

Annapolis Friends Monthly Meeting (AFM)
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MfW wAtB)
4th Month, 3rd Day, 2022
(04/03/2022)
Meeting Minutes – Approved

Note: The MfW wAtB was conducted with the clerk of meeting at the meetinghouse accompanied by other in-person participants, as well as participants on Zoom.

Present at the meetinghouse: Martha B. (clerk), Ellen M. (recording clerk), Barb T., Karen C., Dot W., Jenn D., Peter M., Joan M., Sheila M., Mary B., Bonnie P., and Jo Anne S.,

Present online (Zoom): Cairn K., Jack L., Jeanne W., Mary D., Ann R., Nancy S., Phil C., Phyllis S., Sky E., Nan E., Wes J., Judy B., Esther B., Kim F., Marcia O., Will C., Margaret C., Minette C-S., and Jean C.

9:00 am Opening: After a warm welcome, the clerk invited us to settle into some silent centering worship as we considered the 4th month queries from Baltimore Yearly Meeting that were displayed on the screen:

Do you make time for meditation and prayer?
Do you read the Bible, writings of Friends, and other inspirational works, seeking light?
Do you regularly seek God's guidance?
Are you open to guidance and support and do you give thanks for them? Do you share your spiritual insights with others and willingly receive them in turn?

The clerk greeted everyone with a cheerful "Good Morning" and explained the logistics of our blended meeting (i.e., attendees on Zoom and inside the meetinghouse). The agenda was displayed on the screen followed by the AFM Anti-Racism Queries which the clerk read, so that we could use the queries to assist us with our decision-making efforts.

Agenda:

1) 3rd Month 2022 MfW wAtB Meeting Minutes Reviewed & Approved: The previous MfW wAtB was held on March 6, 2022 and the draft minutes were sent via email on the Announce list (AFM-Announce@googlegroups.com) both in March and just prior to the April MfW wAtB. No changes were noted and the minutes were approved.

2) Young Friends:

a) On behalf of the AFM Young Friends, Esther B. presented two reports. The first item was about the Young Friends discernment with regards to the Spiritual State of the Meeting and that they focused on the BYM query which asked: "If your

meeting was asked to make a t-shirt that you would all wear, what would be the slogan? Would there be a picture?" The Young Friends discerned that they would design a t-shirt with a special MadLib on the back and a Quaker testimony on the other side. They are still in discernment as to the exact design.

i) A Friend expressed her appreciation for the Young Friends efforts and suggested that such a t-shirt could be sold at the BYM Annual Session that will be held in the 1st week of August. If interested in this opportunity, Young Friends can contact Barb T.

b) The second item that Esther talked about was the Young Friends' discernment about who the beneficiaries would be for their portion of the proceeds from recent Quaker Markets. They will be splitting the proceeds with half of the funds going to a local food bank and the other half will go to an animal shelter. Appreciation was expressed for the Young Friends and for their discernments.

3) ACT Update:

a) As the AFM liaison to the Anne Arundel Connecting Together (ACT), Mary D. explained how ACT came about and how it has changed over the years. Mary provided examples of how ACT brought positive and beneficial changes for persons in the county who did not have political voice or power to make the needed changes. Mary explained that ACT is no longer connected to Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) due to issues with the IAF leadership for behavior that was viewed as unethical. There were other affiliates that were also displeased with the issues and made a request for IAF to explain themselves. However, IAF decided to dismiss the affiliates rather than answer their questions. ACT and some of the affiliates are in the process of joining together, so that they can continue to move forward and assist those who would not otherwise have a voice or power to make positive changes.

b) Mary reported that ACT is seeking to include Centro de Ayuda (a.k.a., The Center of Help), a small non-profit organization that assists immigrant Latino families in Anne Arundel County, into membership with ACT. However, the Center of Help does not have enough funds to join ACT. The proposal to AFM was to include the Center of Help within the joint membership of AFM and the Anne Arundel County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) who now share the membership expense. The Anne Arundel County NAACP is in favor of forming this triad. For AFM, it would have no change financially as to the outlay for ACT membership dues.

i) The clerk made it clear that this was a moment of decision for AFM and asked if the Meeting was in favor of embracing and including the Center of Help under our umbrella with the NAACP.

