

From the Witness Funds Committee:

Dear Friends,

The Witness Funds Committee requested grant proposals during July and August of 2025. We met in September to go over the many interesting proposals. We had requests totaling up to \$77,980 but unfortunately only had \$43,000 to disburse for the second 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 7 proposals and asked 3 proposals to resubmit modified proposals in the summer, if they choose to.

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 third year of making a grant to this committee and we were able to grant them the full amount of their request with this second half of the year grant of \$11,000.

Davanga Friends School, Kenya: “Since its inception in 2009, Davanga Friends School has stood as a testament to the collective effort and generosity of our Quaker community. Currently, with six classrooms, a teacher's common room, essential water infrastructure, and an administrative office, Davanga Friends School serves over 300 students ranging from Pre-K to 9th grade. We are seeking to add a new classroom.” We were able to fully grant their original request with this second half of the year grant of \$4000.

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

The Peaceward Project “is a longitudinal effort to collect, archive, and distribute the living memory of Quaker activism in witness of the peace testimony. It is a series of video recorded interviews with individual Friends centered down in worshipful dialogue.” We were able to fund them \$5000.

Everything is Learning envisions every African child aged 0 to 36 months receiving high-quality care and stimulation in their most critical stage of development, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, literacy and wellbeing. It provides nurturing daycare environments with excellent care, while matching local prices. It partners with research at Mount Kenya University for formal evaluation of the children's holistic development outcomes. We were able to fund them \$10000.

Healing Hearts Ministry: Restoring Hope This program is designed to provide structured, year-round support for incarcerated individuals, returning citizens and their families. The program will combine practical assistance, emotional and spiritual care, and community based healing initiatives. We were able to fund them \$7000.

Quaker Witness Film Series “A monthly public screening series at Brooklyn Meeting House of films that bear witness to people whose lives and aspirations are impacted by prejudice, armed conflict, economic hardship, or challenges to physical and emotional well-being. The presented films strive to create an alloy of politics and art, where the craft of filmmaking itself is essential to the film's message.” We were able to fund them \$4000

We are in conversations with some of the other proposals to decide on the amount and timing of their grants.

We look forward to gathering more proposals in January and February for our Spring disbursements. We are thrilled that Beverly Archibald from Manhattan 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

Ed Elder

Jonathan Fluck

Margery Cornwell