

Activities:

The luncheon for Jim went very well—he was touched. Beth Yingling and Robin Whitely were guests in addition to Eric, Beth, Lisa, Patti, and Susan.

Attended CNJG annual meeting. Focus was on partnerships: public-private, multiple grant makers, grantee partnerships. Cross-sector with common agenda. Example: Camden Food Security Collective. What are the priorities where private funds can make a difference? Often it is on the creative edges around a large government grant which allows no variations. Lunch speaker was on Press Forward, about how critical local news is, how journalism has changed; critical to neighbor civic engagement.

Attended CNJG Trenton-Mercer Affinity group with Nikki. About a dozen foundations attended. Decided on 3 meetings in person per year. Future meetings suggested: Trenton Mayor, Mercer County Executive, equity, accessibility, urgent needs, emergency response, sharing polling results, AI and Tax changes. The Impala data platform was introduced; there will be training on it October 23 and 24. It provides data on NJ nonprofits, an alternative to Candid, and will be free for CNJG members for 3 years.

The Patrick J McGovern Foundation is also offering Grant Guardian. A free AI tool for assessing grantee partner finances.

I attended a webinar hosted by Trust Based Philanthropy about reporting. Many foundations ask far more than the board reads or the organization finds useful. Most said that trust and relationship building were the most valuable.

Attended PYM Annual Sessions. New General Secretary, Chris Mohr, just named. Starts November 8.

FSA announced on August 1 that a formal management and plan to merge agreement has been signed with MHS. New naming, branding, etc are underway. Merger expected complete in January 2026. See mid-year report.

There is momentum for states to create Multisector Plans on Aging. Grantmakers in Aging has created this resource. <https://www.giaging.org/resources/multisector-plans-aging-important-roles-and-opportunities-funders>. It seems to me to address issues at more of a state-wide, policy and advocacy level than FFA's engagement with small organizations and projects. Discuss in February?

Grants Declined:

- Kingdom Financial Group Worldwide Foundation- declined. Too young an organization, no website to explore, grand idea but implementation uncertain, redundant to existing. Wants to do digital literacy programs in Philly- Dedicated Medical Center offices or online, Phila housing. Own curriculum, past experience was selling life insurance.
- Amputee Aid – declined. Based in Pittsburgh, want to start an office in Philadelphia and to create a resource directory for amputees but have no non-profit partners here yet and there seem to be several support groups and resources.
- Hope House (part of Catholic Charities of Paterson NJ) Program- home repairs and housekeeping. Not a separate organization, part of \$25M Catholic Charities. Program has its own budget, but is not a separate organization.

- Friends Lifecare- deferred to Spring to further develop their concept and activities-multiple education programs not just one.
- Lutheran Social Ministries- Wants to use Lifeloop in PACE programs. Formerly IN2L. I want to go see it in action as I am skeptical from past experience. They hoped to apply but did not.

Notes:

It was announced at the end of June that advocacy from the ALP coalition has paid off; gap funding has been restored in NJ and daily rate increased. This means that support services provided in the gap between traditional Medicaid coverage and ALP level Medicaid will be paid while approvals are going through. With Bright Side Manor on sabbatical, I have stepped back from the ALP coalition.

I had an interesting conversation with a grantee partner about whether the Foundation has concerns about the values of other donors. I said we had had similar conversations about potential donors to FFA. We look more for the grantee missions & values and whether there are funding sources to continue projects we have funded and do not make judgements on other funders.

QVS appears to have new energy and ideas from the new director and his team. They are holding socials in the host cities, recruiting in colleges, reopening the Portland site, and had a short summer program for younger adults.

News article on Lutheran Settlement House <https://why.org/articles/older-adults-community-volunteer-efforts-lutheran-settlement-house/>

MID-YEAR REPORTS

The Hickman, Friends Home Kennett and Friends Village got general operating grants and assurance of ongoing support. All 3 have monthly resident meetings to address concerns. None are directly impacted by Federal funding cuts.

