

## Executive Director's Report May 6, 2023

There hasn't been time between the last meeting and now to do more than process the grants and prepare for this meeting. It feels like a long stretch until the next meeting in October, but I am grateful that we moved the in-person annual meeting out of the summer. I am using this space to prepare for this meeting.

I hope that a significant amount of time can be spent reviewing the strategic priorities as it feels like FFA is moving toward a new life stage. The world around us has been altered by the pandemic, politics that provide and then take away the social safety net for aging adults, and a growing awareness of the many inequalities around us. It is very helpful to me for the Board to review priorities annually so I know where to put my efforts.

My review of the documents included in the board handbook and the priorities of past years chronicle a lot of good work accomplished: policies are in order, the website created, we are known, board materials migrated onto the website, priorities have been named and we have new members joining the board. FFA has moved from focusing on the FSA communities to aging in place to small community-based organizations in underserved areas. After a couple years of connecting with minority-led organizations, we have now circled back to Quaker organizations. I feel that I now have a much better understanding of philanthropy than when I came in, and we have implemented several leading practices which have been enthusiastically welcomed by our grantee partners.

Here are some of my thoughts about our strategic discussion for this year:

- Continue discernment about how FFA can have an impact
- Release the ideas of an innovation fund and large grant strategy, but instead focus on a few key areas where we can have an impact, such as the Quaker Convening, ALP and Montessori, where FFA has played a role in creating peer groups.
- Continue discernment around FFA's relationship with NYYM ARCH program and FSA. Are these forever relationships? If so, how might we manage them differently?
- What is the right balance of Quaker and community-based organizations?

Helpful documents to review are the Strategic Plan FFA at a glance document, implementation plan and grantmaking objectives (all in the board handbook online: 5a, 1h, 1i).

Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director