

BOLIVIAN QUAKER EDUCATION FUND

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

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) provides scholarships to Quaker students attending public universities. Since tuition is free, the scholarships at \$700 per year pay for books, meals, and transportation. Without the scholarships, most scholarship holders would not be able to go to university. Thus a relatively small amount of money facilitates a much greater educational value. 248 scholarship recipients have graduated and are taking roles of leadership in the country as environmentalists, agronomists, nurses, dentists, and teachers. The graduates have formed their own scholarship program and are giving back. One graduate works as a lawyer in a key governmental environment agency; another graduate after receiving a master's degree at Earlham serves as a Quaker pastor; two 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. Another graduate is using her training in cooking to create healthy foods and research alternative grains to help enrich the diets of malnourished children in El Alto.

BQEF has established the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) in prisons and 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 has explicitly prohibited discrimination "on the basis of sex, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, culture, or other conditions." Under the leadership of Evo Morales, Bolivia's first indigenous president, Bolivia modified the Bolivian constitution to guarantee the rights of LGBT 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.

For the school year 2008-2009, a Bolivian scholarship recipient and experienced teacher, Alicia Lucasi, taught Spanish at Carolina Friends School (CFS) and spoke at Friends General Conference. A second Bolivian scholarship recipient, Vanessa Ely Maldonado Choque, taught Spanish at CFS during the winter and spring of 2019.

Finances and Employees: 2021 contributions were \$96,518 plus a \$60,000 one-time anonymous bequest for a total of \$156,518. 2022 contributions were \$94,111. For both years there were a total of 1.75 full-time equivalent employees, 1.25 in Bolivia and 0.50 in the U.S.A.

BQEF employees earn minimal wages and benefits. Recent inflation challenges both students and employees. Despite these challenges, BQEF is aiming to support the educational successes of Bolivian Aymara students - and to meet the continued and expanding need for more educational opportunity among this population.

Chapel Hill Friends are invited to volunteer in Bolivia to work with scholarship students in La Paz and to teach English or computer literacy in Quaker schools.

ALAMANCE ORANGE PRISON MINISTRY

P.O BOX 9932, CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515

Alamance Orange Prison Ministry (AOPM) serves men incarcerated at Orange Correctional Center (OCC) in Hillsborough (a minimum security state prison). The Chaplain, Josh LeRoy, works with volunteers, clergy, and families/friends for the transition of men to civilian life. Our own Transition and Support Committee (T&S) partners with OCC residents and collaborates with the Chaplain to identify and support their needs including housing and employment.

The Mission: The Ministry strives to better prepare our residents with skills, abilities and motivation to successfully reintegrate into their communities and families upon release and, where possible, provide support and encouragement to those receiving them. The Ministry works to connect all concerned to available resources to be found at Orange Correctional Center (OCC) and in the surrounding community.

Specific functions of the Ministry:

- Administration of religious programming at Orange Correctional Center
- Provision of pastoral counseling to residents and staff.
- Cooperation with volunteers, clergy and mediators who work with men and their families/friends
- Distribution of clothing and hygiene items donated by volunteers and religious community

Finances: The AOPM raises about \$50,000 a year from faith organizations and individuals. With these funds, the Ministry pays the entirety of chaplain's salary, the single employee of the Ministry.

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- *Parent education nights*
- *Programs for students*
- *School climate surveys*
- *Participation in Student Day*
- *New-teacher orientation and training*
- *Ongoing consulting and support as needed*
- *Discounted fees to attend our biennial conference*
- *A supportive network of schools working together to support each other in this work*

The Core Values include:

- Child-Centered Education
- Equity Focus
- Interactive and Experiential Programming
- Holistic View of Community
- Restorative Practices
- Student Voice, Responsibility, and Agency
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- First facilitators training
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Contributions and expenses. The organization has no paid staff but is powered by volunteers from meetings across the state of North Carolina. The total reported contributions to FCNCL from meetings and individuals amounted to \$3790. We ended the year with a balance of approximately \$8200.

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Friends House Moscow

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- challenges FHM is facing with the war footing of Russia
- How many paid people (FT equivalent)
- Income for the last two years
- A general statement of the project's need

Friends House Moscow is a project of Quakers internationally. For almost 30 years, it has supported peace-building in Russia and the former Soviet Union. It provides resources for worship groups, for conflict resolution programs and for those conscientiously opposed to war. Such resources are available thanks to our energetic translation and publication program. Any Russian speakers at your Meeting may be interested in the publications at <https://quakers.ru>. FHM also provides support to Russians working with refugees and the disabled.

