



Friends Peace Teams Peace Ways

Spring-Summer 2016
Volume 11 Issue 1

WE ASKED OUR INITIATIVES, "WHAT COULD YOU DO IF YOUR FUNDING DOUBLED?"

A Thousand More Workshops

By David Zarembka, AGLI Coordinator

Sometimes I dream about doubling our funding. I believe that AGLI and its facilitators could do so much more excellent, necessary work if only we had the funding. We'd love to sponsor a thousand more workshops.

When I give my talks on speaking tours in the United States, I am sometimes asked for the "magic bullet" that can bring an end to the conflicts in the east African region. There is no "magic bullet." Peace and security don't come that way. It is a hard slog, person after person, incident after incident, conflict after conflict.

A Formative Moment

In 2002, shortly after AGLI had introduced AVP to Rwanda, David Bucura, then Rwanda AVP coordinator, and I met with the European Union ambassador to Rwanda, an English Quaker. He encouraged us to apply for a grant from the European Union. The minimum grant was \$3 million. I realized that there was no way AGLI



A Congolese woman and a man from South Sudan talk during a HROC workshop in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya, where their two ethnic groups have been in conflict.

could at that time properly use \$3 million. With only 20 new, inexperienced AVP facilitators, we would be unable to manage a project of that magnitude.

We did not apply for the grant, but the experience was instructive. It broke our hearts to limit our response. From that day forward, in addition to providing needed workshops and other services, AGLI focused on

developing an efficient method of organization that could respond to changes in funding quickly.

In each country, we have two to four full-time staff members who administer the programs and are lead facilitators. They, in turn, lead and train many more experienced facilitators in AVP, HROC, transformative mediation, election violence prevention, listening sessions, and peace dialogues. All these facilitators are on call when we need them. Usually a workshop includes three facilitators, to whom we pay a modest stipend of \$10 per

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Key to Acronyms

FPT - Friends Peace Teams

Initiatives:

AGLI - African Great Lakes Initiative

AWP - Asia West Pacific

PLA - Peacebuilding en las Américas

Programs:

AVP - Alternatives to Violence Project

HROC - Healing and Rebuilding our Communities

Other:

NGO - Non-governmental organization

LGBT - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

From the Clerk's Desk:

A Report on our 22nd Year So Far

Friends Peace Teams has good news this year:

- The on-the-ground peacebuilding is as strong as ever and getting stronger,
- Income is steady and infrastructure expenses are down slightly,
- Each of the three initiatives is still fiercely independent and remarkably effective.

We have established a solid base to grow on, to address unmet needs. Such growth will require funding and we are putting renewed energy on fundraising. Hoping to be successful, we are considering how to effectively use an increase in funding. In this issue of *PeaceWays* you can read about ready-to-go projects from each initiative – just waiting for donations to launch them.

Currently, in the FPT initiatives:

1. AGLI is the biggest and best known initiative, doing peace workshops in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and neighboring countries where violence is common. Every election in the region creates new violent eruptions that cry out for our peacework.
2. In Latin America, our work is steady and strong, with AVP, trauma healing, and other ongoing programs. This initiative will be under new direction in the coming year with a search underway for the new

coordinator. Our thanks to Val Liveoak who has stepped down from the coordinator's job, but will continue her work in the region.

3. In Asia West-Pacific, peace teams have been active in Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Korea, and in Palestine. Other programs include creating affordable water filters manufactured in-country by locals, establishing pre-schools that empower youth, supporting Bhutanese refugees in the US, and the publishing *The Power of Goodness*, a collection of stories of peacebuilding around the world.

The FPT Council provides a unifying presence and reliable infrastructure in support of our initiatives. Monthly accounting reports keep us informed of our financial condition. The FPT treasurer says that our financial accounting and reporting are solid. External auditors verified that our accounting is accurate, timely, and in accordance with established national standards. Our annual reports to the IRS and to New York State as a "charity" will be submitted ahead of deadlines. Transferring funds internationally is always a challenge, and that process is running smoothly. The other major piece of infrastructure is communications. On that front, our websites have been updated, and we have identified more opportunities for improvements.

Our learning edge is fundraising. We have had the counsel of two professional fundraisers, and have begun a quest to re-educate ourselves with current techniques and strategies. We are exploring ways to have more frequent and personal contact with our faithful donors as well as learning how new electronic technologies can improve our processes. We are studying best practices and planning to create new fundraising campaigns with new energy.

As led, we invite you to join our team: serve with one of our initiatives; serve on the Council; and/or send us a check to support the work. Thank you.

