

REPORT ON QUAKER HOUSE 2016

A dedicated, gifted Quaker House staff, volunteers, and board are making peace in our world in a largely military environment: Ft. Bragg, N.C.

They do this in a variety of ways, offering counseling and educational service and healing to soldiers and veterans and their families. Benefiting also from this vital work is the wider community: Fayetteville and Piedmont North Carolina and far beyond.

Through the special gifts of the staff—led by Lynn and Steve Newsom--doors in the military base and surrounding community which were closed have been opened.

Quaker House is now searching for new directors to take over the helm when the Newsoms retire in 2017—a hard act to follow.

According to their latest report, ongoing priorities of the Quaker House Witness to Peace are:

Hotline Counseling. Many GIs get biased or false guidance about issues of conscience, discharge, medical, psychological and other regulations. QH offers free, accurate, non-directive information.

Supporting Conscience. Many soldiers who are led to renounce war confront the military court system. QH has stood with many resisters who faced official intimidation, court martial, and even jail.

Public Peace Witness. Large peace rallies, quiet vigils—QH public peace actions take many forms.

Torture and Accountability. Much of the U.S. Government-sponsored torture network was spawned at Ft. Bragg. QH has actively urged an end to such official law breaking, and accountability to prevent its return.

Truth in Recruiting. Potential enlistees are often misled about military life. QH “Sgt. Abe the Honest Recruiter” materials have been used nationwide to help them make fully informed decisions.

Violence Within the Military. The US Armed Forces face serious, chronic problems of internal violence: suicides, family abuse, sexual assaults, etc. QH

monitors these and supports efforts to combat them, as fruits of the poisoned tree of war.

Peace Resources. QH is bringing its work to wider audiences and media, educating on torture, the military industrial complex, and peace strategies.

They need our steady and enthusiastic support.

--Anne Welsh, Sayma Rep to Quaker House