The Hickman- using their grant for staff training: CPR, FSA administrators, med tech trainer, dining team SafeServe. Occupancy is 68-70, budget is for 70, goal is 72. Not feeling impact of Federal, no direct funds. PA Casey funds evaporated when he lost election. Anxious about unapproved PA budget. Continuing DEI efforts. Community input through monthly resident meetings (which Ombudsman attends), monthly community life meetings, dining services alternate months and feedback through supervisors. (Susan)

Friends Home in Kennett- Grant used for arts programs: choir, drama club, art (including jewelry, clay) used across levels of care. Will be embarking on converting one wing to secure memory care for 10 people and 44 new independent living units on current parking lot. (Susan)

Friends Village- Not used yet; considering using funds to replace living room furniture to increase socializing and movie attendance. Maybe exercise equipment (I suggested they look into collaboration with YMCA) or chairs for yoga, or paid instructors. (Susan)

Friends Services for the Aging (FSA)- The merger with MHS (Mennonite Health Services) is progressing. MHS has several lines of business other than aging. FFA still the only foundation. There will be 8 FSA and 8 MHS board members. The intention is to continue all current services. Jane and Nancy are under contract to do Leadership Institute in 2026. Karen would like to see more growth in Internships. FSA had

more assets so the board is creating a board fund that can support these programs and individuals attending. We wondered if they need FFA any longer (Susan, Beth)

FSA update: As part of the merger agreement, a Quaker Fund will be established as a restricted fund, whose purpose is to support and underwrite Quaker programs, trainings and initiatives for FSA-legacy member organizations. A committee comprised of members from FSA-legacy organizations will guide the distribution of funds on an annual basis. It is anticipated that the Fund will be used to support the Leadership Institute, as well as programs such as Quaker decision making and Intro to Quakerism.

Friends House Retirement Community has identified 46 eligible associates for their pathways to citizenship program. They started with a cohort of 10-12, assisting with applications and the funds (\$800 each) to apply, with a goal of 20+ by year end. There were many resident volunteers, but less need for ESL tutoring than envisioned, so there are 14 active tutors and mini support groups for each applicant. The residents are very proud and the applicants very appreciative. FHRC staff turnover is well below the benchmark of 50% with several being recognized for 25 or 35 years of service. 80% work other jobs and talk about this program, which has stirred interest outside FHRC. Other funders are interested. They will complete this program before moving on to the next vision, to create an in-house CNA training program engaging current housekeeping and dining staff. The Assistant Director of Nursing has received certification to teach. Sherwood High School students are also doing their CNA rotation and Howard Community College is sending clinical nursing students to FHRC.

FHRC has achieved Gold level Montessori Lifestyle in memory care, and is working on implementing in skilled care. All staff are trained as part of onboarding, with support from Rick (DON) and Kadine (COO). 9 associates have been chosen to train as Champions. (Joan, Susan)

Ujima- Lots of change as move to Unity Meeting in Frankford, with unexpected repairs needed. PASHI and the Kuumba Circle moved to Grace Baptist Church in Germantown. There are other groups that are interested in forming PASHI programs, and a possibility they won't want to move to Unity, leading PASHI to consider applying for its own 501c3. Our concern is who the lead financial/liability agency is not the name or location or number of sites, although FFA does have a different relationship with non-Quaker groups. (Susan, Nikki)

Pendle Hill- Many successes including anniversary event, audiobooks of pamphlets, grief support group, collaboration with Quaker Leadership Conference, new website. Will be working on strategic plan this fall and rebuilding volunteer base. Interested in mutual accompaniment training. (Ed, Susan)

Rise – I attended the grand re-opening of the choice food pantry, a beautiful grocery store like space where people can select the food they want to use. It was held up as a model program to replicate across the state, as Mercer Street Friends has become the model for a food bank. There is an early hour for seniors with additional products for them. (Susan)

Lutheran Settlement House Gave up Enhanced Wellness model as people dropped out. Now combination of lectures, groups and 1-1 conversations, "community wellness advocate". Liam (technology) initiated a men's group and Lassiter (social work) does mindfulness and chronic illness. Liam also coaches people on technology. (Eric, Susan)

Mercy Care Adirondacks- Grant is supporting supplies, staff, caregivers, volunteer training, iPad loans, technology classes, spiritual companion program. Moved office into new space at Eline Farm—

opportunities for community activities. Public awareness growing. Will send outline of spiritual companion training. (Susan, Beth)

[Jewish Relief Agency](#)- Has seen number served increase 6500 to 6900 since Spring. 75% of food is purchased shelf stable food. 15# per box, 1 delivered per month. Kosher. Serve 80 zipcodes in Phila area, 79% in city. 63% age 60+. Must be under 185% FPL. (Patti, Emily, Susan)

[NJAAW](#) -I attended the first meeting of senior center staff on 10/9. 30 people attended, most from north Jersey. Had speakers on State funded programs. Say there will be more programs during the year and they are considering going for 501c6 (can't get grants) or 501c3. (Susan)

The Quaker convening on aging will take place **Wednesday October 15 at 4 pm**. Let me know if you want the link to join us.

Susan W Hoskins, Executive Director