(1) The meeting was in unity for supporting this effort.

ii) NOTES:

(1) The Arundel Connecting Together (ACT) takes action to develop community leaders who can make a difference for members of the county. Learn more at: <https://www.actaaco.org>

- (2) Anne Arundel County NAACP's mission is to secure the political, education, social and economic rights of all persons. Learn more at <https://annearundelcountynaacp.org/index.html>
- (3) The Center of Help/Centro de Ayuda (COH) was founded in 1999 and is a non-profit community resource and referral center working to assist immigrant Latino families in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County successfully integrate into the local community and U.S. society. Learn more at: <https://centerofhelp.org/our-mission/>

4) Meetinghouse & Land (MHL) Committee:

- a) On behalf of MHL, Kim F., provided information about the following topics: i)
Care of the meetinghouse in the past was conducted after each MfW on the 1st day of the week by AFM committees, each of which were assigned to a specific month. Reminders were sent by email to the clerks of each committee prior to their monthly assignments and that Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC) was assigned to the month of April.
 - (1) A Friend suggested that MHL might want to rethink that policy because some of the committees are small and will not be able attend to their assignments. There was another suggestion from another Friend that small committees band together with other small committees. It was also noted that there may be an integrity issue if AFM members take the meetinghouse trash home to be disposed of as household waste.
 - (2) On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. stated that his committee would take the month of April starting on April 10th. The clerk of meeting volunteered to be in charge of cleaning the meetinghouse today (April 3rd).
 - (3) Kim said that she and her committee would take these comments under consideration.
- ii) Return to rentals at the meetinghouse – As of April. 1, 2022, the rental calendar was opened and it was exciting to see the response from long-term renters and friends. For purposes of coordination, it is important to request use of the meetinghouse for AFM activities through the calendar (i.e., Mary B. at calendar@annapolisfriends.org). If there are conflicts, it would be best to include Sheryl G. who is the Business Use Coordinator (BUC) and the email address BUC@annapolisfriends.org. In general, AFM Friends and committees will get priority, except when there is a signed contract for a rental.
 - (1) The treasurer requested that MHL develop procedures for processing rental checks to make it easier on the treasurers and to expedite the process.
- iii) Bartram's Buddies – A friendly, voluntary group is being formed to gather on a bi-weekly basis to care for the gardens. If interested, please email Jeanne W or Kim F. at meetinghouse@annapolisfriends.org. The first project that the group has in mind is to redesign the garden to the right of the driveway as you approach the front patio area that is called both the "Peace Garden" and "Bartram's Garden". Volunteers are needed and encouraged to contact Kim or Jeanne, meetinghouse@annapolisfriends.org.

- iv) CREC Garden – There is a garden bed at the southeast corner just before entering the back patio area that is being prepared for use by Young Friends, at the request of the Children’s Religious Education Committee (CREC), so that they can plant native pollinator plants.
- v) MHL Budget – The tree removal cost that is under the category of maintenance on the budget was exceeded due to the need to remove about 13 unhealthy trees, one of which was dying and could fall onto the solar array. It was important to remove the trees prior to when they begin to fully leaf-out.
- vi) Spring workday went well and thanks were given to those who participated. The playground was assessed and plans are being developed to ensure the safety of the playground equipment.
- b) On behalf of MHL, Jeanne W. read the proposed Dog Policy (see attached) and received some feedback. The committee will continue to refine the policy. The following highlights are from the discussion:
 - i) A Friend requested clarification about service dogs inside the meetinghouse. MfW and the terms used may need to be refined.
 - ii) Another Friend noted that the concept of “comfort animals” needs to include “emotional support animals”. It was also noted that Meeting should be aware that there are false badges for “service animals” that are available online and may not serve as an accurate indication of a dog trained for this purpose.
 - iii) A concern of liabilities and the Anne Arundel County leashing rules was raised by a Friend who did not feel comfortable with the unleashing section of the dog policy and another Friend stated, “That Friend speaks my mind”.
 - iv) On private property, another Friend noted, the leash laws do not apply and that the term “control of a dog” may not require a leash, that dogs can be trained and controlled to behave well without a leash. This Friend stated that dogs need to be off leash for their own wellbeing and mental health.
 - v) The Clerk thanked Friends for their input to MHL and for MHL’s continued consideration of this policy.