Right now, all non-governmental groups in Russia are extremely vulnerable. Financial support coming from abroad, in particular from a foreign religious organization, may present risks for all concerned. Thanks to mutual trust, built over many years, our Russian colleagues have been able to maintain relationships with long-time “project partners.”

“FHM is an international collaboration between two charitable organizations (FHMSA in the USA and FHM in the UK), which are run voluntarily by trustees and committee members - they have no paid staff. Translation, reporting and research services are provided by a small business owned by two Russian Quakers, who work under contract with us.

In 2020, income via FHMSA (USA) was USD \$49,427, via FHM (UK) GBP 60,150; in 2021 USD \$29,278, GBP 48,003. Donations from Friends in Belgium, Germany and Sweden are funneled through FHM (UK).

Friends House Moscow's need, at present, is to respond to the human landscape which has been so tragically changed by the war in Ukraine. A conflict resolution project in Estonia now works with Ukrainian refugees, Estonians and resident ethnic Russians. A potential project is a school for Ukrainian refugee children, which has been organized by members of the Russian diaspora (themselves refugees) in a former Eastern Bloc country. We are assembling and translating resources for the psychologists who are needed to work with the moral trauma of war in Russia itself.

NC WARN CURRENT PROJECTS

NC WARN is pushing Duke Energy to make the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy by:

- continuing our Climate Emergency campaign calling on Governor Cooper to stop Duke's massive buildout of fracked gas-fired power plants (over 40 scientists, 80 organizations and 12,000 individuals have joined the call)
- opposing Duke's proposal to weaken net metering policies for residential solar customers
- pushing for a cleaner, quicker and more affordable carbon plan that includes distributed solar on rooftops, parking lots and brownfields, combined with battery storage
- educating state nonprofits and households about how they can reduce their energy costs by taking advantage of opportunities available under the Inflation Reduction Act
- preparing to challenge applications Duke will file in late 2023 for permits to build new gas plants.

STAFF SIZE

Our staff is relatively small right now, largely due to attrition during the pandemic years. Currently, NC WARN has 5 full-time equivalent staff with a combined tenure of 67 years with the organization. We are in the process of hiring an additional staff member who is likely to be full-time. In addition, we are really fortunate to continue our relationships with 3 excellent contractors: attorney (5 years), engineer (8 years) and accountant (8 years).

INCOME

For 2022, and for 2023 (projected), our income is in the \$1.5 million/year range. As we have explained in the past, we are fortunate to be able to devote a large portion of our expenses to public education and mobilization via a wide range of outreach tools including paid advertising across a host of online and traditional platforms. This has been vitally important to taking our message straight to the public across North Carolina in order to successfully and substantially (though not fully!) counter Duke Energy's giant propaganda machine that distorts and suppresses open public debate on climate and energy justice issues.

Although NC WARN is currently on firm financial footing – and pledges to inform the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting if that changes – we are far more reliant than we'd like to be on a single, wealthy but elderly couple, and continue seeking to diversify our funding base. We remain deeply grateful for the years of generosity from the Meeting.

ReEntry House

Reentry House Plus, Inc

Mission: *Reentry House Plus (RHP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to provide housing and needed support to individuals transitioning from prison, Reentry House Plus is devoted to assisting formerly incarcerated people reintegrate back into the community as healthy, productive citizens. We at Reentry House Plus believe in second chances and are committed to doing our part to ensure that people receive the support, skills, and encouragement they need to rebuild their lives. (<https://reentryhouseplus.wildapricot.org/>)*

What ReEntry House (RHP) does. A house accommodating up to 5 men was purchased in Hillsborough, NC and opened June 1, 2021, and is the first facility in northern Orange County to provide the housing and emotional support to reduce recidivism and rebuild lives. In addition to providing shelter, Reentry House Plus has partnered with SWIT – *Success While in Transition* (www.successwhileintransition.org) – to offer life skills training and one-on-one mentorship to the residents. A justice-involved individual's integration back into the community requires social skills such as self-advocacy, respect for community and the ability to form positive relationships. SWIT classes teach these important life skills while certified Peer Support Specialists provide personalized counseling and help residents find permanent housing, employment and needed healthcare services. Our in-house manager is a certified Peer-Support Specialist.

