

Peace & Social Justice Committee Notes on Recipients in 2019 HFM Budget

*AFSC – Friend of a Friend: Tubman House is a grassroots community renewal center in Sandtown-Winchester and serving youth in Gilmor Homes; led by Eddie Conway, Homewood attender. Is an outgrowth of AFSC Friend of a Friend mentoring project to reduce violence among incarcerated persons by providing conflict resolution training. <https://www.tubmanhousebaltimore.org/>; <https://www.facebook.com/CoalitionofFriends/> Eddie Conway

AFSC – American Friends Service Committee: Designated for Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). QUNO works on Peacebuilding and the Prevention of Violent Conflict in both its New York and Geneva offices. In New York, QUNO works broadly in the areas of reconciliation & dialogue, the role of emerging powers, and the inclusion of local perspectives. In Geneva, there is a focus on the relationship between peace, development, and the environment, integrating human rights and peacebuilding, and business and peace.

<https://www.afsc.org/story/quaker-united-nations-office>; <https://quno.org/>

*Amazing Grace Lutheran Church: Amazing Ministries encompasses several urban-community ministries including: sacred spaces and food gardens, food pantry, after school program (gardening, cooking, art, photography), wellness center, led by this intentional multi-cultural Lutheran church in struggling McElderry Square in East Baltimore. <http://amazinggracelutheran.org/blog/amazing-ministries/> Barbara Bezdek, Sarah Bur, Gary Gillespie

*Baltimore Ceasefire 365: A movement that calls for non-violence and life celebrations. While Ceasefire/Peace Challenge weekends are held quarterly, the movement stays active all year, serving as a hub for information sharing among organizations, doing community outreach to help people get resources, creating sacred spaces where lives are lost to violence, and coming up with new ideas to address violence as a public health issue. Our contributions help to provide outreach materials, support families who lose loved ones to violence during ceasefire weekends, and to expand Baltimore's ability to address and heal the root causes and impacts of violence. <https://baltimoreceasefire.com/> Jo Brown

*Central Maryland Ecumenical Council: A community of Christian organizations in the Greater Baltimore region who advocate for environmental, racial, social, and economic justice using nonviolent organizing principles in building the Beloved Community. <http://www.cmeccouncil.org/Events.html> Gary Gillespie

*FCNL – Friends Committee on National Legislation: FCNL lobbies congress and the federal administration on issues of peace, justice, opportunity, and environmental stewardship that are of concern to the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). FCNL seeks to live a prophetic Quaker vision for a peaceful, just, and healthy planet and build relationships across political divides to move policies forward. Sarah Bur, Gary Gillespie

*GEDCO Cares: York Rd food pantry of Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO), a nonprofit sponsored by over 50 faith groups and others in the area. GEDCO works to fight poverty, create affordable housing, distribute emergency financial assistance and provide nutritious food to low-income and once homeless residents. Cares offers a client-choice food pantry and emergency financial assistance to assist individuals and families with pending evictions, utility shut-offs and prescription needs. <https://gedco.org/what-we-do/community-services/cares/> Rachael Neill

Heart's Place: Provides homeless Baltimore City School students (and 2 family members) with non-perishable food needing neither refrigeration nor cooking for two days (Saturday and Sunday). Baltimore City has over 2700 registered homeless school children. Each backpack costs \$20. Maryland Food Bank purchases some of the food and delivers it to the schools who pack and distribute the food every Friday afternoon, and Heart's Place Services purchases those items the Maryland Food Bank cannot supply. <http://www.heartsplaceservices.org/>

***Interfaith Action For Human Rights:** A Mid-Atlantic coalition of faith communities and people of faith that organizes action, education and advocacy to eliminate the practice of solitary confinement of prisoners in state facilities in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. <https://www.interfaithactionhr.org/> Barbara Bezdek

Mennonite Central Committee U.S.: Selected by PSJ Committee for their decades-long relationships and work on the ground in the Middle East, specifically to support its work providing aid and relief to Syrians facing and fleeing war at home, and to those taking refuge in Lebanon. This year alone, 1.3 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes, in addition to the millions of Syrians displaced earlier in the war. While the needs remain, funding is hard to come by. The United Nations says it has less than half of the \$3.36 billion it needs to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, including urgent winterization programs. To put that number in perspective, the U.S. plans to spend five times that amount—\$15 billion—fighting ISIS in Syria and Iraq in this fiscal year alone.