5) Ministry & Worship (M&W):

- a) On behalf of M&W, Ann R. reviewed the history of the Spiritual State of the Meeting (SSoM) reports, starting from the early days of Quakerism in England. The accounts of the SSoM in early times included the central group requesting each meeting to account for itself on how often they were meeting, how many people and if they were behaving as agreed. The annual SSoM created a network of relationships. Over the years, the accountability dimension of the SSoM moved more towards the local meeting considering what the meeting’s spiritual state was and to account for the meeting’s needs and issues. Annually, Baltimore Yearly meeting (BYM) sends out queries to all the Monthly Meetings. Ann read the 2021 BYM Queries and the 2021 AFM Spiritual State of the Meeting report (see the attached).
 - i) The clerk expressed gratitude to Ann and M&W. Friends expressed their appreciation and gratitude and embraced the report as a beautiful document it was. The SSOM was approved on this, the first reading.

6) Quaker Market Committee (QMC):

- a) On behalf of the Quaker Market Committee, Cairn K. shared the committee's discernment of their recommendations to Meeting about beneficiaries for the proceeds from the up-and-coming Quaker Spring Market that is scheduled for May 7, 2022. The attached report provides additional details. The Quaker Market Committee recommended the following list of beneficiaries:
 - i) The first \$100 (or \$250, depending on total proceeds) will go to AFM's Young Friends for their discernment as to beneficiaries.
 - ii) Twenty-five percent (25%) of the remaining proceeds will go to each of the following four organizations:
 - (1) Internal Organization: The Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc. will receive funds to refurbish cell phones and laptops to give to Afghan refugees at no cost. Friends Doug M. and Karl R. repair and prepare computers and cell phones at the Chesapeake PC Users Group.
 - (2) External Organizations:
 - (a) Afghan Women's Fund, an external organization that AFM has had a longstanding relationship. This group was created to help the women of Afghanistan through education, employment training and social activism.
 - (b) UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) which is an agency of the United Nations responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
 - (c) WE ACT for Environmental Justice, a non-profit organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.
- b) Cairn provided details about the "modified" Quaker Spring Market and how it will be conducted completely outside on May 7th as an in-person event. Additional details will be provided by the committee during the weeks ahead. Cairn also noted that the Quaker Market Committee took into consideration the Peace and Social Concerns Committee (P&SC)'s recent discernment to donate \$500 from AFM's Emergent Social Concerns Fund to two causes working on the refugee crisis in Ukraine.
 - (1) The treasurer asked, as a matter of protocol, if P&SC was in unity with the list of QMC beneficiaries. On behalf of P&SC, Phil C. said that P&SC is in unity with the list of QMC beneficiaries. The treasurer also asked that the Fundraising Policy be revised to reflect the current committee structure.

7) FCNL Legislative Priorities:

- a) On behalf of the P&SC committee, Phil presented the discernment process, which included many F/friends beyond the P&SC committee, with regards to AFM's recommendations to Friends Committee on National Legislation

(FCNL). The due date was extended and, now, AFM is to provide their list of legislative priorities prior to April 19, 2022. See the attached draft.

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- i) There was a suggestion from a Friend who would like to see the FCNL–state collaboration recommendation raised up to the top of the list, instead of being near the bottom of the list of recommendations.
- ii) The clerk asked if Meeting was in unity to allow P&SC to finalize the list of recommendations and to submit the list to BYM in time for meeting the deadline which is April 19, 2022. There was unity for this request.

8) Announcements:

a) The MfW with Attention to Business (wAtB) – May 2022:

- i) The clerk reminded F/friends that the 5th Month MfW wAtB will be held on May 1, 2022. Karen C. will clerk that meeting, as the clerk will be out of town at her son's graduation (Yay!), and if there are any concerns or agenda items, please send them to both Karen and Martha by email to clerk@annapolisfriends.org.

