

# Quaker Education

*Virginia Beach Friends School students  
in Meeting for Worship, Machu Picchu, Peru.*

## Service: Spirit-Led Action

From the heart of Quaker pedagogy comes the belief that there is that of God within everyone, inspiring students to be stewards and leaders of a better world. In Friends schools, community service has evolved and expanded to include a spectrum of integrated and reflective spirit-led service learning. Quaker pedagogy emphasizes the value of life experience in the world outside the classroom with critical reflection on that experience. Through connections with others, in local and global communities, students take action responsive to the diverse needs in our world community, realizing our interdependence in the process.

### Awareness of Self, Others and Interdependence

Friends education helps students to know themselves, know the world, and feel empowered by the connection between the two. When service is accompanied with time for reflection, students begin to assume greater responsibility for their own lives and values-based behavior.

Recently, students from two Friends schools paired service with reflection on trips to Peru. Students in the ABLE program (Adventure-Based Learning Experiences) at **Delaware Valley Friends School**, Paoli, Pennsylvania, traveled to Peru for 10 days. The trip combined elements of ABLE—developing self-confidence, self-esteem, and team building—with learning about Incan history and current culture of Peru, and doing service. In the Sacred Valley of the Incas, DVFS students worked side by side with Poques School students painting classrooms, using gestures, smiles and laughter to work through the language barrier. (Peruvians in the region speak Qechua.) “They loved having us there, and we loved being there: It was a two-way street,” said Ken Sinapius, DVFS. “We held Evening Meeting every day—a reflective time for students to share their thoughts and feelings about the day, centered around a few open questions, similar to Quaker query groups,” Ken said. “On this trip, I was able to grow new relationships plus nurture the relationships that I already had. Going to a rural school and painting the walls of their schoolhouse had a big impact on me. Like so many of the Peruvians we met, they gave us a very warm welcome,” wrote DVFS student Hillary Leonard.

**Virginia Beach Friends School**, Virginia, builds reflection and meditation into their global service trip, the “Peru Project,” for upper school students who are interested in performing service while exploring foreign cultures. Last spring, a group traveled to Socma in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. VBFS students donated backpacks and school supplies and helped with building and repair projects for a small school, learning ancient Peruvian building processes. Student Justin Hill wrote of the experience:

*I grew from this trip because I was willing to step out of my comfort zone and try new things. The spiritual journey of this trip began when we were hosted by a family on an island in Lake Titicaca. Having hiked to the top of the island, we sat for some time just observing this unfamiliar landscape around us. Everywhere we went I noticed something in nature that I had never before been exposed to. Snow-capped mountains, the Amazon Rainforest, old Incan ruins in the middle of wilderness, all of these contributed to a persistent and overwhelming sense of humbleness. Nothing mattered except for the present moment. Looking at the stars from the Southern Hemisphere from around a fire we built from nothing at the top of a mountain in the middle of nowhere in Peru,*

*was definitely one (of many) pinnacles of the trip. These different experiences, combined with morning meditation, were very conducive to my relationships with nature, God, and myself. I came home feeling accomplished, and having a fresh mindset and heightened awareness of the rest of the world.*

The strong emphasis on service to the world in Friends education is aligned with the notion that values-based education is vital to developing responsible community and world citizens. Service experiences prepare Friends school students to act with courage, conscience and conviction.

### Service to and for Each Other Strengthens School Community

Meaningful service can also take place closer to home, or even at home. Through service, Friends schools care for and strengthen their own school communities while also learning skills to care for others in our world community. At **The Meeting School**, a boarding and day school and working farm in Rindge, New Hampshire, faculty and students work together on all the necessary work to sustain the school. Students and faculty cook all meals, chop and stack wood for the furnaces, clean the campus, garden, care for animals, and do many maintenance and construction projects. “For some students, these responsibilities are new; others already have experience with cooking and physical labor. For everyone, it is a chance to give to one another and make an essential contribution to community life,” says Jackie Stillwell, Head of School. Students and faculty practice care for each other in other ways as well, such as through clearness, a Quaker process of support and deep listening to a person with a personal question. Jackie explains, “When difficult issues arise, the clearness process helps us slow down and seek truth, healing, and change together. It is truly one of the hardest things we do—holding each other accountable to live with integrity.”