Our History. A group of volunteers and supporters arising out of Yoke Fellows at Orange County Correctional started the non-profit corporation to provide housing and needed support for those being released from prison. In September, 2019, the founding Board of Reentry House Plus, Inc. voted to incorporate. The first year was spent determining a reentry model and raising needed funds for a house and SWIT operations. In November 2020, the board began offering SWIT classes, alternating monthly between a church in Chapel Hill and one in Hillsborough. In January, 2021 the Board made a commitment to find a house in the Hillsborough area and began to raise the necessary funds. In March 2021, we placed a bid on a home in the Carolina Loop neighborhood, close to the bus and shopping. Within 3 months, the \$93,000 was raised for the closing costs and down payment, through Self Help Credit Union of Durham. The house began operation in June 2021, and is fully functioning with 4 residents, a residential manager and the SWIT Program.

The SWIT program was developed by Tommy Green and William Elmore who themselves are formerly incarcerated. Green and Elmore understand the challenges of reentry, and have considerable training and experience working with people in transition. They oversee the day to day operations of Reentry House Plus and are responsible for hiring staff. RHP also responds to the need for education and support beyond the walls of our transition house by opening the SWIT program to participants in the larger community.

Accomplishments. In 2022 RHP developed its ability to help returning justice-involved men and women by fulfilling several goals:

- RHP diversified its Board with the inclusion of 5 men and women of color - ALL of whom are either previously incarcerated or heavily involved with justice-related issues.
- A Fundraising and Development Committee was created to diversify and strengthen our fundraising efforts. To that end we have:
 - Added an ABC grant to our monthly income.
 - Increased our Wild Apricot contact list to over 450 participants
 - Increased the number of monthly givers by 100% to over 30.
 - Received over \$20,000 of in-kind donations which was used to fund a separate transportation budget.
 - Ran a successful **Giving Challenge** that doubled total gifts up to \$5000 for both the Board and the outside community. Over \$16,700 was received from outside donors and the Board participated with another \$3,900. Including the matching we received a total of \$29,535.
 - Purchased a second-hand Prius that is used exclusively to transport residents to work, shopping, medical and legal appointments, etc, all while keeping gasoline usage low.
 - Participated in several retreats including the Board and SWIT to create the foundation of Mid-term and Long-term Strategic Goals. This work in process is often referenced as we endeavor to find the best paths forward for RHP.
 - Opened initial dialogue with Wounded Healers to better understand how our two missions are complementary and to find ways to increase the effectiveness of our two organizations by applying the strengths of each to help the other. To that end, RHP has welcomed Edward “Scottso” Scott, a founder of Wounded Healers, onto our Board and we are exploring the premise of a joint application to the United Way, after having been encouraged by United Way to apply.

Future Plans. The theme for this coming year is to greatly expand our services as a Community Resource, thus, meeting more identified needs. To begin, that will include finding leaders for both Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcohol Anonymous (AA) classes to be held at the Loop house. In addition, Tom McQuiston will work with Will and Tommy to better define and to formalize in written form the 21 principles that comprise the core of the SWIT teaching.

RHP will work with Will and Tommy to again open the SWIT classes with a follow-up Peer Support component to the greater community. These outside classes will not only provide a needed incubator to test the viability of the newly-defined principles of the SWIT classes, but they will also allow Will and Tommy to train others to run the classes, thereby lightening their personal teaching load going forward.

RHP will be partnering with UNC Health to offer Living Healthy-Chronic Diseases classes at the Loop House. Tommy is already a certified “Lay Leader” who can lead the six once-a-week classes which – to start - would also include a volunteer from the UNC program. Before July of 23, Peer Support Specialists from SWIT will also go through the UNC Living Healthy training process and Tommy will re-certify. Under this RHP/SWIT/UNC collaboration, men and women who attend the classes will be offered

additional “outside” support from SWIT for help with transportation and follow-up help in their quest to Take Control of their chronic condition. Tommy is uniquely positioned to manage this new offering since he has been the head of the NC FIT program for Orange County for some years and both programs are sponsored by UNC Family Medicine.

