

Peaceful Schools NC (www.peacefulschoolsnc.org)

The **mission** of Peaceful Schools NC is to provide strategies for building and sustaining positive relationships within school communities so that all members can thrive through intentional collaboration and programming

Peaceful Schools NC is not a one-size fits all program. We do not have a packaged product that we swoop in to administer. We believe that peace comes from within communities and that it is the members of the community who hold the power to make a change. We also do not work with our schools in isolation. The Peaceful Schools NC network is a supportive learning community. Teachers visit one another's schools. We build connections between school leaders. We generate new ideas via think tanks tackling a common challenge. Our work becomes stronger with each school that becomes involved.

We work to empower schools to actively create and sustain a positive school climate. Through an individualized approach, we offer consultation, professional development, and ongoing resources for teachers, administrators, students, staff, and parents. Our work with schools often includes:

- *Workshops for teachers throughout the year*
- *Consulting and planning with administrative teams*
- *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
- Teacher Voice, Responsibility, and Agency

Contracts with public, charter, independent and other schools; overall, peaceful schools has worked with 8 public, 10 charters, 5 independent, and 4 others

(Bolded schools are current contracts)

- Central Park School for Children (2+ yrs)
- Community School for Digital and Visual Arts (2+ yrs)
- **“The Point” College Prep and Leadership Academy (2+ yrs)**
- J.W. Parker Middle School (2+ yrs)
- **Northern Granville Middle School (2+ yrs)**
- **Southwest Middle School**
- The Hawbridge School (2+ yrs)
- **NC School of Science and Math**
- **Montessori Community School**
- **Durham Public School District**
- **Carolina Friends School (2+ yrs)**
- **Durham Academy**
- Exploris (2+ yrs)

- G.R. Edwards Middle School
- Jordan High School
- Susie King Taylor Community School (2+ yrs)
- The Experiential School of Greensboro (2+ yrs)
- **Sterling Montessori (2+ yrs)**
- **Edgecombe County School District**
- **AmeriCorps Project MARS (2+ yrs)**
- UNC School of Education (2+yrs)
- APP State (2+ yrs)
- Maureen Joy Charter School
- Triangle Ultimate
- Cary Academy (2+ yrs)
- **Sidwell Friends School**
- **Discovery Charter School (2+ yrs)**

This year, there have been several additional New inquiries - Cumberland county schools, 3 charters in Durham and Raleigh) , Governor Morehead school; New Garden Friends School;

Last year we impacted 245 teachers, reaching over 1,200 students. This year so far we've worked with 645 teachers, and because some of them are district-wide positions, the reach extends to nearly 12,000 students!

How Peaceful Schools implements it's mission: Achievements of the organization:

- Launched Summer Institute, generating income and new connections
- First facilitators training
- Revised mission and core values
- New and improved website
- Onboarded first marketing and communications support
- Launched strategic planning
- Task force for organization structure developed recommendations

Planned activities this year:

- NC Association of Independent Schools training
- Friends Council on Education Head of schools presentation, Philadelphia
- Development of strategic planning goals
- Implementation of task force proposal on organizational structure
- Conduct spring facilitators retreat
- Implement spring giving campaign
- Plan and conduct 2023 Summer Institute
- Conduct workshops on restorative practices for educators and school leaders
- School to Peace-pipeline
- Student day
- Program development and evaluation

Funding Sources: The goal is to decrease the proportion of funding from CFS over time, and increase income generated from programming, and increase return of funds to CFS (see handout)

- CFS school budget
- Programming with schools
- Donations
- Events

2020-2021 - Revenue \$35.5k (Programming \$17k, Giving \$17.5k); surplus, \$20k

2021-2022 - Revenue \$80.0k (Programming \$43k, Giving \$37k); surplus, \$35k

Projected: 2022-2023 - Revenue \$94k (Programming \$64k, Giving \$30k); surplus \$0k, with \$35k remaining from previous year.

No additional surplus is expected by the end of the year, which will be essential for any growth we'd have over time, making fundraising an absolute priority. In fact, shifting our organizational structure to add more paid positions is our one and only Strategic Planning Goal. For now, we really need to be building capacity to meet the growing demand.

FCNCL

FCNCL is an organization of North Carolina Quakers advocating for legislation and good government practices that embody the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality, community, integrity and stewardship.

On December 18, 2022, Pam Schwingl, the CHFM representative to FCNCL gave the annual report to business meeting on the work of FCNCL for the previous year.

Policy Priorities and Actions.

The policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session are: 1) Equal Access to Quality Public Education; 2) Protecting Participation in the Democratic Process for All; 3) Concern for the Health and Safety of All North Carolina Residents; 4) Protecting the Environment; and 5) Criminal justice reform.

Much of our efforts since the start of this year, and the start of the 2023-2024 legislative session has been on Medicaid Expansion. In February we partnered with a statewide coalition of organizations supporting expansion including NC Justice, Down Home, and several other nonprofits by joining them in their lobby day on February 14, 2023.

FCNCL is planning a state-wide FCNCL Lobby/Advocacy Day in Raleigh on March 22 to provide an opportunity for Friends to meet with their legislators and to lobby for a clean Medicaid Expansion bill which would go into effect as soon as possible, not waiting until next January. Meeting members and attenders are welcome to join us! **Please sign up for the lobby day and a March 15 training on our website**

We have also solicited the creation of fact sheet on LGBTQ and transgender bills working their way through the legislature. New versions of several bills which FCNCL did not support (critical race theory in the schools, abolishment of gun permits, etc.) and were vetoed by Gov. Cooper last year may be able to pass, given the election results this past fall which gave more power to those who supported these bills.

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.

The organization, being as it is completely volunteer run, does not have regular expenses, and there is enough of a cushion to get through expenses incurred in the lobby day effort.

Friends Committee on NC Legislation (FCNCL) - www.fcnccl.org

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- a paragraph about their work
- 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.