

## **Interim Report of Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee to New York Quarterly Meeting, October 25, 2009**

As Friends will recall from our previous report, our committee divided itself into three sub-committees in order to accomplish the tasks the Quarter laid out for us: the matching fund, the money dialogues, and the witness fund proposal. We have until the April meeting of the Quarter to accomplish these tasks.

**Matching Fund:** as of October 12, 2009, we have raised \$19,831 in new monies, enabling us to receive \$22,500 in matching funds (\$20,000 from the anonymous donor who has pledged \$33,500 and \$2500 from the Morningside Monthly Meeting matching fund). We have thus \$42,331 in hand of the \$67,000 we set as our goal. In addition, we have pledges of \$5500.

As a means of raising additional monies and educating people outside of the Quarter about our projects, we have a benefit performance planned for Friday, November 13, 2009, at 7 p.m. at Fifteenth Street Meeting. Libby Johnson (Wise) and Taylor Giacomina, members of Fifteenth Street Meeting, and Carrie Johnson will be the featured performers.

Jim Morgan has learned, by way of Project Zawadi, from the Headmaster of Kisangura Friends Primary School, that some of the capital improvement projects funded by NYQM are already underway or completed. The pits for the new latrines at the Primary School have been dug. Individual cisterns at the six teachers' houses we built in 2003 are under construction. Rain shutters have been installed on all windows of the six teachers' houses.

And finally, we continue discussions with Friends Seminary and Brooklyn Friends School about the possibility of developing sister-school relationships with the Quaker schools in Tanzania and Kenya.

### **Money Dialogues:**

The Sub-Committee on Monthly Meeting Dialogues about Money held two discussions exploring Friends' relationship to money. The first dialogue was held at the Brooklyn Meeting on Sunday, June 14, 2009. After a period of silence, among the topics we considered were: money for survival, scarcity, savings and budgets; goals, clarity, and levels of giving; children and money; raising money to support work that you do; and wealthy Friends feeling unwelcome. The second dialogue was held on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Fifteenth Street Meeting. After a period of silence, among the topics that emerged were: stewardship of the environment and money; planning for the future (care of meetinghouses and potential for inter-generational differences); wealthy Friends feeling unwelcomed; loving and heartfelt giving; feelings about money and its parallel in feelings about sexuality/shame. Can Friends adhere to Quaker testimonies and still be profitable in business? Can there be a Quaker economic testimony?

Attendance Totals: First Dialogue - Fifteenth Street. 4, Brooklyn 9, Flushing 1.

Second Dialogue – Fifteenth Street. 2, Brooklyn. 5, Morningside. 1

### **Witness Fund Proposal:**

Introduction: One of the charges of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee was to consider "the creation of a Witness Fund Committee as a standing committee of the NYQM to address ongoing fundraising needs of NYQM. This committee would be responsible for fundraising to provide additional monies (in addition

to the operating and capital expenditures of the NYQM) in service of Quaker value[s]" [Report to NYQM, April 19, 2009].

The impetus for the creation of a standing Witness Fund Committee grew out of discussion (from January through April) of the 2009 budget. During these extensive discussions, it became obvious that there was a desire within the Quarter to support Quaker leadings financially, such as the Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee. A subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Fundraising Committee has met, considered a number of models, and designed the following committee structure that will enable fundraising for Quaker witness in the future. If the Quarter were able to reach unity on adoption of this committee in October, then Nominating Committee could find the members willing to serve by January, and the committee could be up and running by April of 2010, when the current Ad Hoc Committee's authority expires.

### **Witness Fund Committee**

Composition: 6 members

Term: 3 years, beginning in April (except in the first start-up year). Maximum tenure: 2 consecutive terms.

Meeting Frequency: 4 times annually or as needed.

Purpose: to encourage committees of the Quarter and individual members of the Religious Society of Friends with significant connections to NYQM and who worship with us regularly to propose an outreach or witness project requiring funds beyond budget or available means, to work with the witness committee to raise those funds, and to communicate with members of the Quarter about the project.

Responsibilities:

1. To set up guidelines for proposals, including the following:
  - a. The applicants must have access to tax-exempt status.
  - b. The proposal should be under five pages and include a budget for less than \$35,000.
  - c. The fundraising campaign must be completed in one year, with three years to spend the money.
  - d. The proposal may not be for operating expenses or for endowment.
  - e. An applicant that has received funding must wait 3 years to submit a subsequent proposal.
  - f. The entity receiving the grant should report annually to the committee until the project is finished.
2. To accept applications and choose one project per year.
3. To work with the applicant to raise the requested money within one year.
4. To make an annual report to the Quarter in January.

We propose approval of the following minute: **Friends approve the creation of a standing Witness Fund Committee and ask the Nominating Committee to nominate six members at the January 2010 meeting of the Quarter so that the committee may begin work immediately thereafter. The above description of the committee should be added to the Handbook of the Quarter.**