AFSC's national leadership are also mirrored in the AFSC of the Carolinas (described below), including the concern with immigrant rights.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

In 2017 CHFM has worked very closely with the Area Office of the Carolinas, located in Greensboro. The office is also working closely with PFYM and we find our activities for their current initiatives (affordable communities, Economic Justice, and Immigrant Rights) to be in close alignment with the concerns of CHFM. Members of our Meeting have been on the board of AFSC, and we have a long tradition of supporting the national and international work of the AFSC. Lori Fernald Khamala who is one of the full-time co-ordinators at the Area Office is also a member of our meeting and continues to keep us actively involved (see below).

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE CAROLINAS

(Updated by Lloyd Kramer, Jan. 14, 2018)

ADDRESS

801 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 afsc.org/Greensboro

DESCRIPTION

Background: AFSC Carolinas is the NC component (based in Greensboro) of the Philadelphia-based AFSC. It has a strong and vibrant history in North Carolina, dating back to at least the 1960s. In 1963, the AFSC organized a voting rights project in Warrenton, NC, which brought African Americans and whites together for new mobilizations in this part of North Carolina. This is the legacy that the AFSC of the Carolinas continues to develop.

Programs: NC Immigrant Rights Program. The AFSC Carolinas is building leadership in undocumented communities, training immigrants on their rights, seeking to interrupt deportations, and supporting Sanctuary congregations. There is ongoing advocacy for just and more humane immigration policies at the local, state, and federal levels. CHFMs have not provided support for AFSC Carolinas in recent years, but the local needs of this innovative group justify more financial assistance and a new affirmation of support from our Meeting.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Members of the Meeting have been actively involved in recent activities of the AFSC of the Carolinas. Staff member Lori Khamala regularly attends CHFMs, and there was a forum on AFSC projects in October 2017 as well as a presentation to the CHFMs teens. Numerous members of the Meeting attended the AFSC Centennial Celebration in Greensboro in September of 2017; and members of our Meeting have been actively involved in supporting refugees and assisting people who face the complexities of immigration law. Lori Khamala is also the “NC Immigrant Rights Program” director, and she works out of the CHFMs library two days per week.

BOLIVIAN QUAKER EDUCATION FUND

(Updated December 11, 2017 by Hank Elkins)

ADDRESS

65 Spring Street, Fredonia, NY 14063-2128 www.BQEF.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: Bolivia, South America’s poorest nation, has the continent’s highest proportion of indigenous people. Oppressed in Bolivia for centuries, indigenous people were not allowed to attend public schools until 1952, and still possess only a fraction of the economic means and political power of those of European extraction. Bolivia’s 33,000 indigenous Friends constitute the world’s third largest Quaker population.

Program: The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF) funds scholarships in public universities for Quaker students. Since tuition is free, the scholarships at \$600 per year pay for books, meals, and transportation. Without the scholarships, most scholarship holders would not be able to go to university. More than 120 scholarship recipients have graduated and are taking roles of leadership in the country as environmentalists, agronomists, as nurses, dentists, and teachers. One graduate works as a lawyer in a key governmental environment agency. The graduates have formed their own scholarship program and are giving back. One graduate after receiving a master’s degree at Earlham serves as a Quaker pastor. Two graduates have established a Quaker Center in the heart of La Paz to foster Quaker studies. They support the Center by translating to and from Spanish, English, and indigenous languages.

BQEF has established the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in prisons and this year has brought AVP to all six major cities in the country. The AVP message of nonviolence is new in Bolivia. Since facilitators volunteer their services, the AVP workshops run on minimum cost and extraordinary enthusiasm.

BQEF runs a residence for secondary students in the Andean town of Sorata, where students from remote rural villages reside Monday through Friday to attend the town's high schools. Each Sunday afternoon the students walk two to six hours to the residence and return to their homes Friday afternoon. Starting their high school studies with little Spanish, the students receive tutoring and inspiration from the BQEF scholarship holders. One student has won the regional mathematics prize, and this year all five graduates are going to university.

In selecting scholarship holders and members of the secondary school residence in Sorata, BQEF explicitly prohibits discrimination "on the basis of sex, religion, ethnic origin, sexual preference (orientation), culture, or other conditions." It is useful to place the non-discriminatory policy of BQEF in the context of the country as a whole. Under the leadership of Evo Morales, Bolivia's first an indigenous president, Bolivia has modified the Bolivian constitution to guarantee the rights of LGBTQ persons in Bolivia. As the Washington Post reported, the 2016 Constitutional Revision makes same-gender sexual activity legal in Bolivia and bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Bolivian constitution, notes Wikipedia, makes Bolivia "one of the only few countries in the world to have such constitutional protections for LGBT people" (see Wikipedia on LGBT rights in Bolivia).

