

From the Witness Funds Committee:

Dear Friends,

The Witness Funds Committee requested grant proposals during January and February of 2026. We met in April to go over the many interesting proposals. We had requests totaling up to \$124,700 but unfortunately we only had \$75,000 to disburse for the first half of the year. This meant that we had to make difficult decisions about how to divide these limited funds. Through worshipful deliberations we decided on the funding amounts for 8 proposals and asked 1 group to reconsider its proposal in light of new options.

These are the groups we were able to fund (mostly partially) again this year:

NYQM African Education Committee to help with the support of more Kisangura students going on for further vocational or academic education. This is the fourth year of making a grant to this committee and we were able to grant them the full amount of their request with this grant of \$20,000.

Davanga Friends School, Kenya: Gloria Thompson did a needs assessment of the Davanga school and found a woefully inadequate library. She managed to arrange with a school in Collins, NY (which was closing down and wanted to donate its library material) to have their library shipped to Davanga. This grant will cover the shipping costs and the purchase cost of bookshelves, as well as various new educational materials. We were able to fully fund their request with this grant of \$8000. This is the fourth year of making a grant to the Davanga school.

The Peaceward Project: This portion of the project will contain two elements of labor:

1. Intervisitation-by-foot of Quaker meetinghouses, worship groups, and aligned spirits. The time allotted for this journey is 5 months.
2. Video and audio recording of spiritual testimony and the natural world, collected with the intention of editing a 60-minute film which models the experience of meeting spirit in expectant waiting. We were able to make a grant of \$5000 for this project, which is a continuation of the project from last year.

These are the new programs we were able to fund (mostly partially):

Brooklyn Community Dinner: The Community Dinner Committee (CD) with the Brooklyn Monthly Meeting (BMM) is seeking to undertake a multi-part expansion of their service for members of the meeting and the larger Brooklyn community that might be experiencing food insecurity. This expansion is made up of two goals, increased meal service and a strengthened

food pantry, with the former being the priority. We were able to make a grant in the amount of \$6000.

Feral Values, Art Installation: Todd Drake asked for support from the Witness Fund to make it possible for him to spend a week (7 days) at the Rokeby Museum making 10 to 15 new wooden sculptures. These works will be painted on wood instead of paper. They will be in the style of art making that he has developed in his wood and linoleum woodcut work. These new sculptures will still reflect his current interests found in his urban wheat pasted prints but the medium (wood and paint) will allow them to work in nature. The content of the work will be drawn from his experience as a Quaker, his recent and deep study into the Peace Testament, and the history of the Quaker property now known as the Rokeby Museum. We were able to give him a grant of \$7500.

Remedy Project: Anna Sugrue, an attender at Brooklyn Meeting, requested funding towards an Advocacy Manager and outreach supplies for The Remedy Project. The Remedy Project is a NYC-based national network of students and justice-system-impacted people upholding the humanity and dignity of people incarcerated in federal prisons. This year, they are launching a campaign to specifically target the conditions at the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) in Brooklyn, the only federal prison in New York City. MDC Brooklyn is notorious for its horrendous conditions, including inedible food, near constant 23-hour-a-day lockdowns, limited visitation, no outdoor recreation, blackouts, overcrowding, understaffing, and violence. The Remedy Project believes the people incarcerated at MDC Brooklyn and their families deserve organizing, advocacy, and media attention that matches the scale of the daily crisis they experience. We were able to make a grant of \$10000 for this project.

Pennington Documentary: The Friends Home Association of New York dba Pennington Friends Home Association is requesting funds to support the production of a documentary on its unique 130 year mission as a Friends House in Manhattan. We were able to make a grant of \$11700 for this project.

Friends Peace Libraries: After Gloria Thompson visited Papua New Guinea with Friends Peace Teams, Manhattan Monthly Meeting is seeking funding for Friends Peace Libraries in Indonesia. You can read about the Peace Libraries news on the Friends Peace Teams website <https://friendspeaceteams.org/>
We were able to make a grant of \$6000 for this project.

Jesus Peace Project: Sander Hicks of 15th Street Meeting proposed The Jesus Peace Project which is a **movement-formation initiative** that is Quaker-adjacent in values but intentionally **public-facing, ecumenical, and structurally independent**. Its purpose is to convene and catalyze a wider field of participants—across denominational, faith, and movement lines—who are

seeking a nonviolent, morally serious alternative to Christian nationalism and authoritarian religion. We were able to make a grant of \$6000.

The full grant proposals will be on the Quarterly Meeting website under the Witness Committee.

We look forward to gathering more proposals in June and July for our Fall disbursements. We are thrilled that Hugo Lane from Flushing Meeting has joined us. We would be delighted to have members nominated from Monthly Meetings not already represented on the committee.

The Witness Fund Committee

Beverly Archibald

Margery Cornwell

Ed Elder

Jonathan Fluck

Hugo Lane