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## 2025 Annual Report

Quaker House's core mission is to work towards the day when there are no more wars, and so no need for a military. Until that day, Quaker House works to lessen the harm done to individuals, families, communities, and our nation by the military-industrial complex. We respond to requests for assistance made to the GI Rights Hotline, we provide free and confidential counseling to people coping with the emotional damage from their experiences, and we bring the challenges and concerns of the military personnel to a broader community that is often far removed from the day-to-day experience.

Like so many other organizations and individuals, Quaker House watched the developments of the past year with increasing concern. The results of the 2024 election cycle on the local, state, and national levels have created new concerns seemingly every day. We are working along with many allied organizations to rise to these new concerns and to attempt to predict the coming needs of those we serve.

We have restarted the *Holding The Line* series of online posts about the ongoing challenges faced by military participants and expanded it to include discussions about the likely effects of the new leadership of the Defense Department and related agencies. All the posts can be found on the Quaker House website at <https://quakerhouse.org/blog-2/>. These posts also get sent by email and social media to those who have subscribed, and we welcome additions to our contact lists. We are also stepping up the frequency of the *On The Homefront* newsletter from twice or three times a year to bi-monthly. These efforts are important, but costly, and we are seeking ways to limit the additional expenses.

The Quaker House Board continues to be active and strong. The members of the board are drawn from appointments by several yearly meetings and monthly meetings across a wide area, and each member brings valuable insights. In the past year they have led an effort to consider what new opportunities could be started to expand our outreach and mission. One notable success was our first-time book fundraiser last summer. Donors were given the opportunity to receive a copy of *Tell It Slant*, a new biography of former Executive Director Chuck Fager. In the first six months of this project, we mailed out 135 books and we continue to receive new requests. We are looking for new publications for future efforts.

Decades of careful stewardship of the donations received by Quaker House has placed us in a strong financial condition. We have been able to effect important repairs to the building at 223 Hillside Avenue to assure that it will be able to serve us for years to come. These have included installation of foundation reinforcements to take the literal load off of the 100-year-old pilings under Quaker House as well as repairs to the side porch that presented a hazard to the children who now worship weekly with Fayetteville Friends Meeting.

Executive Director Wayne Finegar continues his travels, both physically and electronically, to share the work of Quaker House and help strengthen the work of all who seek peace. In April 2025 he will visit with South Central Yearly Meeting for the first time and is looking forward to returning to many of the yearly meetings he has been with in the past. Board member Curt Torell and Wayne are going to be presenting an online session to members of Northern Yearly Meeting about draft registration and ways for young people considering conscientious objection to respond to the requirements of registration now and in the future.

Our work with the GI Rights Hotline continues as well. All of the counselors who work with the Hotline have experienced a rise in callers simply asking to verify that the contact points are correct, and that the Hotline is completely independent of the military. None of us know what this means for sure, but it seems to suggest the same sense of foreboding being felt by so many outside the military of what is coming next. These callers may be planning how they may react in the future and creating lists of potential contacts. In anticipation of this, Quaker House is working with several groups to create materials (both electronic and printed) that can give guidance to members of the military faced with orders that they consider illegal. We are also assisting the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild in identifying civilian attorneys and resources to provide counsel if needed for participants who refuse those unlawful orders.

Many people across the nation, and the world, are being affected by the attempts to radically change how the United States operates. The military as an institution, and the individuals who participate either directly or through their families, are very much being affected as well. Quaker House continues to address the needs of those individuals and families. The support of so many people, both Friends and friends, across the country makes it possible for us to continue that work.