

# Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting

A Monthly Meeting of **Illinois Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**

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Interfaith Center  
913 S. Illinois Ave.  
Carbondale, IL 62901

Dear Friends,

We would like to invite you to join us in supporting Justin Leverett, both spiritually and financially, as he embarks on a year of Quaker service. Our small meeting has pledged a minimum of \$500 support and we are asking others in the Quaker community to join us in providing support as Justin spends the next year working through Quaker Volunteer Service (QVS) in Atlanta, Georgia. He is committed to raising a total of \$4,000 to support this work.

The program he will be working through is described at this website: <http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/> This is the inaugural year of QVS in Atlanta and each participant is asked to help in raising funds. The participants will live together in a spiritual community and each will be placed with a volunteer organization which, in the words of QVS, “offer[s] direct support to marginalized individuals and communities, and that strive[s] to transform unjust systems.”

Let us tell you a little about Justin. He has been a part of our meeting since he was eight years old and in third grade. His father, Tom Leverett, and stepmother, Jen Dunn, are both members of the Meeting and were married in the care of the Meeting. Justin participated in First Day School education throughout his childhood and his teenage years. He is a compassionate, intelligent, committed young man who approaches what he undertakes with humor and creativity. He is just the sort of person who will help QVS grow.

Justin's college career was marked by many achievements, including spending a semester in France, being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and living in a cooperative dormitory where he served as the Food Board Manager, a position that involved assuring that residents had quality meals and a healthy and safe food preparation and dining area. He majored in journalism and French, and served on the staff of the student newspaper, maintained blogs and served as a DJ and reporter for the student-run radio station. Throughout his college career, he shouldered the greater part of college expenses through scholarships, working and loans. During college, he continued to visit and participate in Meeting activities when returning home on break. He attended meeting for worship, "Life of the Meeting" events, which combined fellowship with discussion and discernment activities, and he participated in our meetings for worship with a concern for business.

Since returning to Carbondale following his college graduation, Justin has significantly increased his participation in and service to the Meeting, regularly helping with child care, participating in worship, discussion and business. The Meeting enthusiastically accepted him as recording clerk this year. Justin has become an important voice in SIQM.

Justin applied to QVS after a clearness process through the Meeting. We are confident

that he has much to offer through the QVS program and that this opportunity will contribute both to his own spiritual growth, the growth of others who will join him in the community created through QVS and to the work of the agency with which he is placed.

Donations may be made to QVS at the following address:

**Quaker Voluntary Service**  
668 Elbert St. SW  
Atlanta, GA 30310

Your donation should indicate that it is part of the fundraising effort for Justin Leverett. Currently QVS has a matching grant, and donations of \$250 or more will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total match of \$10,000. QVS states that it “is an incorporated nonprofit and it is filing [its] 501(c)3 paperwork. This means that donations can be considered tax-exempt now, assuming [it is] granted tax exempt status before November 2013.” They state, “[w]e are confident this will be the case. If you have any questions, please contact [QVS].”

Please join us in holding Justin in the light as he undertakes this year of Quaker service, and, if you can, please help support this important program for which Justin is volunteering.

In the Light,

Michael Batinski and Doc Stodden  
Co-Clerks  
Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting