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2024 Annual Report to Worshiping Communities

Quaker House began as a response to a request for assistance by active members of the military. The needs have expanded far beyond the original basic desire for discernment about military participation. At every step, every day, Quaker House aids those harmed by the existence of war making and the military. At the same time, we join with every person who dreams of a day without wars, without militaries, without the harm caused by violence.

Over the course of 2023 and into 2024, the work of Quaker House has continued. Our Counseling Service maintains a full schedule of clients with between 12 and 15 people each week. Each is working to cope with their direct or indirect participation with the military in Fayetteville. Clients include active-duty members of the Army, spouses and other family members, and victims of sexual assault by military members. The GI Rights Counselors continue to receive hundreds of contacts each month by phone, email, and text from across the nation. Steve and Lenore have been working with several new counselors to help them learn how to serve military participants across the country.

Work continues on the new Quaker House Toolbox project, and Wayne is presenting workshops introducing it at the gatherings of Southeastern Yearly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting. In the fall of 2024, we are going to reach out to local worshiping communities nationwide to offer conversations about the Toolbox project.

Two printed newsletters were sent to friends on our mailing list, and a new project called *Holding the Line* was initiated. It is an occasional electronic message highlighting an area of specific challenge for members of the military, their families, or veterans. Articles have included looks at the continuing failures of the military branches to meet recruiting goals, the ongoing problems with housing on and off base, continued issues of extremism in the ranks, and the continuing rise in suicides and sexual violence among active-duty participants and recent veterans.

In addition to the yearly meetings above, Wayne also attended the 2023 of Friends Churches of North Carolina, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Fellowship, North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative, Friends General Conference, and Palmetto Friends Gathering. He continued visiting local communities over the fall, winter, and spring, including Durham Friends Meeting, Herndon Friends Meeting, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, Abington Friends Meeting, Blacksburg Friends Meeting, Eno Friends Meeting of Hillsborough, Asheville Friends Meeting, Davidson Friends Meeting, Celo Friends Meeting, and Rich Square Friends Meeting.