

# Friends Peace Teams Report for 2013

## Friends Peace Teams News since last year:

First, thank you to our supporters who are continuing to help us in our work. With your help, FPT has been able to do what we hope you will find to be a lot of amazing work in the last year and we hope to continue to our work for a very long time. We feel we do this work, not for ourselves, but on behalf of all Friends, and we hope you do as well.

### News

SAVE THE DATE: Friends Peace Teams 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be held in Baltimore June 20-22, 2014. We hope to have live streaming from around the world, and international dinner, live music, and more!

Friends Peace Teams has expanded our work again! Our Asia West Pacific Initiative became active in Afghanistan this past year (AVP with women) with three of our Australians volunteering coordinating that work. AWPI also has invitations for possible work in North Korea and Papua New Guinea next year (stay tuned)! In addition, members from all of our initiatives have done Community Based Trauma Healing training, discernment, and AVP in the US and Canada although we do not yet have a North American or US Initiative (yes, you do detect an invitation in that statement). AGLI has also been collecting peace themed books (specific titles) for libraries in Rwanda to help schools meet a new government requirement that all children learn English.

Last Fall FPT volunteers played a major role in planning and hosting the international AVP conference in Guatemala (more information below).

There are a variety of ways Friends can get involved with us listed at the bottom of this report. Please, get involved!

## Report about our continuing work is below.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) was developed as a way to offer administrative support for individual Friends' callings to peace work. It has grown into an organization with three distinct initiatives, similar in many ways and yet very different as each team responds to the country in which it is located as it is guided by the organizations with which it works on the ground.

### Our initiatives:

Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) currently works in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. We have recently received an invitation to work with Colombian refugees in Ecuador and we hope to send an exploratory team to Ecuador in the coming year. Our work focuses on Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops, working in communities torn by war, with former combatants, with gangs, with children, and in prisons. We have country coordinators in Colombia, El Salvador, and Honduras. One continuing challenge is funding. Numerous workshop facilitators have been trained, so we have many requests, trainers ready and willing, and not enough funding. PLA offers volunteer service with Friends feeling led to work in this area.

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) currently works in Burundi, eastern Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. The main focus of our work is Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) training. We also have worked on the Kenyan citizen observers' training and voter education workshops preceding the recent Kenyan elections. In Rwanda, AGLI is also working with schools, establishing Peace Libraries where students can learn English (a new government requirement) and parents, students, and teachers can learn peacebuilding skills together. FPT has been recommended to do as many HROC workshops as possible, in preparation for TRC and elections. AGLI offers volunteer service with Friends feeling led to work in this area.

The Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWPI) has grown again in the past year. Last year I reported to ILYM that the Indonesia Initiative had expanded for the first time. This year we have expanded once again. AWPI is building friendships in Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Nepal, New Zealand, and the Philippines, and may expand again next year. In addition to AVP, AWPI is doing Discernment Workshops (Interfaith decision-making), Community Based Trauma Healing, developmental play and community water filter projects. Asia West Pacific Initiative offers volunteer service to Friends who feel led to work in this area.

### Ways to Be Involved with Friends Peace Teams

Hold our work, workers, and communities in the Light as you are led.

Financial : Donate to the FPT General Fund, or to a specific initiative or project, become a sustainer of the FPT and/or one of our initiatives, encourage others to give, let us know of grant opportunities and offer grant-writing support. You will receive a copy of PeaceWays to keep up with our work when you donate. Donations can be sent to: Friends Peace Teams, 1001 Park Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63104  
Attend FPT's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration the 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2014 in Baltimore to support FPT and learn more about our work.

Be Informed : Read FPT PeaceWays and publications of all of the initiatives; visit us online <http://friendspeaceteams.org> (currently under construction), join our listserves, and follow us on Facebook.

Spread the word : Distribute PeaceWays, schedule and host FPT speakers and help organize tours, and share FPT work on Facebook.

Help the Friends Peace Teams Council : We really need help with our website and social media development, publicity, and in other ways. Offer your skills and interests!

Volunteer Development for the Initiatives : Publicize opportunities in your meeting, help discern leadings in your meeting that might meet the needs of FPT, serve on a clearness committee, support your local volunteers, join a workcamp, volunteer on an initiative team or service trip (2 weeks to 6 months) in East Africa, Central and South America, or the Asia/West Pacific region.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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Friends Peace Teams ILYM Representative  
St. Louis Friends Meeting