(1) Also, the clerk requested feedback about this blended MfW wAtB, especially how friends experienced this the second blended MfW wAtB. b) Afghan Refugee Resettlement initiative update: The Ad Hoc Committee on refugee resettlement submitted a form to resettle a family for a year in partnership with UUCA to Lutheran Social Services (LSSNCA) and we had an orientation from the agency as the first step in moving forward to resettling a family. The agency looked for a family that is currently in the hotels as a first step and we are awaiting information on whether we have a match. We will probably be moving forward with the first steps for resettling the family in April and may receive them in April or May.

Closing:

The MfW wAtB closed with a moment of silence, reflection and gratitude.

The recording clerk will send the draft meeting minutes to the AFM-Announce email list, so that Friends can review the draft minutes and provide feedback. The minutes will be brought forth for approval at the beginning of the next MfW wAtB on May 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M., Recording Clerk
recording-clerk@annapolisfriends.org

ATTACHMENTS:

- Meeting Minutes (approved) from the 3rd Month MfW wAtB
- MHL Dog Policy – draft
- Spiritual State of the Meeting approved
- Quaker Market Committee Report 04.02.2022
- P&SC's list of legislative priorities for FCNL – draft

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Annapolis Friends Meeting

Meeting House and Lands Committee

Dogs on Premises Policy (Draft: March 1, 2022)

For review and discussion at Meeting for Business, March 6, 2022

Only service dogs shall be allowed in the Meeting House. A service dog is defined as *a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability*. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's needs.

Leashed dogs shall be allowed outside the Meeting House except during a meeting for worship. The owner must keep the dog under control at all times.

Dogs with their owners may roam the grounds unleashed if they are alone or accompanied by others in agreement with the situation.

Comfort animals may be allowed into the Meeting House under certain conditions: 1) Ministry and Worship Committee has met with the owner and approved the animal and its owner's reason for the request, 2) the animal does not disrupt the activity occurring at the time, 3) there are no objections from others in the Meeting House at the time.

Spiritual State of the Meeting

Annapolis Friends Meeting (Baltimore YM)

draft

The queries:

ξ Talk about the joys and sorrows that your meeting has experienced this year. How have you grown in the Spirit?

ξ What wisdom and tools might your meeting share with other meetings about how the Spirit has guided your response to the pandemic. What have been the challenges? ξ What

wisdom and tools might your meeting share with other meetings about how the Spirit has guided your discussions on racism. What have been the challenges? ξ If your meeting was asked to make a t-shirt that you would all wear, what would be the slogan? Would there be a picture?

Procedure: Ministry and Worship Committee offered the queries provided by Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting for the use of Annapolis Friends on February 26, 2022. Friends who customarily worship at our early morning (8:00am) Meeting for Worship, at a hybrid Meeting for Worship at 11:00 am, and participate in First Day School were each invited to respond, and responses noted. The First Day School was asked to pay special attention to the t-shirt query.

The FDS has spent several weeks discussing what kind of t-shirt design would give a picture of our PHHWLQJ 6RPH RI WKH LGHDV LQFOXGH D μPDG-OLE¶ RQ WKH EDFN RI WKH VKLUW DQG VPEROV RI SHDFH DQG RXU other testimonies on the front, perhaps shown on a Zoom screen.

They are still in discernment and hope to present final ideas to May business meeting. It is expected that the shirts will be silk-screened and printed for our use. The FDS reports the query has generated a great deal of energy and creativity.

Report:

The overarching expression of Annapolis Friends is of gratitude and thanksgiving as the pandemic loosens its hold on us.

Friends expressed thanks for the work of some among us for maintaining the life of meeting in online worship, in online nurturing education or beautiful sharing, in ongoing online community life together, GHVSLWH WKH FRQVWUDLQWV RI WKHVV GD\ 37KH H[WUDRUGLQDU\ FRPPLWPHQW DQG GHGLFDWLRQ FODULW\«RI D IHZ WKDW KDV VXVWDLQHG XV ´ , 3ZDQW WR JLYH P\ UHVSHFW ORYH IRU WKH SHRSOH ZKR ZRUNHG YHU\ KDUG ´ \$QG LW KDV been experienced as an enormous gift that we no longer lose people when they are unable to drive to the meetinghouse or they move away.

