

William Penn House 2008 Report

Through our doors pass the most extraordinary cross sections of the world's population; young people on school trips, young people through Washington Quaker Workcamps seeking the transformative experience of service, people of all ages who are lobbying their elected representatives. This year we hosted 7500 guests, 65 groups and led 25 Workcamps.

Washington Quaker Workcamps offered service opportunities in New Orleans, the hamlets of West Virginia, the inner city of Washington, DC. We worked with the elderly to help them to be secure as they "age in place"; we fed the homeless; we transformed parks and we worked to reduce storm runoffs by building rain gardens.

Through our 18 programs, we addressed issues related to peace, social justice, global warming, human rights and the environment. We seek to improve dialogue surrounding issues of gender and HIV/AIDS. Our 11 Potluck and Dialogues speakers shared their leadings with area Quakers.

Our staff reflects the concept of Quaker service. Workcamp coordinator is Greg Woods, a recent graduate of Earlham College whose life was transformed through an earlier Workcamp. Faith Kelley, an Evangelical Friend, is hospitality coordinator and is working to revive a national Young Friends organization. Wambani Lusinaka, a Kenyan Quaker, is completing her master's degree before she returns to Kenya to help improve the lives of Kenyan women. Ben Self, a recent Earlham graduate, will return to college following his internship as will Kelli Mansure, who savors each moment of life. Program coordinator is Brad Ogilvie, Illinois Yearly Meeting, who seeks to nurture those values that we share to find common ground on issues where we disagree.

Byron Sandford
Executive Director
www.williampennhouse.org