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Although the primary activities of BQEF are in Bolivia, BQEF has made a major local contribution by donating the services of Alicia Lucasi as a Spanish teacher at Carolina Friends School during the academic year 2008-2009. Hosts for Alicia from our Meeting included Mike and Marsha Green, Pam Schwingl and Pat Mann, Aura and Brad Schwartz. Carolina Friends School so appreciated Alicia's contribution that the School invited a second teacher. Unfortunately, a delay in processing the second teacher's visa prohibited her from serving. Carolina Friends School leaders and BQEF committee members will meet in January 2018 to explore the possibilities of a teacher/student exchange with a Bolivian Quaker school.

Pam Schwingl currently services on the BQEF Financial Committee. Hank Elkins serves on the BQEF Outreach Committee. Hank served on the BQEF Board of Directors 2007- 11 and clerked the Finance Committee. In 2007, Hank visited Bolivia on behalf of BQEF. In 2013 at the Haw River State Park, Barbara Williamson and Hank hosted and participated in the three-day 2013 BQEF board retreat. In 2014, Pam Schwingl and Pat Mann hosted a dinner meeting for Chapel Hill and Durham Friends in which Alicia described current BQEF program activities in Bolivia. On May 28, 2017, Barbara Williamson, Pat Mann, Pam Schwingl, and Hank Elkins presented a forum at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting.

Chapel Hill Friends are invited to volunteer in Bolivia to work with scholarship students in La Paz, to teach English or computer literacy in Quaker schools, and to work with the students and staff at the residence for secondary students in Sorata.

CAROLINA FRIENDS SCHOOL

(Updated by Lloyd Kramer, Jan. 14, 2018 and Hank Elkins, Jan. 15, 2018)

ADDRESS

4809 Friends School Road, Durham, NC 27705 www.cfsnc.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: Friends in our Meeting joined Durham Meeting Friends to create Carolina Friends School on donated land in 1962 – at a time when NC was delaying integration of its public schools – to demonstrate that black and white students could learn together and to provide a progressive, child-oriented form of education. A part-time pre-school opened in the basement of our meetinghouse in 1965 and continues to operate as a full-time pre-school in the schoolhouse. It regularly receives “five star” evaluations from state inspectors.

Program: The Carolina Friends School carries out the faith, practice, and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends. These include the use of silent worship, the focus on building community, training in non-violent responses to conflict, the loving ways in which teachers relate to the students, and the encouragement given to students to “find their Light,” to nurture their unique gifts, and to share them with the world.

CFS has a strong and growing interest in experiential education, which includes international travel and exchanges. As the CFS website notes, “*Carolina Friends School students of all ages venture beyond the boundaries of campus to explore the wider world. These learning adventures take their fullest form in the Upper School.*”

End-of-Year Experience — among the most distinctive dimensions of a CFS education. Typically spanning two weeks, these experiences range from scientific exploration in the rainforests of Peru to hiking the deserts of the American West, to travels in Nicaragua or the Adirondacks for a mix of research, service, and adventure.”

There have also been recent collaborations with a sister school in Afghanistan and connections with Bolivian Quakers and others. This is a form of international student engagement with Quaker values and with young people in other cultures that can be further developed by building on initiatives such as the following: “The Afghan Sisters Schools Partnership (ASSP) is a long-term service learning and peace education project rooted in the belief that peace and education are the rights of children everywhere. Since 2004, CFS students have exchanged thousands of handwritten pen pal letters with students at Topchi School in Bamiyan, Afghanistan. Students halfway across the world, along with their teachers and families, build trust, nurture empathy, and gain cultural understanding. Throughout the school year, ASSP brings CFS students lessons in cooking, Dari language, and arts & crafts. ASSP also sponsors documentary films and brings speakers to the community. Sustained by parent volunteers, staff, and our AFCO partners (Afghan Friendship and Cooperation Organization), ASSP is an inspiring model of a collaborative, peace education project; supporting education, in particular for Afghan girls, is an act of peace.”

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting can provide a new targeted fund to enhance CFS student awareness of and engagement with global Quakerism and the meaning of Quaker values in diverse cultural

settings. A new Global Quaker Fund at CFS would be an opportunity for the CHFM to make a more focused impact on Quaker education and expand a priority that CFS has already established.