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- A general statement of the project's need

Friends House Moscow is a project of Quakers internationally. For almost 30 years, it has supported peace-building in Russia and the former Soviet Union. It provides resources for worship groups, for conflict resolution programs and for those conscientiously opposed to war. Such resources are available thanks to our energetic translation and publication program. Any Russian speakers at your Meeting may be interested in the publications at <https://quakers.ru>. FHM also provides support to Russians working with refugees and the disabled.

Right now, all non-governmental groups in Russia are extremely vulnerable. Financial support coming from abroad, in particular from a foreign religious organization, may present risks for all concerned. Thanks to mutual trust, built over many years, our Russian colleagues have been able to maintain relationships with long-time “project partners.”

“FHM is an international collaboration between two charitable organizations (FHMSA in the USA and FHM in the UK), which are run voluntarily by trustees and committee members - they have no paid staff. Translation, reporting and research services are provided by a small business owned by two Russian Quakers, who work under contract with us.

In 2020, income via FHMSA (USA) was USD \$49,427, via FHM (UK) GBP 60,150; in 2021 USD \$29,278, GBP 48,003. Donations from Friends in Belgium, Germany and Sweden are funneled through FHM (UK).

Friends House Moscow's need, at present, is to respond to the human landscape which has been so tragically changed by the war in Ukraine. A conflict resolution project in Estonia now works with Ukrainian refugees, Estonians and resident ethnic Russians. A potential project is a school for Ukrainian refugee children, which has been organized by members of the Russian diaspora (themselves refugees) in a former Eastern Bloc country. We are assembling and translating resources for the psychologists who are needed to work with the moral trauma of war in Russia itself.

NC WARN CURRENT PROJECTS

NC WARN is pushing Duke Energy to make the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy by:

- continuing our Climate Emergency campaign calling on Governor Cooper to stop Duke's massive buildout of fracked gas-fired power plants (over 40 scientists, 80 organizations and 12,000 individuals have joined the call)
- opposing Duke's proposal to weaken net metering policies for residential solar customers
- pushing for a cleaner, quicker and more affordable carbon plan that includes distributed solar on rooftops, parking lots and brownfields, combined with battery storage
- educating state nonprofits and households about how they can reduce their energy costs by taking advantage of opportunities available under the Inflation Reduction Act
- preparing to challenge applications Duke will file in late 2023 for permits to build new gas plants.

STAFF SIZE

Our staff is relatively small right now, largely due to attrition during the pandemic years. Currently, NC WARN has 5 full-time equivalent staff with a combined tenure of 67 years with the organization. We are in the process of hiring an additional staff member who is likely to be full-time. In addition, we are really fortunate to continue our relationships with 3 excellent contractors: attorney (5 years), engineer (8 years) and accountant (8 years).

INCOME

For 2022, and for 2023 (projected), our income is in the \$1.5 million/year range. As we have explained in the past, we are fortunate to be able to devote a large portion of our expenses to public education and mobilization via a wide range of outreach tools including paid advertising across a host of online and traditional platforms. This has been vitally important to taking our message straight to the public across North Carolina in order to successfully and substantially (though not fully!) counter Duke Energy's giant propaganda machine that distorts and suppresses open public debate on climate and energy justice issues.

Although NC WARN is currently on firm financial footing – and pledges to inform the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting if that changes – we are far more reliant than we'd like to be on a single, wealthy but elderly couple, and continue seeking to diversify our funding base. We remain deeply grateful for the years of generosity from the Meeting.

ReEntry House

Reentry House Plus, Inc

Mission: *Reentry House Plus (RHP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to provide housing and needed support to individuals transitioning from prison, Reentry House Plus is devoted to assisting formerly incarcerated people reintegrate back into the community as healthy, productive citizens. We at Reentry House Plus believe in second chances and are committed to doing our part to ensure that people receive the support, skills, and encouragement they need to rebuild their lives. (<https://reentryhouseplus.wildapricot.org/>)*

What ReEntry House (RHP) does. A house accommodating up to 5 men was purchased in Hillsborough, NC and opened June 1, 2021, and is the first facility in northern Orange County to provide the housing and emotional support to reduce recidivism and rebuild lives. In addition to providing shelter, Reentry House Plus has partnered with SWIT – *Success While in Transition* (www.successwhileintransition.org) – to offer life skills training and one-on-one mentorship to the residents. A justice-involved individual's integration back into the community requires social skills such as self-advocacy, respect for community and the ability to form positive relationships. SWIT classes teach these important life skills while certified Peer Support Specialists provide personalized counseling and help residents find permanent housing, employment and needed healthcare services. Our in-house manager is a certified Peer-Support Specialist.

