

Director Report 9.24

I've been busy talking to grantee partners and prospectives as well as learning Quickbooks online, having converted our bookkeeping to the online version.

Alert: Any of you can attend the Vocational Discernment program (by Beacon Hill) at Friends Village or the Hand in Hand (A Tender Time BYM) program at Pendle Hill this month.

Notes

Breaking news: FSA is affiliating with MHS (Mennonite Health Services). Jane will stay on through this merger.

Sarah Ralston Foundation has begun the search for a new director as Lynette is retiring.

I sent you email regarding my visit to Friendsview Retirement in Oregon. I was deeply impressed by the vision and efforts of Gabby, the bilingual Interim Director of Healthcare, and Elizabeth, the ELL director to support immigrant staff into the workforce and along a career pathway. I hope they will present at FSA in 2025.

I also sent an email about my connections at FGC. I attended a workshop on envisioning where we want to live out our old age. I led a workshop on Aging & Spirituality and spent lots of time meeting and making connections for our Quaker grantee partners: Patti Nesbitt of BYM, promoting the book *A Tender Time*; Patti Muldoon of NEYM who has lots of ideas especially about resources; Steve Mohlke NYYM about our desire to simplify the relationship and think long-term. He noted that it has been helpful to write reports as it helped them clarify their direction. I introduced Jen Newman, Beacon Hill Friends House to Chiyo Moriuchi and Bob Dockhorn (FHRC) for possible sites for doing their Vocational Discernment workshop. I spoke to Bonnie Zimmer, another resident trying to implement art programs at FHRC. I also talked to Rachel Ernst Stalhut about how FGC can help spread the word about efforts to support aging Friends beyond the current participants in the Quaker Convening. There were several mentions of outcomes from the QC, and excitement for the next meeting. Several mentions of FFA funding.

BYM asked for advocacy to get a grant for publication from Obadiah Brown fund (NEYM). I connected them with Patti and Nia to explain how it would benefit NEYM. I also gave a discretionary grant of \$5000 to help them publish 2000 copies instead of 1000.

I received copies of *A Tender Time* for all board members. Pendle Hill is doing a 3 session workshop: Hand in Hand-aging in the spirit. Based on and led by book authors. PYM is also doing a 1 day thread gathering on grief; I will colead one of the workshops on end of life planning. I attended the first Pendle Hill session and was impressed at the registration of over 180, world-wide attendance, and felt need to talk about these issues.

Helped NEYM seek funds for a portable AV system. In the end, they were able to use operating funds.

Kindersmile announced that their advocacy work helped get children's dental services included in the NJ State appropriations.

As I have had conversations with current and prospective grantee partners, I have focused on Quaker organizations, programs that have a lasting impact on recipients or move the field forward in some way, that are sustainable after a launch period, and are replicable. I am not as supportive of being asked to be the new funder for an existing program with no new ideas, where avenues for collaboration have not been pursued, where benefits (ie food) are not enduring, or where recipients are higher income. I am reminded of the comment that we seek to fund small community-based organizations serving low-income vulnerable people, minority-led, unlikely to get funding elsewhere.

The PEAK online forum indicates that some foundations are re-examining budgets. [What do you think about moving to a budget narrative \(how will you/did you use the funds, if any left over how will you use it toward the grant objectives\)?](#)

Midyear conversations:

I think grants for general operations (Kennett, Hickman and FSA) should not require mid-year conversations. Giving GOS means we trust them to use the funds wisely. But conversations help us maintain contact, be a resource, see shifts in direction. Jim attended Friends Village, Lisa FHRC, Emily PASHI & CiP, Nikki Rise & Pendle Hill.

FSA There were 8 interns this summer from 4 universities, including 2 HBCUs in a variety of roles at 6 host organizations. Went well, more interest from the universities. Marsha wants to reconsider the requirement that students get credit, as some programs do not require internships.

FSA sent data collected in June on 13 years of interns; 11 of 54 found of 67 placed are still working in the aging field.

Leadership program has 13 enrolled (largest ever), including 2 CEOs and 2 from a non-member organization Dunwoody, 2 from Kendal. There have been more Kendal organizations joining in recent years. It feels like we are in a major transition with more Quaker organizations affiliating outside, few Quaker staff and residents, and lack of clear definition about what makes an organization Quaker. This may impact our grantmaking in future years.

QVS has a fellow at Pendle Hill, grant funds just sent in early August. See PH report.

BYM has seen a huge positive response to *A Tender Time*. As noted above, several programs are scheduled. Copies were distributed widely at FGC and were sent to all the Quaker retirement communities.