Activities: CFS welcomes a wide variety of students, including many who, because of racial, cultural, sexual, physical disability, learning challenges, and other reasons are not served well in the public schools. Student diversity is reflected by minorities now representing 24% of the student body. Included are African-Americans, Africans, Asians, Latinos, Native Americans, multi-racial, and multi-faith students. Teachers have an average of 20 years of experience, and half have graduate degrees.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

The Meeting's annual benevolence contribution to Carolina Friends School has traditionally been designated to financial aid to enable students who qualify for financial aid to attend CFS and to continue CFS's commitment to diversity. CFS provides tuition aid to just over 25% of CFS students, a higher percentage than most other independent schools in our area. The tuition model is changing at CFS and Meeting members have looked for other ways in which CHFM can support the distinctive experiences of CFS students. There are new opportunities for more targeted support of students who have lacked resources to participate in Global Quaker educational interactions both at CFS and abroad. The major contribution CHFM already makes to CFS is the in-kind donation of the educational building for use of the CFS Chapel Hill Lower School. A conservative estimate of the value of that donation is at least \$15,000 per year. For its part, CFS maintains the educational building, the playground and half the cost of the parking lot.

The School Board includes Quakers nominated by the Chapel Hill and Durham Friends Meetings. Buffie Webber, Julia Cleaver, Faye Stanley, and Pat Mann currently serve on the board from Chapel Hill Meeting. Friends are invited to volunteer to tutor, to teach a special class session, and to participate in CFS worship. Over the years, the experience of parents and children at CFS has attracted many members and attenders to our Meeting.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

(Updated Dec 17, 2017, by Tom Munk.)

ADDRESS

245 Second Street, NE Washington, DC 20002 www.FCNL.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: The Friends Committee on National Legislation lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), FCNL fields an expert team of lobbyists on Capitol Hill and works with a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people across the country to advance policies and priorities established by our governing General Committee, and based on the concerns expressed by Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country. FCNL is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to live our values of integrity, simplicity, and peace as we build relationships across political divides to move policies forward.

In 2017, FCNL helped defeat efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and build momentum for the U.S. to stop fueling war in the Middle East. Between 2015 and 2017, the number of FCNL supporters meeting in person with their elected officials has grown exponentially.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

'In 2017, FCNL completed a successful five-year capital campaign that is strengthening our lobbying, expanding FCNL's visibility and presence on Capitol Hill, building community, and nurturing a new generation of activists." Over 1500 people committed more than \$17.5 million, 117% of the \$15 million goal. \$8.5 million will allow for immediate investments, while \$9 million will be endowed funds that are creating a permanent source of income. This increases FCNL's endowment from \$2.8 million to \$11.8 million. The number of FCNL's monthly sustainers has increased from 720 to 1350 between 2009 and 2017. Its annual expenses in 2017 were \$6.6 million.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Nancy Milio served as Clerk and member of the FCNL Policy Committee for 8 years, and continues as a member of the governing General Committee. She presents two or three annual Forums based on FCNL activity. the Peace and Justice Committee encourages Meeting members to participate in FCNL actions on the listserv. Peace and Justice, teens, and parents participated on Spring Lobby weekend in 2016 and reported back to the Meeting in a Forum.

FRIENDS HOUSE MOSCOW

(Created December 17, 2017 by Tom Munk)

ADDRESS

OOO FRIENDS HOUSE Sukharevskaya M. pl. 6, str. 1 127051, Moscow RUSSIA	and	For donations: Friends House Moscow Support Assn P.O. Box 60253 Palo Alto, CA 94306
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DESCRIPTION

Friends House Moscow (FHM), the only Friends organization in the Russian Federation, sponsors many projects, including translations of Friends books and other materials, counseling and educating young Russian men about alternatives to (mandatory) military services, education services for (legal and social) orphans, Alternatives to Violence Programs (AVP) in Moscow and Ukraine and also (from time to time) for immigrants and prison personnel, assistance for families, preservation of archival historical materials about Friends, and English teaching.

FHM accomplishes much with a meager staff and facilities and little money. Financing comes from the U.S., Britain, and Germany, including some foundation money, individual contributions, and some meeting contributions. Friends House Moscow has two staff members, Natasha (full-time) and Sergei (almost full-time), who work extremely hard for subsistence wages. Also a very hardworking, totally engaged board of Friends from the Russian Federation, the U.S., Britain, and Germany.