Our History. A group of volunteers and supporters arising out of Yoke Fellows at Orange County Correctional started the non-profit corporation to provide housing and needed support for those being released from prison. In September, 2019, the founding Board of Reentry House Plus, Inc. voted to incorporate. The first year was spent determining a reentry model and raising needed funds for a house and SWIT operations. In November 2020, the board began offering SWIT classes, alternating monthly between a church in Chapel Hill and one in Hillsborough. In January, 2021 the Board made a commitment to find a house in the Hillsborough area and began to raise the necessary funds. In March 2021, we placed a bid on a home in the Carolina Loop neighborhood, close to the bus and shopping. Within 3 months, the \$93,000 was raised for the closing costs and down payment, through Self Help Credit Union of Durham. The house began operation in June 2021, and is fully functioning with 4 residents, a residential manager and the SWIT Program.

The SWIT program was developed by Tommy Green and William Elmore who themselves are formerly incarcerated. Green and Elmore understand the challenges of reentry, and have considerable training and experience working with people in transition. They oversee the day to day operations of Reentry House Plus and are responsible for hiring staff. RHP also responds to the need for education and support beyond the walls of our transition house by opening the SWIT program to participants in the larger community.

Accomplishments. In 2022 RHP developed its ability to help returning justice-involved men and women by fulfilling several goals:

- RHP diversified its Board with the inclusion of 5 men and women of color - ALL of whom are either previously incarcerated or heavily involved with justice-related issues.
- A Fundraising and Development Committee was created to diversify and strengthen our fundraising efforts. To that end we have:
 - Added an ABC grant to our monthly income.
 - Increased our Wild Apricot contact list to over 450 participants
 - Increased the number of monthly givers by 100% to over 30.
 - Received over \$20,000 of in-kind donations which was used to fund a separate transportation budget.
 - Ran a successful **Giving Challenge** that doubled total gifts up to \$5000 for both the Board and the outside community. Over \$16,700 was received from outside donors and the Board participated with another \$3,900. Including the matching we received a total of \$29,535.
 - Purchased a second-hand Prius that is used exclusively to transport residents to work, shopping, medical and legal appointments, etc, all while keeping gasoline usage low.
 - Participated in several retreats including the Board and SWIT to create the foundation of Mid-term and Long-term Strategic Goals. This work in process is often referenced as we endeavor to find the best paths forward for RHP.
 - Opened initial dialogue with Wounded Healers to better understand how our two missions are complementary and to find ways to increase the effectiveness of our two organizations by applying the strengths of each to help the other. To that end, RHP has welcomed Edward “Scottso” Scott, a founder of Wounded Healers, onto our Board and we are exploring the premise of a joint application to the United Way, after having been encouraged by United Way to apply.

Future Plans. The theme for this coming year is to greatly expand our services as a Community Resource, thus, meeting more identified needs. To begin, that will include finding leaders for both Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcohol Anonymous (AA) classes to be held at the Loop house. In addition, Tom McQuiston will work with Will and Tommy to better define and to formalize in written form the 21 principles that comprise the core of the SWIT teaching.

RHP will work with Will and Tommy to again open the SWIT classes with a follow-up Peer Support component to the greater community. These outside classes will not only provide a needed incubator to test the viability of the newly-defined principles of the SWIT classes, but they will also allow Will and Tommy to train others to run the classes, thereby lightening their personal teaching load going forward.

RHP will be partnering with UNC Health to offer Living Healthy-Chronic Diseases classes at the Loop House. Tommy is already a certified “Lay Leader” who can lead the six once-a-week classes which – to start - would also include a volunteer from the UNC program. Before July of 23, Peer Support Specialists from SWIT will also go through the UNC Living Healthy training process and Tommy will re-certify. Under this RHP/SWIT/UNC collaboration, men and women who attend the classes will be offered

additional “outside” support from SWIT for help with transportation and follow-up help in their quest to Take Control of their chronic condition. Tommy is uniquely positioned to manage this new offering since he has been the head of the NC FIT program for Orange County for some years and both programs are sponsored by UNC Family Medicine.