At the **William Penn Charter School**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, service programs strengthen and extend the school community. The Elder and Child program pairs 1st grade students with elders once a month to work on a service project, side by side. The program creates friendships between students and the alumni, grandparents, retired employees and area Quaker meeting members who serve as elders. After the partners have gotten to know each other through art and journaling activities, they work together toward a common service goal, choosing a new organization to benefit each year. Elder and Child began at **Wilmington Friends School**, Delaware, in 1999 as a way of fostering intergenerational relationships and tapping into the intersection of youth and experience. It soon spread to other area Quaker schools, including **Germantown Friends School** and **Frankford Friends School**, both in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.





# Advice to Global Service Leaders

In summer 2009, 22 educators from 17 schools in 10 states took part in a Global Service Program at **George School**, Newtown, Pennsylvania. This new opportunity, made possible by a grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation, is designed to help educators to plan and implement successful international service trips for students at their schools. The Faculty Institute for Service Learning included workshops led by George School faculty on campus and a choice of two global service trips: twelve participants traveled to China to help rebuild a community devastated by the 2008 earthquake, while eight educators went to Cuba to repair a Quaker church that was damaged in a 2008 hurricane. In addition to the faculty institute, plans for the Global Service Program include a component for students, tentatively scheduled to launch in summer 2010.

Before departing on their trips, participants of George School's Global Service Program received advice from those with experience—students who have participated in George School's 11th grade trips to Nicaragua and South Africa, and the Director of the partner school that hosts George School students in Nicaragua.

## Lessons from Students

"As you shape the trip, try to balance between supervising and letting the kids have some independence. [For teenagers,] a lot of the growth from the experience comes from when you're on your own."

"Take advantage of opportunities to help in many ways. It may not seem like you're having much of an impact, but the people you are helping really appreciate what you're doing. Being on this trip changed my worldview. I hadn't spent a lot of time outside the country. Now, I acknowledge there are so many other ways of living and different perspectives on life."



*Read blog entries by Global Service Program participants from their adventures in China (above) and Cuba on the George School website: <http://www.georgeschool.org> > Service > Global Service Program*

## Lessons from a Leader

Rafaela Torres Ugarte, Director of La Nicaraguita, George School's sister school in Nicaragua, which serves as the host of George School student visits, had this advice for leaders of global service experiences:

*I want to congratulate you for your decision to leave your homeland to share with other groups your knowledge, experiences, culture, and mostly, to demonstrate your solidarity and friendship with other countries.*

*Leaders need to be patient, loving, and pay close attention to their states of mind. All problems can be overcome by working together as a group and good communication. We are in constant communication with the students to see how they slept, how they're feeling, what ails them today, or perhaps tomorrow. We all have those anxious questions when so much is unknown. I am always observing their facial demeanor because there is an author that says the "eyes are a reflection of the soul"—I can notice through the eyes how they are feeling inside.*

*By opening our hearts, little by little, we contribute in formulating new values and ideas that will give us people with new perspectives so that we may enjoy in the future a peaceful and just world.*



## Bridge Film Festival

Andy Cohen, Director of the Bridge Film Festival, invites all Friends schools to host a "screening event" and/or make a video of concern. Each year the Bridge Film Festival features films from Friends school students (grades 5-13) from around the world. Past films have dealt with alcoholism, violence, poverty, war, intolerance, racism, the environment and many other social issues. "These films engage issues of concern while depicting Quaker values in action," Andy said. "Making films gives your students the opportunity to have their voices heard and to make a positive difference."

This year, students can either make and submit a film and/or plan and run a Bridge Film Festival "screening event." The screening event is a service learning opportunity in which students plan and run a Bridge Film Festival event at their school that will showcase student films and raise money for one annually targeted charity. This year the charity is the St. Bernard Project in New Orleans. For more information go to the website: <http://www.brooklynfriends.org/bridgefilmfestival>

## School as Neighbor

**An Interview with Kathy Paulmier, Director of Community Involvement, Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

**Chronicles:** *Tell me about "Community Involvement" and what it means to Germantown Friends School.*

**Kathy Paulmier:** The Community Involvement program stems from Germantown Friends School's mission to "embrace the city" [of Philadelphia]. We make an intentional commitment to be part of our neighborhood on multiple levels: student projects, teacher-directed curriculum, and institutional partnerships. In addition to coordinating hands-on projects, part of my job is to strengthen the connection between our school and the neighborhood. I visit with neighbors on the sidewalks, in their stores or offices, go to neighborhood meetings to learn what the issues are, and pay attention to neighborhood news. We changed the name from Community Service to Community Involvement to better capture the complex and reciprocal nature of our relationships in the community. We work hard to put faces and names to people, and to have as much face-to-face interaction when we're out in the community as we can. We invite guests from the community to the school to be with students, and invite community organizations to use our location. Community groups view our campus as safe, politically neutral, and welcoming.