In the U.S., a Friends House Moscow Support Association (FHMSA; 501(c)(3)), collects and manages donations. With sadly deteriorating relations between Russia and the West, as well as rapidly escalating totalitarianism in Russia, Friends House Moscow has taken on increasing responsibility in a country that almost totally lacks "civil society." Karen Porter reports: "I have been simply amazed that we do so much with so little." Economic sanctions have made operations drastically more expensive, however; as the declining value of the ruble makes everything - from paper clips to rent - much, much more expensive.

FHM faces extreme difficulties with ever-decreasing resources - but with amazing personal courage. The staff members there are the bravest people you might ever know. They are totally committed - at great personal sacrifice.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Karen Porter is deeply connected. She conducted a forum, with excellent attendance, on Sept. 10, 2017. She has been on the board of Friends House Moscow for three years (finishing term), for two of which she served as Clerk. Having taught Anglo-American law to Russian lawyers for one semester a year over the past seven years of her retirement she was able to be in Moscow for almost two years over that period, cumulatively.

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

(Updated by Lloyd Kramer, Dec. 4, 2017)

ADDRESS

110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510, www.ifcweb.org (updated March 2016)

DESCRIPTION

Background: The Inter-Faith Council for Social Service (IFC) was founded in 1963 to address the significant gaps that existed in the social safety net of our community. Seven local church women created the IFC "to discover unmet needs and to respond through the coordinated efforts of volunteers." With no paid staff or office space, IFC began providing crisis intervention assistance to people in dire need. Today it is a not-for-profit non-denominational social service organization with a small staff providing basic services to combat poverty, hunger and homelessness in Chapel Hill and Carrboro. IFC is the principal agency in Orange County for mobilizing our community to address homelessness, hunger, and economic disparity

Activities: In 2016-17, IFC has provided 68,845 hot meals, 13,275 bags of groceries and shelter to a large community of homeless men, women and children at Community House and HomeStart.

Financial Information: The projected Annual Budget for 2017-18 is \$2,022,683. This budget includes contributions from individuals (\$639,448), congregations (\$207,234) and foundations (\$307,923).

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Members in 1963 of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, notably Gerry Gourley and Mildred Ringwalt, were instrumental in its founding. Current Members of the Meeting's IFC representatives (2017-18) are: James Bartow, Emilie Condon, Asta Crowe, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Dottie Heninger, Marie Hopper, and Carolyn Stuart. Individual members prepare and serve lunch for about 90 people in the Community Kitchen every first Thursday and provide food items each first Sunday, "IFC First Day." Many members and attenders provide services at IFC shelters and participate in the annual CROP walk and RSVVP programs; and some of our Meeting attenders have transitioned from Orange Correctional Center back into the community through a period of residence at the Community House.

INTER-FAITH COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE: FOOD FIRST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

(Updated by Lloyd Kramer, Dec. 4, 2017)

ADDRESS

110 W. Main Street, Carrboro, NC 27510, www.ifcweb.org (updated March 2016)

DESCRIPTION

SEE ABOVE for Mission and Activities:

FOOD FIRST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: The Food First Capital Campaign seeks to raise funds to build a new center in Carrboro for serving meals, collecting food, and housing the IFC administration. The need is clear. Nearly one out of five Orange County children is food insecure and at risk for hunger.

Food Insecurity affects: 19,790 county residents (14%), 5,190 children (18%), and 7,209 older adults living in poverty (5%). One out of seven Orange County residents is food insecure and at risk for hunger.

The new facility will lead to a 67% increase in meals served, 26,000 more meals each year due to increased kitchen and dining capacity. It will provide new capacity for innovative programming: client choice food pantry; cooking & nutrition education; job training in food/hospitality industries; a welcoming place for learning, support, belonging, & partnerships; critical support services under one beautiful roof: rent/utility support, bus passes, clothing vouchers, help securing identification, & more.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Members in 1963 of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, notably Gerry Gourley and Mildred Ringwalt, were instrumental in its founding. Current Members of the Meeting's IFC representatives (2017-18) are: James Bartow, Emilie Condon, Asta Crowe, Ann Drake, Max Drake, Dottie Heninger, Marie Hopper, and Carolyn Stuart. Individual members prepare and serve lunch for about 90 people in the Community Kitchen every first Thursday and provide food items each first Sunday, "IFC First Day." Many members and attenders provide services at IFC shelters and participate in the annual CROP walk and RSVVP programs; and some of our Meeting attenders have transitioned from OCC back into the community through a period of residence at the Community House.