The Hickman – discussed changing relationship with moving to general operating grant. Appreciates trust and less paperwork. Especially appreciates support of Montessori which has been life changing, part of the fabric of Hickman at all levels. Success participating in the State HAEP Ladder of Training and hosting students from area colleges. No particular focus of where funding is being applied.

Friends Home in Kennett – It has been a difficult year with losses of key staff, delaying achieving Gold level Montessori certification. Once rehires are done and trained, Montessori and Health & Wellness programs will resume. However, the principles continue to be implemented across the community. Funding supports H&W: YMCA memberships, garden, art, psychiatrist.

Friends Village – the wifi installation is under way, as is training for residents. Happy with the installer. Strong offering of programs and training for residents and community. I (and perhaps others of you) have been asked to contribute to FV's strategic planning process.

Friendsview Retirement Community – Accessibility of materials now an organizational goal. Undertaking to review all training, communication and documents for ease of understanding by staff- English and Spanish speaking. Also a best practices page for supervisors and HR. Example given: two employees who retired, one did the retirement match, the other didn't understand and didn't take it.

Presenting at Leading Age in Nashville October 26. Partnering with library, school district, Migrant Immigration Welcome Center, community college. PCC has agreed to work on revising C.N.A training with wrap-around services so materials are understandable.

Friends LifeCare at Home The OT software was purchased, all staff trained, 7 completed. Good relationship with developers, adapting to this setting. Slowed by members being away during summer; trying to get word out. Staff say it has significantly reduced the time it takes to write up a report. Expect to have it included in operating budget 2025.

PASHI (UJIMA) Now have 30 volunteers working on PASHI on Weds. From all over city. Some have left other senior centers, word of mouth and social media marketing. Have sent 49 shipments. Looking into sending to Gaza. Thursday is open day, people work on own projects. 30 sewing machines in use. Got connected with Mandela Washington Fellows (an Obama African youth leadership initiative) and now formal relationship through UDelaware and Drexel. Trained 55 people who are returning with kits and knowledge, said it was best part of experience. Many men's questions were answered. Got material donated; next year will be part of budget. Also working with 3 local charter schools; hope to do boys classes this year too. Developing website and virtual training. *ask if Board wants to extend support for this program beyond the usual 3-4 years?*

Friends House Retirement Community- Had a sprinkler failure disaster in SNF which delayed renovation of room for art. 27 residents were moved from SNF to AL for 6 weeks. Hidden benefits: staff really stepped up, AL and SNF staff worked together, staff and residents got to know each other, renovation of SNF rooms. Ready to work on art studio-freed up twice the space, has outside door, windows onto new games area, water and bathroom. Renovation will begin soon. Art committee involved, also doing some activities in other areas. Want to engage residents from all parts of community and multiple art forms. Woodshop is moving along as well. Leadership through Kadine and Rick He implementing Montessori, bringing staff together. Hope to have Silver by November and Gold soon after. Cameron Camp coming in November. Nov 14 donor appreciation event.

I was surprised to hear that Montessori is alive and being practiced with enthusiasm at all 3 communities that FFA supported.

Pendle Hill – Very grateful for FFA support. Seems like allowed them to survive and experiment; they don't sound as lost or desperate now. Website- in process, moving to different platform which they can edit, ADA compliant. Hope to go public early in 2025.

Online programs doing well. First Monday lectures drawing 50-200. Reading groups. YouTube recordings of programs getting hundreds to thousand views. First Mondays are scheduled through February. More than 180 people are registered for Hand in Hand- 3 session workshop based on *A Tender Time*. First

program to make money. Program went well. Woodbrooke doing live discussion group based on Monday lectures.

QVS fellow will start Sept 9. His focus will be on outreach: radio, podcast, audiobooks from pamphlets.

Have started a strategic planning process. Focus groups. What is their unique role?

Witness to Innocence – The consortium has launched and will hold its first in-person gathering at Pendle Hill in September. Kara and Randall will be presenting on their peer support model. The Euro Commission cut funding to 1/5 of prior, but they have been successful in filling in with the UN Grant and Eighth Amendment project (which has also provided several new connections). Participants have settled into their post-incarceration lives with fewer crises. We discussed adding a new component of peer support for partners and families. There are 3 women who could easily assume this role. I suggested investigating Melinda French Gates. *Is this an organization you want to continue to support past the 3 year point?*

Kindersmile – They have reduced the amount of a grant to an individual from \$1500 to \$800 in order to increase the number of participants to 25. 14 have been served so far this year. People are not turned away. Through a new connection with the Remote Access Medical organization, they will host a medical/dental clinic at Trenton High School next year, treating 200 a day. Through Unite Us, they were working on adding a community health worker to work with mothers, which the Department of Health has agreed to pay for. The bilingual CHW has been volunteering and is already known and loved. They also got a state appropriation which comes with a lot of paperwork. I made introductions to RISE (dental care in Hightstown) and PASHI (for next service trip to Kenya). *Is this an organization you want to continue to fund past the 3 year point?*

CMAP (PSRC) The Aging Gaily group is growing and thriving, had a big presence during Pride parade.

