

2011 Friends Peace Teams Report to ILYM

Friends Peace Teams, FPT, has continued to grow our activities over the past couple of years. We have grown so much that our part-time administrator has become full-time, though we still have not quite accepted that fact. Our new administrator is Chuc Smith from St. Louis MM.

FPT is currently working toward hiring an outside auditor. Though this is turning out to be a great expense for FPT, we found it is necessary to apply for some grants. We are also working on updating our files and offering more support to our initiatives.

FPT welcomes help from Friends who can volunteer in fundraising, administrative work, and as council members. As always, we welcome new initiatives to seek to join us. FPT has also found that our donations have dropped off with the economic difficulties in our country. We will be grateful for any donations offered to us. Please note that donations to FPT that are not specified to one aspect of FPT will allow the administration and organization, as a whole, to continue, which supports all three initiatives. Donations to an individual initiative support only that initiative.

We still are made up of 3 initiatives, Indonesia Initiative concentrates peace work in Indonesia, Peacebuilding en las Americas concentrates peace work in Central and South America, and African Great Lakes Initiative concentrates peace work in the great lakes area of Africa. A brief update on each of them is below.

The director of our Indonesia Initiative, Nadine Hoover, has become so busy with her work that she has now dedicated herself to working for II full time, after realizing the Initiative required too much attention to allow her to work outside of peace work. Indonesia Initiative is taking their work on the road both in the U.S. and Indonesia. The focus of the work is AVP, trauma healing, developmental play, peace team delegations and friendships between people in the U.S. and Indonesia. In Indonesia, II works with human rights defenders, conflict refugees, and teachers of young children in Indonesia. They have some amazing stories about their peace-building experiences in Indonesia and I encourage meetings to consider bringing someone from II out to speak.

II welcomes help from people who can do research, write, translate, record for video and radio, organize, fundraise, and publish. II also has opportunities for people to join peace delegations to Indonesia. II does not have a specific time requirement for the delegation members. Friends may travel to Indonesia for whatever amount of time your schedule allows, up to the amount of time II will be traveling at a given time. People interested in traveling should contact II through FPT or II websites.

Peacebuilding en las Americas, PLA, has continued to become busier as well. In fact, the director, Val Liveoak, has become so busy with peace-building that she is not able to devote much time to fundraising or the other works of a director now. She has become well known in some parts of the Americas and her presence has been actively sought by others to help with conflict resolution or prevention. Specifically, PLA does work in basic and advanced AVP workshops in several countries, as well as community based trauma healing. In addition, Val has been known to be home in the U.S. and had phone calls asking her to go to Honduras to help. One example that sticks in my mind is that Val will stay with and travel with someone whose life is being directly threatened so s/he will be safer. Because Val has become so busy, she has talked about finding someone to take over as director of PLA at some point. She said she hopes this will free her up to concentrate on the peace work. She is another person whose

stories about peace work are worth hearing and I encourage meetings to invite her to speak at some point. She and Nadine have even done a team talk recently in one region.

PLA welcomes help from people who can do administrative work, fundraising, and coordination of various aspects of the program. PLA also has opportunities for people to join peace delegations to Central or South America. PLA does not have a specific amount of time delegations or individuals are required to commit for travel. Friends may travel for the amount of time allowed by your schedule, up to the amount of time PLA will be traveling at a given time. To travel with PLA, contact the Initiative through FPT or PLA websites.

African Great Lakes Initiative, AGLI, has continued to grow, both in scope and size. In addition to continued work in AVP and HROC, AGLI has the Friends Woman's Association Clinic which has continued to grow and offer more in depth medical help and support to women, men, and children. AGLI has also become involved elections violence prevention in Kenya and Burundi after the violent outbreak in Kenya a couple of years ago. David Zarembka, AGLI's director, continues to travel around the great lakes area doing the work of the initiative and, at times, traveling elsewhere in the world to share the work of AGLI. Many of you have heard from Dave or another representative of AGLI. If you have not, I encourage you to invite AGLI to speak. Learning the details about what is happening in Africa is a worthwhile experience. Several members of our yearly meeting have personal experience with this initiative and would be terrific speakers for your meetings.

In addition to working directly with AGLI, Dave Zarembka recently completed and published a book, Peace of Africa: Reflections on Life in the Great Lakes Region. Dave will in St. Louis at the beginning of July as part of a book-signing tour. If he is not coming to your meeting and you would like to have him, Please contact him at dave@aglifpt.org

AGLI welcomes help from people who would like to go on a workcamp to Africa in the summer of 2012 or later. Workcamps last for six weeks, though there are also extended stay opportunities available for some Friends.

Friends Peace Teams and all of the initiatives can be reached at friendspeacetams.org or by e-mail to office@friendspeacetams.org

Respectfully Submitted,

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