But Zoom has not been the same as our in-SHUVRQ OLYHV 3,W LV JRRG WR VHH ZKDW HYHU\RQH¶V FDW LV OLNH EXW , miss all of yoX ´ \$QRWKHU)ULHQG VKDUHG LW ZDV 3ZRQGHUOXO WR VHH FRPPXQLW\ EXW , GLG QRW H[SHULHQFH ZRUVKLS ´

Friends who most often worship at 8:00 rejoice in the blossoming of Early Meeting from a summer outdoor worship opportunity, slowly maturing into meeting every First Day. Friends are especially grateful for the dedication and perseverance of those who continued outdoor worship during the previous two years, regardless of weather conditions, faithfully providing the touchstone for those of us worshipping at home during COVID- UHVWULFWLRQV \$)ULHQG HQWKXVHG 3:H DUH GHOLJKWHG WR EH DEOH WR UHVXPH LQ SHUVRQ ZRUVKLS LQVLGH RXU EHORYHG PHHWLQJ KRXXH ´

This year we have also attempted to truly face the challenges of anti-UDFLVP ,W LV 3QRW SURJUDPPHG haWUHG EXW D ODFN RI NQRZOHGJH ´)ULHQGV VWD\ WRR FORLVWHUHG LQ D FRPIRUWDEOH SODFH ZLWKRXW WRXFKLQJ EDVH ZLWK RWKHUV 3:DONLQJ LQ RWKHU¶V IRRVVWHSV LV SDUDPRXQW ´ :H QHHG WR OLVWHQ WR RWKHUV ZLWK JHQHURVLW\

One step we have taken is a Minute as to *Restorative & Retrospective Justice for Repair of the Harms of Racism, Statement of Ongoing Discernment, and Recommended Actions for Friends*. Two key paragraphs are below. We commend our efforts to others.

3:H DUH D FRPPXQLW\ RI IDLWK :H DUH FDOOHG WR KH DU DQG to follow the callings of the Spirit individually and communally, as we are given the grace to understand that calling. In these times, we are called to examine our roles as members of the Religious Society of Friends, as a monthly meeting, within a yearly meeting, and as individuals, with respect to historical and ongoing oppression and exploitation of Indigenous people, enslaved Africans, and their descendants. We are called to examine our roles, at all these levels, in the ongoing, systemic oppression of people of color. As we do so, we may recognize among ourselves, individually and institutionally, patterns of both faithfulness and oppression with respect to the call to be one people, rooted in justice and community.

We recognize that The Religious Society of Friends encompasses persons of many identities in many, many countries. We recognize AFM and BYM are only a small part of that greater whole. We recognize our responsibility to the many different types of greater communities of which we are part. We recognize that AFM, BYM, and other Quaker institutions in our region of the world are at risk of seeing ourselves as and operating as institutions predominately representative of white culture and European heritage. We recognize that by doing so, we have failed the call of Spirit and our non-European brothers and sisters. We recognize that, sometimes with positive intentions, we have contributed to both historical and contemporary harm. We recognize that we have a responsibility to actively contribute to the repair of both

the historical and contemporary harms to which our meeting, and we individually, may be both heir and party. We recognize that at all levels, our Beloved Communities include both those who have harmed and those who have been harmed. We VHHN WR KHDO DQG JURZ WRJHWKHU ' [Minute - AFM Restorative and Retrospective Justice FINAL.pdf](#)

Adult Friends spoke warmly of the time they have spent with our First Day School and of their hopes for the future these young Friends will bring into being. We are looking forward to the new t-shirts this self reflection process has prompted.

Quaker Market Committee

4th month 2022 Report

The Quaker Market Committee met recently to consider possible beneficiaries for proceeds from AFM's Quaker Spring Market coming up on Saturday, 7 May. Recommendations based on our discernment are as follows:

- The first \$100 to our Young Friends for their discernment (increasing to \$250 if the amount available for disbursement totals \geq \$2,500)
- Of the remaining available proceeds, 25% to each of the following four organizations:
 - Internal
 - Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc. (for their work to refurbish cell phones and laptops to make them available to Afghan refugees at no cost)
 - External
 - Afghan Women's Fund (for empowerment and vocational training of women in Afghanistan)
 - UNICEF (for their important work to help children in Ukraine and other troubled regions of the world; donations go through UNICEF USA)
 - WE ACT for Environmental Justice (reflecting AFM's commitments to anti racism and the environment/climate change).