<https://mcc.org/learn/where/middle-east>

Planned Parenthood International: A Federation of 141 locally led Member Associations working in 152 countries determined to work with different cultures, traditions, laws and religious attitudes to improve the lives of women around the world. Two-thirds of the 1.4 billion living in extreme poverty are women. Almost 50% of sexual assaults are against girls 15 years and younger. HIV is the leading cause, globally, of death for women of reproductive age. <https://www.ippf.org>

Project PLASE - People Lacking Ample Shelter and Employment: Serves large numbers of vulnerable people in Baltimore City. It addresses homelessness in Baltimore by providing transitional housing, permanent housing and supportive services to homeless adults. Serves the most vulnerable and underserved, including persons with mental illness, HIV/AIDS, addiction, developmental disabilities, and ex-offenders. At any time they serve 70 people in transitional housing. https://projectplase.org/wordpress3/wp-content/uploads/FY15_Annual_Report.pdf

Friends School of Ramallah and El-Bireh: The school founded by the Friends in Ramallah has played an important role in Palestinian education for over 120 years. After the partition of Palestine in 1948, the school grew to cater for the refugees from the coastal areas taken over by Israel. HFM has supported the school for decades. The Friends School of Ramallah and El-Bireh strives to be a leading educational institution in the Palestinian community, offering Palestinian youth a rigorous program guided by principles of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). History: <http://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/197/Friends-School-Ramallah>; Mission: <http://www.palfriends.org/mission.php> Applications (welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and strives to have a student body that is representative of the Palestinian society) <http://www.rfs.edu.ps/>

Right Sharing of World Resources: Working as members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with other like-minded people to remind all of us of our responsibility to those less fortunate than ourselves by making grants to jump-start micro-enterprise ventures for female entrepreneurs in developing countries (currently, Kenya, Sierra Leone and south India). In India they usually work with NGOs, but in Kenya they work mostly with Quaker Meetings. Website includes video about how spiritually corrosive it is for us in the US to use such a huge percentage of World Resources. <https://www.rswr.org/>

Viva House: Catholic Worker Christian hospitality house in west Baltimore that HFM has supported for years. Brendan Walsh and Willa Bickham are currently the main community members there. They serve over 170,000 meals in a year, averaging 176 guests per meal in the soup kitchen, and provide weekly grocery bags for people in need, distributing over 22 tons of food last year.

***Unified Efforts:** Out of School Time youth center, providing free K-12 after-school and summer opportunities, including anti-violence, anti-bullying, and alternatives to violence education; internships and enrichment activities; to one of the deeply underserved communities, Penn North, in Baltimore. Stony Run member Debbie Ramsey's project, supported financially and in kind by several members of Homewood and Stony Run. <https://unifiedefforts.org/>

***Youth Empowered Society:** YES is Baltimore's first and only drop-in center for homeless youth: a safe space for youth who are homeless and between the ages of 14-25, to get basic needs met and establish supportive relationships. Founded in 2012 and run by formerly homeless youth and their allies, YES works to end youth homelessness in Baltimore by (1) providing urgently-needed direct services to youth experiencing homelessness, (2) developing the leadership and employment readiness of youth who have experienced homelessness, and (3) engaging in system-level reform. <http://www.yesdropincenter.org> Barbara Bezdek

***Alternatives to Violence Project – Maryland:** AVP program began in 1975 when a group of people inside the walls at Green Haven Prison, NY, collaborated with the Quaker Project on Community Conflict and devised a prison workshop. The success of this workshop quickly generated requests for more, and AVP was born. As the program spread, it became obvious that violence and the need for this training exist just as much outside prison walls as within -- that everyone in all walks of life and circumstances is exposed to and participates in some way in violence—be it physical or "intangible". Workshops are now offered extensively in communities and schools as well as prisons. Workshops have been held for businesses, churches, community associations, street gangs, halfway houses, women's shelters, and many others. <http://www.avpm.org/index.html> Cathy Hanson