NC WARN

(Updated January 13, 2018 by Hank Elkins)

ADDRESS

PO Box 61051, Durham, NC 27715-1051, www.ncwarn.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: Even as our society struggles with psychological denial over the climate crisis, NASA climate expert Jim Hansen is now bluntly calling climate change a planetary emergency.

Program: NC WARN, the foremost environmental justice organization in North Carolina, is waging an effective battle by combining scientific research, education, and practical action. Recently NC WARN published the comprehensive [North Carolina Clean Path 2025](#), a 113 page document replete with both technical and practical information. An [Executive Summary](#) of 7 pages is also available. Coupled with the publication is an [action plan](#) specifying practical steps for each of three types of localities. The North Carolina Clean Path 2025 offers a way to combat climate change by replacing greenhouse emissions with renewable solar power and enhanced batteries. The creation of the recommended distributed system would create more jobs, be less vulnerable to storms, and cost North Carolinians far less than the expensive system of large power plants and long transmission lines proposed by Duke Energy. NC WARN Orange County Clean Path 2025 is off and running after holding its first meeting November 11, 2017. NC WARN has indicated that if CHFM wishes to designate a particular project as a target contribution, North Carolina Clean Path 2025 would be an appropriate selection.

With the NAACP and other organizations, NC WARN is championing [Emergency Methane Action](#) endorsed by CHFM to stop the spewing of the powerful greenhouse gas. NC WARN is also waging a campaign to stop the proposed 600 mile [Atlantic Coast Pipeline](#) from bringing fracked gas from West Virginia and Pennsylvania to eastern North Carolina. The recent [cancellation](#) of Duke Energy's half-billion dollar investment in the Lee Nuclear Plant in northern South Carolina has validated the concerns NC WARN expressed in 2005 on faulty the design of the Westinghouse AP1000. NC WARN is now challenging the effort of Duke Energy to pass these costs on to Duke Energy customers as part of a major rate increase.

Consider what NC WARN has done in the recent past.

The Solarize Campaigns: The 2013-2016 NC Warn Solarize Campaigns helped hundreds of homeowners install solar panels. NC WARN enlisted homeowners to join in collaborative installation contracts to save thousands of dollars. With allied organizations, NC WARN waged solarize campaigns in more than a dozen locations including Asheville, Boone, Buncombe County, Cabarrus, Carrboro, Charlotte, Chatham County, Durham, Orange County, Raleigh, the Research Triangle Park, the Sandhills, and Wake County. Overall 498 solar installation contracts totaled 2.7 megawatts of power and avoided the burning of 1,453 tons of coal. -

In sum, NC WARN both educates and takes effective action in North Carolina. No other organization comes close.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

- *Jim Warren, Executive Director of NC WARN, presented a forum on NC WARN in 2016.*
- *Ruth Zalph, Hank Elkins, and others have served as outreach volunteers for NC WARN.*
- *At the request of NC WARN, Hank Elkins testified three times before the NC Utilities Commission against construction proposed by Duke Energy of coal power plants at Cliffside, NC. These presentations taking place in Raleigh and Durham required preparation in two forms, a written document to present to the Commission and an oral presentation before the Commission, the public staff, and the audience numbering 60-100 at the hearings.*
- *CHFM members have regularly announced NC WARN's outside forums, most recently the November 3, 2017 forum at the Friday Center, where Bill Powers talked on the subject of*

the North Carolina Clean Path 2015. Five CHFM members participated -- Wendy Michener, Hart Pillow, Ruth Zalph, Nancy Elkins, and Hank Elkins.

- *On November 11, 2017, Hank Elkins participated in the Orange County NC Clean Path 2025 meeting in Hillsborough at the Whitted Building. Among about 30 participants were elected officials from the Orange County Board of Commissioners and the towns of Hillsborough and Carrboro. Orange County has obtained a survey of the suitability of county buildings for solar installation and initially plans solar installation on the gymnasium adjacent to the Whitted Building.*
- *Madeline Parker, member of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, has joined NC WARN as an employee. She is a Youth Climate Justice Organizer.*
- *Madeline Parker and Hank Elkins took active parts speaking in the NC WARN Annual Meeting held November 9, 2017.*
- *NC WARN needs additional volunteers for research, presenters/speakers on NC Clean Path 2025 and other topics, artists, mappers, people to meet with public officials, and volunteers to staff tables at public events.*