**C:** *How is service learning spirit-led action in Friends schools?*

**KP:** Striving to work in right relationship with the community is an extension of our desire to live in right relationship with God. Well-considered, or "rightly ordered" service learning can bridge gaps between people, and it is the relationships which develop between our students and our hosts that are the core of our program and can be anywhere from interesting to life changing. When students volunteer, they develop an awareness of social issues, empathy for others, and a better sense of their role in the big picture of the world. As a Friends school we strive to meet that of God in each person. The Community Involvement program exposes students to people whose backgrounds and abilities are different from their own but through discussion and shared time together, students experience the commonality of people and come to understand differences in context. Service learning in a Quaker school becomes an extension of our teaching. There is strong value in hearing other voices, of stepping away from the classroom, and of understanding the complexity of our community. Hopefully, students will then take a broadened awareness with them when they graduate.

**C:** *What have you learned that you'd like to share with other schools?*

**KP:** Begin at your front door. What connections can you make in your school's immediate neighborhood? What educational needs do you have? What needs do your neighborhood businesses and organizations have? How can you help each other and know one another better? If you are clear from the outset that the goal is mutual learning and growth, and an extension of our search for truth, a relationship can flourish.

Listening and learning about neighborhood issues is the first step. Consideration of what students, teachers, parents, staff or the "School" can bring to the relationship is next. Implementation of any plan of action needs to be both well planned and flexible. Learning to adapt to changes in the environment is an important educational lesson for our students. Observing, discussing and responding to the environment immediately surrounding our Friends schools give us a better chance to be in right relationship with our

**Find info and Kathy's monthly newsletter: <http://www.germantownfriends.org> > About GFS > Community Involvement**





*Connecticut Friends School (Wilton, Connecticut) students talk through an issue at the Peace Table. Seeds for Tomorrow provided a scholarship for a kindergartner at CFS, as part of a program that supports children affected by the Iraq War and families who are making choices for a more peaceful future.*

## Partners in Service

*Friends schools' service programs are strengthened by supportive partnering organizations. Here are a few examples:*

### Wingspan Partnerships • [www.wingspanpartnerships.org](http://www.wingspanpartnerships.org)

Wingspan Partnerships narrows the education gap by developing and supporting partnerships between public and private schools. Founded by a former head of a Friends school, Wingspan Partnerships offers guidance and financial support for authentic school-to-school partnerships with a special emphasis on building connections among students, parents and teachers that bring school communities together and additional resources to the underserved.

### The Nobis Project • [www.nobisproject.org](http://www.nobisproject.org)

The Nobis Project's programs and services use three civic engagement approaches as a context and framework for empowering individuals and communities with the skills, knowledge and means to improve lives and communities, both locally and abroad.

- Service-Learning: the facilitation of learning from taking meaningful actions to meet the needs of an issue or circumstance
- Community Partnerships: coordination and development of relationships between individuals, groups, or organizations in communities
- Policy Initiatives: actions taken to influence, create or amend policies at the local, state, national, and global level

Christen Clougherty, Ph.D., founder of the Nobis Project, is a Friends school alumna who develops programs designed to meet schools' individual needs, providing training and support for authentic service learning experiences. Christen received her Ph.D. in Quaker Studies from the University of Birmingham, UK's collaborative program with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Center. Come to the Friends Council's Service Learning Peer Network to take part in Christen's presentation, *Service Learning and the Quaker Testimonies: Looking for a New Model*. The Service Learning Peer Network meets on November 16 at Friends Center, Philadelphia. Register at [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org).