Since part of the Quaker Market Committee's mission is education, here is some brief background information on each organization:

Chesapeake PC Users Group has a long track record of refurbishing laptops for good, and two of our community members, Doug McClelland and Karl Richmond have been deeply involved in these efforts for years. This is a local organization, and one where a small amount of funding can have a big impact. The current proposal is to use proceeds to fund refurbishment of cell phones and laptops that can be provided to Afghan refugees at no cost.

Afghan Women's Fund has been a long-time partner of AFM through Quaker Markets. QM funds would be focused on empowering women in Afghanistan and providing vocational training. With many men having been killed during the recent conflict, AWF's focus will be providing education, vocational training and empowerment for women, to enable them to support themselves and their children. Fahima is in regular and frequent contact with partners on the ground to determine the best way forward in response to evolving markets. Examples of

possible directions this could take would be training in embroidery, knitting, crocheting, tailoring, and food processing, such as making jams, jellies, and tomato paste. These skills would produce items that could be sold locally, or to Arab countries. We see this choice of beneficiary as a complement to other activities taking place within the meeting that are focused on Afghan refugees in this country.

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UNICEF has a good track record, and lots of experience helping children in troubled areas of the world. UNICEF offers a wide array of services, and is able to focus and adapt to changing world events. They have been working on the ground in Ukraine since 2014, and have been able to scale up operations all across the country since war broke out there. UNICEF's humanitarian work in Ukraine focuses on meeting the most critical urgent needs for safety, health care, safe water and nutrition, and protection while also safeguarding children's rights and long-term well being. This organization was mentioned in recent BYM announcements that included FGC resources for aiding Ukraine.

WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a nonprofit environmental justice organization based in Harlem, Manhattan, New York City. WE ACT is dedicated to fighting environmental justice issues in the Northern Manhattan community. The organization focuses on urban quality of life issues such as climate justice, clean air, access to good jobs, public health, pollution, and sustainable and equitable land use. It works through citizen empowerment, lobbying, litigation, education, and community outreach to accomplish its goals. They also have a local presence through their Federal Policy Office in Washington, DC. The choice of this organization as a beneficiary reflects our commitment as an anti-racism community, as well as our commitment to the environment/climate change. We hope that its inclusion will foster conversation and provide ideas for implementation more locally.

At a follow-up committee meeting, we worked on visioning what a **Modified Quaker Market** might look like this time around. Although thoughts are still evolving, here is what we are thinking at present:

- All sales outdoors, masks optional.
- Masks required for anyone indoors (working on the day or during pre-event preparations, or shoppers wanting to use the bathrooms).
- Food to include hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs and grilled portobellos. We will also be soliciting donations of foods like quiches, salads, desserts, etc.
- No indoor dining. If the weather is inclement, we will try to provide as much covered outdoor dining as we can, but it will be limited.
- Other items we will be selling (evolving list):
 - All QM donations Marcia has so graciously stored in her garage over the last two

years.

- Notecards featuring one of Fran Palmeri's beautiful photographs.
- Light House Bistro granola.
- Olive oil from Palestine.
- Tomatoes & other garden veggies, perennials.
- Berry bushes (and possibly pepper plants & bbq sauce from the same donor).

2

- Other white elephant items Friends bring on the day and set out themselves (concept still evolving).

- Fahima will also be joining us on behalf of Afghan Women's Fund "#\$%".

We are not planning to advertise in the Capital, but are thinking to post notice of a Modified Quaker Market and contact info on our website, as well as providing flyers for some of our local churches and BYM.

We are thinking about how we might invite refugees, and as usual we will be working to leverage unsold white elephant items through donations to organizations such as Partners in Care and Voices for a Second Chance.

There will be plenty of ways for everyone to pitch in and help on this community-building fundraiser, so please stay tuned and mark your calendars to join in on the magic that is Quaker Market on Saturday, 7 May!

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