ORANGE COUNTY JUSTICE UNITED

(Updated December 28, 2017 by Hank Elkins)

ADDRESS

PO Box 9484, Chapel Hill NC 27515 (919) 328 3966 - <http://www.ocjusticeunited.org/>

DESCRIPTION

Orange County Justice United is a broad based community power organization that develops civil sector leaders with the capacity to organize and win. In the late summer, 2017, the organization conducted a listening campaign with dozens of small groups representing important and diverse religious and civil organizations throughout Orange County. On September 11, leaders voted to focus on broad categories of concerns related to Housing, Jobs, and Immigration.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Jim Palmer, Dottie Heninger, Hank Elkins, and Carolyn Stuart have led strong participation by CHFM in Justice United this year. Jim is on the agenda to report progress monthly at P&J. Dottie and Carolyn are members of the Clergy Coalition, having received a three-day training in community organization.

We have been involved for several years. Regular announcements and solicitations for participation have been made to the Meeting.

Devin Ross, JU organizer, presented a forum in the spring focused on JU's efforts to negotiate a more equitable manner of dealing with undocumented immigrants without driving licenses. Undocumented people are not legally able to get drivers' licenses, and there is evidence that they have been targeted by Orange County sheriff's office. Numerous citations for driving without a license is costly for immigrant families and has curtailed, for some, their participation in school and community events for fear of being stopped for drivers' license checks. After Devin's forum, the

meeting had 25 or so Friends in attendance at a rally held at St. Thomas More hosted by JU. Jim Woodall, District Attorney, was there and he committed to a new protocol to use with undocumented drivers. If they have no moving violations or other citations, they can take a safe driving course and the citation for driving without a license will be not be prosecuted. JU saw this as a significant win.

After several weeks and many listening meetings across the county, including several with Chapel Hill Friends, Tom McQuiston, Hank, three returning citizens (William Elmore, Jerry Elliott and Chris Williams) and Carolyn Stuart attended a JU meeting in September to determine priorities for the upcoming year. Jerry Elliott spoke eloquently of the need for affordable, accessible housing for returning citizens.

On November 9, Carolyn Stuart, Dottie Heninger, and Hank Elkins participated in a of leaders at St. Matthews in Hillsborough to discuss progress of the three action teams.

On November 29, Richard, Carolyn, Nancy and Hank Elkins participated in the Chapel Hill Town Council meeting in support of affordable housing on the 36 acre Legion Road property.

Hank serves on the housing action team and on behalf of the team has written a proposal for master leasing of existing housing units.

ORANGE COUNTY PEACE COALITION

(Updated by Hank Elkins, December 28, 2017)

ADDRESS

% Ann Powers, Treasurer, 6 Carolina Meadows, Apt. 102, Chapel Hill 27517-8525

DESCRIPTION

The Orange County Peace Coalition sponsors annual events on Memorial Day and Hiroshima Day. In addition, the Coalition organizes vigils, petitions to local governing bodies, and forums on topics of peace. The Coalition's Memorial Day Event celebrated May 29, 2017 focused on immigration and sanctuary. Lori Khamala of Chapel Hill Friends and AFSC was the featured speaker and gave a strong presentation regarding the difficulties facing undocumented immigrants and the role of sanctuary. For the Hiroshima-Nagasaki event on Nagasaki Day, August 9, 2017, the Coalition sponsored a film showing *Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard* at the Community Church. The program focused on the US role in developing and using the first nuclear weapons, the continued US policies for the upgrading of this type of weapon and international control over nuclear weapons. Max Drake serves as the meeting representative on the Coalition. Participating organizations include:

- Balance and Accuracy in Journalism
- Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
- Coalition for Peace with Justice
- Community Church
- Church of Reconciliation
- Elders for Peace
- Ethical Humanist Society
- Peace Action

- Peace 1st
- St. Thomas More Church
- Veterans for Peace
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom –Triangle Branch

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

- *At the Coalition's Memorial Day Event celebrated May 29, 2017, Lori Khamala, member of Chapel Hill Friends, was the featured speaker. This event was announced and publicized in the Meeting.*
- *Members of the Meeting were active in the successful efforts to petition local government bodies to call for reduction of military expenses. The local bodies included the Orange County Board of Commissioners, the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School Board, the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, and the Hillsborough Commissioners.*
- *Max Drake currently serves as the representative from Chapel Hill Friends Meeting. Past representatives have included Ruth Zalph and Hank Elkins.*

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Updated by Asta Crowe January 15, 2018

ADDRESS

173-B N. Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05401-1607 www.quakerearthcare.org
 Mailing address: Quaker Earthcare Witness, P.O. Box 6787, Albany, CA 94706,
 510-542-9606 (updated March, 2016)

DESCRIPTION

Background: Quaker Earthcare Witness is a spiritually-centered movement of Quakers and like-minded people seeking ways to integrate concern for the environment with Friends' long-standing testimonies for simplicity, integrity, peace, and equality. "We are called to live in right relationship with all creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected ..." An urgency has come out of their work to focus on climate change and related issues.