Center in the Park The In-home support program gets about 30 referrals a month. The social worker (11 hrs/wk) helps people connect with benefits and services, understand notices. Often emergency assistance grants to pay utilities. Most contacts are very short; connected with care management if longer. Also providing support services in 2 senior buildings, not under FFA grant. Still no other sources of these services.

RISE – Joanna (staff working with ELL) has been attending area fairs, connecting people with health and social services, pantries, Interfaith Caregivers (my linkage). Participating in several county needs surveys. Loneliness—can they find a facilitator to run a group?

Turned away:

- An organization in Mexico—did not hear purpose
- Main Line School Night- On the Main line, primarily higher income white participants, seeking operating support
- Earlham College senior seeking support to do AIT program- sent to FSA.
- Bucks-Mont Meals on Wheels – seeking funds to renovate kitchen.
- Buffalo Meeting – individual wants to make videos of elders in region. Deferring until Spring.

Inquiries awaiting discernment

- Union Settlement- did not go through screening. Must wait. Reducing isolation. Need to talk to. Tool seems to be tech in place of people, advertising more than engaging.
- Fitness Initiative-Rochester NY – Parkinson’s exercise and cooking.
- American Parkinson Disease Association- translate training into Spanish -too large, national
- Lutheran Ministries-PACE program in Plainfield – come back when programs not capital

New Applicants:

NJAAW: To restart the Senior Center Directors Association for NJ. Would foster collaboration, presence throughout state. 200+ potential members. Recommend granting \$5000 seed funds while explore interest, focus and details.

Springpoint Senior Living: To install new computers in 6 low income housing buildings in NJ and provide Senior Planet training. Formerly Presbyterian Senior Living. They do a better job than Quakers of managing low income housing. Recommend approval \$13920.

Trinitas has returned after a sabbatical year. New staff (all paid by hospital) and more focused request on bridge meals, medication and medical monitoring equipment. I recommend 1 year of support with emphasis on tracking outcomes so hospital will assume full cost, \$15000 of requested \$17302.

Chandler Hall seeking funding for collaboration with Bucks Co. Community College to have students working with residents. Slim on details for implementation, such as what will draw students, stipends. \$30,000 over 3 years. I recommend No and send them back to the drawing board, or minimal starter grant.

Senior Community Services Aging at Home volunteer visitors & home repairs. Recommend yes.

Livewell Foundation wants to offer a peer support group for older people with major depression. Recommend yes.

Caldwell University – had contacted me last year, sent back to work on details. Seems they started and it’s going well. Did not respond to questions. Neutral.

Friends Homes -funding for staff scholarships. Residents should be doing, benefit to staff not residents.

Kings Bay JCC – day program for deaf people. Do we want to get into NYC? Discernment. Mixed.

OCTOBER ADDENDUM:

Broadmead has named a new CEO, Jay D Prince. Jay comes from Covenant Living Communities in Michigan.

I reached out to Friends Homes after Hurricane Helene; they made it through ok being east of the worst part of the damage.

I’ve been working with Marylee on the Audit and 990 and transferring from old Quickbooks to Quickbooks online. They will be presented for acceptance at the October meeting.

I attended a reception at the first global consortium gathering of death penalty abolishment organizations hosted by WTI.

Beacon Hill is working on doing their program for Friends Life Care.

I will be co-leading a workshop on planning for end of life for PYM pastoral care thread gathering.

Joan and Lisa joined me for a great Quaker Convening on Aging. Participants submitted summaries of their recent work in advance so we could focus on directions forward. It was agreed that we would share with each other information on upcoming programs that anyone could join (but not post in newsletters yet). There was excitement over the success of the Pendle Hill series and energy to plan a program on what to do with bodies after death which started with Concord Quarter but may expand. Frances offered to host on Zoom and Patty M offered to be a resource. It is so exciting to see these collaborations growing. Annual meeting/conference on June 18. Topic= Civic Engagement.

I attended the CNJG Health & Aging Affinity Group meeting. Trying to revive this group. Identified need to know each other's organizations better.

Susan W Hoskins