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2026 Annual Report

While Quaker House continues to fulfill its mission to aid military participants and their families in addressing the injuries caused by the military-industrial complex, the past year has brought new challenges and opportunities.

It was clear that the new presidential administration was dedicated to reversing many of the improvements that had been made in the nation's military. In the early months of 2025, Quaker House published articles and reports focusing on the efforts of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth to remove women and people of color from military leadership. Many of these can be found on the Quaker House website at quakerhouse.org/blog-2/.

At the beginning of summer, Lenore and Steve, our GI Rights Counselors, and the GI Rights Hotline experienced a surge in contacts immediately following the federalization of the California National Guard. Information about the Hotline was being shared across social media and many people reached out to express support, to verify the phone number, and to seek counseling because their involvement in the National Guard wasn't intended to include helping arrest their neighbors. While the unsustainably high contact volume fell after a few weeks, the Hotline continued to see increased numbers as the administration sought additional federalizations and deployments of troops to cities across the country. As Lenore and Steve begin their 25th year of working for Quaker House, we have been fortunate to have Kelly join the GI Rights Counseling team this fall.

From the first days of the administration, Quaker House and allied groups recognized that the issue of illegal orders would arise. Led by the Military Lawyers Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild, which is a member of the leadership of the GI Rights Hotline, this group produced a new [FAQ on illegal orders](#) and what rights members of the military have to refuse to obey these orders. It was released just as the federalization of troops began in the summer and the issue has only continued to rise in prominence. By early 2026 it has reached the point where Quaker House Director Wayne Finegar has been invited to present information on the subject to multiple Friends' gatherings. We anticipate that it will only continue to grow in relevance as more questionable efforts are made by the administration.

The Quaker House Counseling Service continues to meet the needs of people in the Fayetteville, North Carolina area trying to deal with issues related to domestic violence, substance abuse, moral injury, and other damage caused by their involvement with the military. We have been able to provide services for everyone who has been referred to the Counseling Service and are seeking options to expand our geographic range. Counselor Joanna has become licensed in Virginia and is seeking

admission to South Carolina. We also continue to offer advice and insight to communities in other states who are interested in forming a counseling service in their area.

Quaker House is looking for ways to expand our outreach and visibility as the need for our services continues to become more acute. In addition to adding Kelly to the GI Rights counseling team, we have introduced a new twice monthly channel called [Reconnaissance](#). Built on the Substack platform, it allows Quaker House to present longer form articles and reports looking at the state of the military and the ongoing challenges faced by military participants. Board Member Curt Torell completed his massive update to our book *Conscientious Objection: Is This for You?* last summer and an associated PowerPoint. We are looking at sponsoring a podcast episode with [Thee Quaker](#) and have entered into a joint contract with the GI Rights Hotline to develop the social media presence of both organizations.

Quaker House continues to be very fortunate to receive generous support from people, both Quakers and others, across the country. In 2025 we received donations from 372 individuals and households, 78 local worshipping communities, and 5 yearly meetings. Even with the increased costs for everything, Quaker House remains financially stable.

It is only with continued support that we will be able to continue to have that strength, and the new efforts we are investing in will include new expenses as well. More contacts to the GI Rights Hotline will mean we will need more counselors, more clients for the Counseling Service may require more social workers to meet their needs, and more outreach will include new costs. We know that the need for our work is only going to grow in the coming years and rely on everyone's support to be able to meet those needs.

In the Light,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Finegar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "F".

Wayne Finegar
Executive Director