Program: QEW's work consists primarily of 1) material and spiritual support for individual Friends and Friends groups who are working on ecological sustainability issues from a spiritual perspective and 2) publications, programs, projects, and other activities that are aimed at making human activities not only ecologically sustainable but in harmony with the larger purposes of creation. Animal welfare is an ongoing concern and they publish articles in their newsletter about living in right relationship with all beings, the value of a vegetarian/vegan diet and humane treatment of domestic animals as well as the value of preserving wild lands and natural habitats for species diversity and welfare. All meals at QEW meetings are vegetarian

QEW has a small office staff and a budget of around \$80,000 /year. They are currently bringing in 10-15% less than they need to be sustainable so our support is important.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

Our Meeting has been a recipient of one of their mini-grants. Most of their funding comes from the Quaker community, which is an essential component of their on-going work. They are currently bringing in 10-15% less than they need to be sustainable so our support is important. In previous years Ruth Hamilton and Michael Jokinen participated in regional national QEW meetings and represented QEW the at Intermountain Yearly Meeting.

QUAKER HOUSE

(Updated December 28, 2017 by Hank Elkins)

ADDRESS

223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC 28301 www.quakerhouse.org

DESCRIPTION

Background: The Quaker House mission is a manifestation of the Religious Society of Friends' Peace Testimony. Based in Fayetteville, NC, the home of Fort Bragg, Quaker House provides counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; educates them, their families, and the public about military issues; and advocates for a more peaceful world.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is a founding member of Quaker House since 1969 when Dean Holland, a Vietnam era soldier who wanted to be a conscientious objector came to our meeting requesting help. The meeting concluded that "Quakers need to be in Fayetteville" and with the help of Bob Gwyn and local meetings established Quaker House.

Program: The Quaker House GI Rights Hotline answers thousands of calls from active duty military, veterans, and their families. The number of calls to the hotline continues to increase. This year the Hotline counselors answered an average of 246 calls per month for a total of 2,948 calls. The counselors most rewarding yet most time consuming work is helping service members obtain conscientious objector status, guiding and providing moral support as service members move through regulations, delays and at times deliberate roadblocks of the command structure. The counselors also have been busier than ever helping service members who are being threatened with other-than-honorable discharges. Service members are being accused of "misconduct" or "personality disorder" when they actually suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Moral Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma. Quaker House helps them prove their medical condition so that they can receive an honorable discharge and their medical benefits. Quaker House has helped bring national attention to this problem.

Domestic violence, sexual assault, and moral injury: Quaker House also continues the important work of providing free and confidential counseling and support for the victims of military domestic violence, sexual assault, and moral injury. The therapist, Joanna, is a valuable support for the GI Rights Hotline counselors. They have been able to refer several suicidal service members to her and know that they will be in good care. The reputation of the program has grown both in the community and on base at Fort Bragg. The service is often the last resort for those in need of help

Other Program Activities:

- Alternatives to Violence Project training
- Provision of Truth in Recruiting literature
- Mindfulness classes
- AA group meetings
- Race Relations discussions
- Advocating for conflict resolution classes in the public schools
- Collaboration with military chaplains and mental health care professionals at Ft. Bragg

Mental health: Quaker House has taken up the issue of the poor mental health care provided for the more than 250,000 incarcerated service members and veterans. This issue was brought to the attention of Quaker House by the tragic case of a service member in Fayetteville who was sentenced to 10-18 years in prison for an offense that was brought on by his severe PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. Quaker House is working with his family and lawyer to help him, and has organized a petition and a vigil calling for “Adequate and Compassionate Mental Health Care for Service Members and Veterans” nationally. The Military Chaplains Association of North America published the petition on their electronic newsletter, and the Raleigh News and Observer and the Fayetteville Observer published an op ed by Quaker House on the subject. In September, Quaker House tabled at both the Mental Health Summit and the Special Victims Summit on Ft. Bragg.