### Seeds for Tomorrow • [www.seeds-for-tomorrow.org](http://www.seeds-for-tomorrow.org)

Seeds for Tomorrow is a foundation that supports children who have been damaged by the war in Iraq. Half of their funds go directly to Iraqi children who have been affected by the war; the other half support underserved kids of killed or wounded soldiers here in the United States. Recognizing Friends education as part of a powerful movement toward a more peaceful future, Seeds for Tomorrow worked with the Friends Council on Education to find a Friends school family that met this particular need for support. We are pleased to have found the first recipient of this generous scholarship, a 2nd grade student at **Connecticut Friends School**, Wilton, Connecticut, and are excited to see the future growth of this outreach for a peaceful world.

## News of Giving & Support for the Friends Council on Education

### Welcome to our Corporate Sponsors!

The Friends Council on Education has launched a corporate sponsorship program. Designed exclusively for companies and organizations that provide products or services to independent schools, the program links these businesses to member Friends schools and affiliates via our website, and offers opportunities for focused participation, such as the sponsorship of this issue of *Chronicles of Quaker Education* (**Thank you SSS/NAIS!** See right). Opportunities include sponsoring a peer network or workshop.

For information about how you can "make Friends education your business," contact Amy Ward Brimmer at 215-241-7245, or go to [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org) and click on the Corporate Sponsors leaf.

### Become a Sustainer

We are pleased to announce that beginning this fall, we will offer an automatic payment option for annual giving. This option draws on your bank account or charges to your credit card each month. The **Sustainers Program** provides a great way to make a charitable donation while maintaining your budget. Look for

enrollment information in the fall Annual Fund letter, or go to [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org) and click on the "Make a Gift" button.

### The Evergreen Circle of Friends: Generosity Across Generations

Have you considered making a planned gift to the Friends Council? As one member of the Evergreen Circle put it, "The Friends Council on Education is a wonderful, powerful organization that supports and enhances what is essential about Quaker education. Why wouldn't one want to give generously?"

There are several ways to make a planned gift to the Friends Council, including:

- Bequests
- Securities
- Life Insurance
- Trusts
- Retirement Assets

For more information about each of these options and to create a plan that fits your needs contact Amy Ward Brimmer, 215-241-7245; [amy@friendscouncil.org](mailto:amy@friendscouncil.org).

## Resources from the Friends Council on Education

### Learn more about Service Learning

### Readings on Quaker Pedagogy Philadelphia Friends Schools

Purchase online: [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org)

Many Friends schools describe their service learning programs and the Quaker philosophy that inspire them on their websites.

Here are a few to get you started . . .

[www.woolman.org](http://www.woolman.org)  
[www.georgeschool.org](http://www.georgeschool.org)  
[www.westtown.edu](http://www.westtown.edu)

Many Friends school students immerse themselves in service by participating in a "gap year" program.

Visit [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org) for info about the benefits of gap year experiences, and a list of programs.

Join "Service Learning in Friends Schools" on [www.friendscouncil.net](http://www.friendscouncil.net) for notes and resources for and from teachers and administrators in Friends schools.

## Corporate Support

### Helping Schools Help Families



Comprehensive financial aid services for private schools.

## New Heads: Welcome!

Congratulations to the following school leaders, newly named as Heads of Friends schools.

### Heads of School:

Rose Magrann, **Friends Academy of Westampton**  
Marla Schoolmeester, **Friends School of Charlotte**  
Peter Day, **Friends Western School**  
Earl Sissell, **Media-Providence Friends School**  
John Blount, **Monteverde Friends School**  
Matt Glendinning, **Moses Brown School**  
Edward Hollinger, **Virginia Beach Friends School**

### Interim Heads:

Pritchard Garrett, **Delaware Valley Friends School**  
Pete Jacques, **Friends School Haverford**  
Ginny Winsor, **Scattergood Friends School**  
Stephen K. Barker, **Sidwell Friends School**

Thank you to these departing Heads, off to new adventures: Jonathan K. Alden, Martha Bryans, Connie Beetle, Michael De Hart, Robin DuRant, Marty Goldstein, Joanne Hoffman, David Kern, Jan Luchini, Norman Maynard, Lynn Oberfield, Katherine Schantz, Bruce Stewart, Loren Thomas, and Dwight Wilson.