***Baltimore Community Mediation Center:** As Baltimore struggles to respond to recent events and the broader context in which they have occurred, Baltimore Community Mediation Center offers services and programming to support dialogue and give voice to everyone. BCMC provides mediation in re criminal justice, schools and community conflicts. Beginning in September 2017, BCMC has been conducting a series of "listening tours" in neighborhoods, particularly those heavily affected by violence. Each tour involves training people who live or work in the neighborhood (or very nearby) in skills of active and reflective listening, and then working with them to canvass their neighbors and have conversations about what people really want, need, feel, and care about to help them strengthen their skills for working with the people around them to achieve common goals. BCMC is a partner with Baltimore CeaseFire also, and is on the community team for implementing the Department of Justice, Baltimore Police Consent Decree. <https://www.communitymediation.org> Barbara Bezdek, Jo Brown

***Esperanza Center Immigration Legal Services, Baltimore:** Esperanza Center, run by Catholic Charities, provides legal counseling and representation in humanitarian and family-based immigration matters. A devastating fire in September 2018 has impeded its work as one of the largest non-profit immigration legal services providers in the state, to individuals from over 150 different countries who reside in Maryland or have immigration cases in Maryland to obtain, extend or retain lawful immigration status or citizenship in the United States.
<https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/services/esperanza-center-en-espanol/legal-services-en-espanol/> Ouranitsa Abbas

International Rescue Committee – Baltimore: In 2015, the International Rescue Committee helped resettle nearly 10,000 newly arrived refugees and provided services to promote self-reliance and integration to over 36,000 refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking and other immigrants. <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/baltimore-md>

Out for Justice: Is an ex-offender, member-led organization that strives to change the perception of ex-offender individuals by promoting the 3 Es, education, empowerment, and engagement, and to promote reform of policies that adversely affect the ex-offender re-entering into society successfully. Its Anti-Stigma Campaign lifts up the facts that a criminal record comes loaded with negative connotations and burdens that people carry with them long after their prison sentences have been served, including disenfranchisement, exclusion from certain professions and in some instances continued monitoring by the state. <http://www.out4justice.org/>

Thread: Thread engages underperforming high school students confronting significant barriers outside of the classroom by providing each one with a family of committed volunteers and increased access to community resources. The goal is to foster students' academic advancement and personal growth developing them into self-

motivated, resilient, and responsible citizens. Its method is to create a new social fabric, where strong relationships are woven among students, volunteers and collaborators. Thread fundamentally alters how we define "family" and cultivates communities that transcend barriers, creating a future where everyone thrives. Homewood has supported Thread through the Wicker Basket collections, and in 2019 is making this a budgetary commitment. <https://www.thread.org/>

*Baltimore Housing Roundtable: Is a collaborative of communities, individuals, advocates and congregations that pools resources to promote systemic change and realize shared values for a vibrant non-speculative, permanently affordable, housing sector that serves residents and the communities in which they reside rather than outside developers. Baltimore leads the nation in evictions while at the same time holding 30,000 vacant homes - symptoms of the deep crisis in public and private priorities for housing development practices. BHR's vision is to create quality permanently affordable housing while demonstrating a new model for Development without Displacement for our City to invest in, featuring the community land trust model and similar forms of shared equity housing that are proven to be effective in communities around the country.
<https://www.baltimorehousingroundtable.org/> Barbara Bezdek

* One or more Homewood members/ attenders are personally involved with this organization's work.

Distribution of Recipients and Percentage of Distributed Funds - \$11,050
(Excludes Committee Budget and Contingency Fund)

Quaker/ National/ International/ Interfaith Organizations (36.2%)

- AFSC National
- FCNL
- Interfaith Action for Human Rights
- Mennonite Central Committee – Syria
- Planned Parenthood International
- Ramallah Friends School
- Right Sharing of World Resources

Local (Baltimore and Maryland) (63.8%)

- AFSC – Tubman House
- Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
- Baltimore CeaseFire
- Central Maryland Ecumenical Council
- GEDCO – CARES
- Heart's Place
- Project PLASE
- Viva House
- Unified Efforts
- Youth Empowerment Society
- Alternatives to Violence – Maryland (NEW)
- Baltimore Community Mediation Center (NEW)
- Esperanza Immigrant Legal Services (NEW)
- International Rescue Committee – Baltimore (NEW)
- Out for Justice (NEW)
- Thread (NEW)
- Baltimore Housing Roundtable (NEW)