Publications: Quaker House published two books this year. *Help for Moral Injury: Strategies and Interventions* was written by Cecilia Yocum, Ph.D. She volunteered to write the book after hearing the moral injury presentation. It is selling nationwide and even as far as England. Curt Torell, our board treasurer, wrote *Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a Claim and Documenting It with Selective Service*. It, too, is reaching a wide and appreciative audience.

Financials: This past year, Quaker House made a special appeal to our meeting to boost or least continue its allotted benevolence, especially since Quaker House recently lost the support of our largest donor, who passed away in 2016. Quaker House also incurred additional expenses in our search and transition for a new director. With no endowment, Quaker House is experiencing increased need for services and anticipates that this need will continue to grow as our current administration in Washington is significantly more bellicose and belligerent. Quaker House has proved its services to be both effective and efficient. One call to our GI Rights Hotline counselor costs Quaker House only \$9.28, including salary and all overhead, with calls averaging about 11 minutes and some calls lasting 40 minutes. The cost to Quaker House of a one hour long session with our Domestic Violence in the Military counselor is \$31, about one third the typical rates in the area. Many times our clients in both services are desperate, having no other recourse; some are suicidal. Our services are free and available to anyone. Quaker House saves lives.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

On December 10, 2017, the new Quaker House director, Kindra Bradley, presented a forum at CHFM. Quaker House board members make regular announcements at meeting for worship and post information in the newsletter and listserv. Teens, most recently Grace Schneider, presented their Conscientious Objector letters to Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, and members and attenders participate in Quaker House events and vigils both in Fayetteville and across the state. Many in our meeting receive our newsletter. Curt Torell recently published an

article in Friends Journal on "Why Talk about Conscientious Objection with Youth?" CHFM has four representatives on the Quaker House board: Nancy Fisher, Richard Miller, Karen Porter, and Curt Torell.

SNOW CAMP HISTORICAL DRAMA

(Created December 17, 2018 by Tom Munk)

ADDRESS

Snow Camp Historical Drama, P.O Box 535, Snow Camp NC 27349

DESCRIPTION

Since 1973, the Drama has presented original plays based on episodes from 300 years of actual Quaker history in this region. The first play, "The Sword of Peace," deals with Quaker pacifism and the American Revolution; the second, begun in 1993, "Pathway to Freedom," describes Levi Coffin (& other Friends) helping enslaved people escape via the Underground Railroad. These dramas are unique in American Quaker culture. Both plays recreate dramatic Quaker historical witness

with exceptional current resonance. They also bring together interracial casts each summer for an intense experience of collaboration and community. While the organization is Quaker-inspired rather than Quaker-affiliated, local Friends have long been involved & supportive, and a Friend has just been elected President of the board.

MEETING INVOLVEMENT

In 2017, members of the cast performed and spoke at a Forum. In past years, Meeting members and attenders have been to performances in small and large groups.

BENEVOLENCE BUDGETS 2017-2018

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting	2016-2017	Ad Hoc	Change
Proposed Benevolences for 2017-2018	Amount	Proposal	
Alamance Orange Prison Ministry	\$300	\$400	\$100
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC-P)	\$1,700	\$1,100	-\$600
American Friends Service CFSC Carolinas (AFSC-C)		\$800	\$800
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF)	\$600	\$600	\$0
Carolina Friends School (CFS)	\$4,300	\$4,000	-\$300
Friends Com. On Nat'l Legislation (FCNL)	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$0
Friends House Moscow (FHM)	0	\$200	\$200
Interfaith Council (IFC)	\$6,200	\$6,200	\$0
IFC Food First Capital Project	0	\$400	\$400
NC WARN	\$2,000	\$1,320	-\$680
Orange Co. Peace Coalition (OCPC)	\$50	\$50	\$0
Orange County Justice United (JU)	\$300	\$300	\$0
Quaker Earthcare Witness		\$200	\$200
Quaker House (QH)	\$6,120	\$6,500	\$380
Snow Camp Outdoor Theater (SC)	\$0	\$50	\$50
Animal Welfare Institute (AWI)			\$0
Fondation Enfant Jesus	\$500		-\$500
Planned Parenthood (not yet nominated)	\$50		-\$50
Totals	\$24,420	\$24,420	\$0

Note:

The ad hoc subcommittee on Benevolences achieved unity on the following criteria for financial support: Meeting benevolences MUST be for either (a) Quaker-affiliated organizations, or (b) local organizations that reflect our Meeting's values and with which members of the Meeting are closely involved.