[www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org)



# Reflections

We're all in this together

*Education is, above all else, persuasion—persuasion about which tasks are worth doing, which subjects worth studying, which habits worth developing.*

— Paul Lacey, “What is the role of Quaker Education in a Time of Terror?” 2002

Do we learn for ourselves or for each other? What are the benefits of service in education? This issue of *Chronicles of Quaker Education* provides a myriad of concrete examples of how community outreach and service learning are embedded in the curricula of Friends schools, supporting all members in our communities to develop habits of care, connection, and contribution. In *Growing into Goodness*, Paul Lacey (1968) names this aspect of a Friends education “an ethos of involvement, an ethic of care.”

A Friends education pays attention to what William Penn, in the 17th century, described as love and information: giving students a knowledge of and experience in the world as well as a feeling of responsibility and empowerment to care for the world. Three centuries later, in 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and called upon schools and educational institutions in all countries to display, read and expound these principles: “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family—the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” In Friends schools, following the tradition of early Quakers who were leaders in the great reform movements of the 18th and 19th centuries, we teach values for world citizenry that enact the principles

of the United Nations Human Rights Declaration—the love of freedom, religious tolerance, democracy, respect for human dignity, respect for diversity and a commitment to improve the lives of the oppressed. Friends schools actively incorporate these values into the life and culture of the school.

This commitment to care and service is lived through the passion of the 4,260 teachers in Friends schools, the loyalty and volunteer service of 1,250 trustees, and the lives of the 20,560 students and their families. I am deeply grateful to the numerous others who are serving the Friends Council on Education network this year through volunteer work, learning from and serving others—the Friends Council board and committee members, the peer network facilitators, the presenters for the governance webinars, and all who donate generously to support the programs and services of the Friends Council through gifts to the annual fund.

In Friends education, we engage in preparing ourselves and our students for lives of care and connection—taking action for change, and experiencing change in ourselves in the process. The habit of involvement and care was described beautifully by Corin Johnson, a Media-Providence Friends School graduate in his 8th-grade commencement speech: “I’ve learned more than just what is taught in the classroom; I’ve learned how to be a better person.” This is powerful work we are doing and we are all in it together. Thank you, Friends Council network of service.

*Joanne McHenry*

Friends Council on Education

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# Quaker Education

CHRONICLES OF

Service: Spirit-Led Action

FALL  
2009

Explore, Connect, Reflect at Friends Council Programs

New! Act 48 (PA) Credits available.

## Workshops

*Educators New to Quakerism*, Pendle Hill. *Three separate offerings:*

January 27-29, 2010, February 18-19, 2010, May 6-7, 2010

*New date! Facilitating Quaker-Based Decision Making in a Friends*

*School*, Friends Center, Philadelphia, November 9, 2009

*Tuning In: Mindfulness in Teaching & Learning*, Pendle Hill,

January 13-15, 2010

*New course! Mindfulness for Educators*, William Penn Charter

School, Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm: Jan. 20-Feb. 17 (and Mar. 3)

## Heads Gatherings

*Annual Fall Heads Gathering*, October 8-9, 2009, George School

and Newtown Friends School

*Heads of Schools with Secondary Divisions*, April 8-9, 2010,

Sandy Spring Friends School

*Heads of Friends Elementary, Nursery, & K-8 Schools*,

April 25-27, 2010, Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse

## Governance Matters! Special Focus, Part II—

*Advancement & Financial Sustainability for Friends Schools*

*For Trustees, Heads, Business Officers,*

*Development Staff & Volunteers*

## Peer Network Events

*Admissions Peer Network*, May 17-18, 2010,

Pendle Hill

*Assistant Heads & Division Directors*, April 26-27, 2010,

Chestnut Hill Meetinghouse, Philadelphia

*Deans of Students Peer Network*, February 22, 2010,

George School

*Development Peer Network*, May 3, 2010, Germantown

Friends School

*New date! Diversity Peer Network* with Gene Baiste,

February 8-9, 2010, Pendle Hill

*Early Childhood Educators*, April 16-17, 2010

Abington Friends School

*Friends Environmental Educators Network (FEEN)*,

April 28-30, 2010, Sandy Spring Friends School

*Heads' Assistants Peer Network*, December 3-4, 2009,

George School

*Six Regional Workshops* in New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Massachusetts

*Six Interactive Webinars featuring exciting presenters: attend from home or with a group:*

7-8:30 pm: December 1, December 8, January 5, January 12, February 2, (new date) April 20

Register Now: [www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org)