

10-04-13

Note to Continuing Committee

Quaker Volunteer Service Committee  
57<sup>th</sup> St Meeting of Friends  
5615 S Woodlawn AV  
Chicago IL 60637

Friends,

Quaker Volunteer Service in Chicago began in 2008 as a project envisioned by several Friends from 57<sup>th</sup> Street Meeting. In 2009, QVS was underwritten by 57<sup>th</sup> St Meeting. We have collaborated with the Sophia Community, an intentional community living at Quaker House, to provide room and board within the structure of their community.

Volunteers are offered the aforementioned room and board, a bus pass, stipend, and health insurance in support of their service. This is underwritten by 57<sup>th</sup> St Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS) offers spiritual support to the volunteers, and urges a connection to 57<sup>th</sup> St Meeting for Worship.

Our first volunteer was Rebecca Tolmach, a graduate of Earlham College. She served at Girls in the Game, providing access to confidence for low-income girls. Zachary Johnson of Downers Grove Meeting was our second volunteer. Zach served in arts advocacy at Marwen, providing access to the arts for low-income children. Katie Styer of Downers Grove Meeting, our third volunteer, served at Corazon a Corazon, providing language skill development for people new to our country. Our current volunteer is Jessica Easter of Lake Forest Friends, serving with the Night Ministry on the streets of Chicago.

The concept of Quaker Volunteer Service seems to be growing. A newer group, Quaker Voluntary Service of Atlanta, now has 8 volunteers. We are establishing links with them, and have been enriched by their youthful organization. We hope to grow QVS Chicago to 4 volunteers living in residence in the coach house at 57<sup>th</sup> ST.

We currently suffer from underexposure and look for help from the meetings of ILYM; we are grateful for the financial support we received from ILYM a year and a half ago. We would like Friends to be more aware of what is underway, and how they may become involved. We look forward to sharing our efforts and opportunities with others throughout the yearly meeting. We seek funding as Friends and Friends Meetings are led, and hope that others might join our committee. We also are beginning to present QVS through visits to monthly meetings. Last month, we met with Lake Forest Friends to discuss the current state of our effort and how we hope to grow. Please let us know if you would like a visit to your monthly meeting, and visit our website at [www.quakervolunteers.org](http://www.quakervolunteers.org)

Chip Rorem for QVS