Friends Peace Teams

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. FPT's programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

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Clerk of the Council

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day. If AGLI has little income, few workshops are conducted, but if more resources become available, then the programs can expand quickly. For example, in response to the post-election violence in Kenya in 2008, our partner in western Kenya was able to conduct up to ten three-day AVP workshops for youth per week. In eight months, they completed over 150 AVP workshops.

The 2008 election in Kenya was not unique. Critical needs remain and we are desperate to respond, even as funding is uncertain. For example, Burundi is experiencing renewed deadly community conflict. In Bujumbura, the capital, the police have cordoned off a neighborhood that opposed the re-election of the current Burundian president, searched house to house, and seized young men who were sometimes assassinated or disappeared. The communities are traumatized. The HROC organization in Burundi is gearing up to do as many workshops as they can with members of these communities and available funding.

We have operated with budgets as small as barely over \$250,000 US dollars and as large as close to half a million. Wouldn't it be great if AGLI could count on an income of \$600,000 per year with additional resources to tap for special programs?

Unlike 2002, when AGLI and its partners did not have the ability to spend \$3 million, our partners are now quite capable of substantially increasing their work. Since the overhead would stay almost the same, an added \$300,000 could allow us to sponsor one thousand more of our workshops for more than 20,000 participants. In 2017, there will be another election in Kenya and the situation is already tense. We are making plans to train more citizen reporters. We want to conduct extensive civic education seminars to teach people their rights

and responsibilities and voter education programs for all the new voters who have come of age since the last election five years ago and those who need a refresher course. If conflicts develop, we want

to be ready to sponsor listening sessions and peace dialogues which bring the divergent members of a community together to discuss issues and problems rather than fight about them.

Our AVP program helps people to resolve conflicts non-violently. Our HROC program:

(1) Helps people deal with his or her own trauma and that of others;

(2) Inspires participants to start their healing

journey by communicating with their spouses and children, rather than beating them;

(3) Builds trust between "enemies" as they begin to listen to each other.

Our trained mediators help community members resolve issues so that they don't fester and perhaps lead to violence. Peace dialogues enable opponents to meet each other, start understanding the position of the other side, and discuss how the community can

peacefully move forward. When AGLI sponsors a HROC workshop for 20 people and the workshop report indicates that one man has stopped beating his wife after he learned about his own trauma and how to deal with it, I consider the workshop a great success.

Whenever I dream about increased funding and all the good it will do in the world, I remember that we are doing what we can with what we have and find great satisfaction with the successes we have.

But if we had more resources...

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The AVP facilitator, left center, is giving out certificates to those who have completed the basic AVP training, given in the Kakuma Refugee Camp for youth from two South Sudanese tribes who had fought in the camp.



Trust walk—a workshop activity

By Allie Prescott and Val Liveoak, PLA

More Funding? Adelante!

(Adelante = Go Forward)

"We have successfully given workshops, but now we need to continue deepening lives in the base of transformative power and provide the spaces to share their experiences," said Aida Gonzalez, Interim Director of Tejedoras de Sueños, a PLA partner in Honduras.



Young participants in an AVP workshop in the Peace School Project in Guatemala.

Over the past few years, PLA has funded the nine AVP initiatives in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Colombia. As PLA seeks a new coordinator and expands its programming, an increase in funding is essential to its sustainability and advancement.

Aside from donations, the majority of funds for these programs come from public sources, which can be inconsistent and vary greatly across programs. The most stable programs are funded by national and international private religious groups. Many governmental organizations offer only limited, month-to-month funding. This hampers our ability to hire employees or initiate long-term contracts.

Val Liveoak, our retiring coordinator, served for 13 years as a volunteer. PLA has received a one-time grant to pay a part-time salary for one year to a PLA coordinator, to perform some of the work Val did. Beyond that, PLA must fund the position. If our funding doubled, some

of it would certainly be set aside for this critical and exciting position.

Besides our program-wide coordinator, PLA's most important resource is our dedicated volunteers. Some of these individuals receive limited travel stipends for workshop facilitation. It is difficult, however, for these volunteers to dedicate time to travel, facilitate workshops, continue their training through facilitators' retreats, and promote AVP, without the security of full-time or permanent work. This is a barrier to PLA's growth. An increase in program funding would allow for a team of paid facilitators in each program, guaranteeing several AVP workshops monthly.

In Guatemala:

An increase in funds to AVP Guatemala (which is close to becoming a legal entity) would greatly impact the Peace School Project. Established in 2015 by AVP Guatemala, the Peace School Project supports AVP work in a free middle school for



A facilitator workshop organized by Village Health, an NGO that works with AVP Guatemala.

at-risk youth in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. Director Hilda Vasquez, an AVP facilitator, began implementing AVP techniques through formal workshops in 2013. As funding became available, she was able to extend the program to include two and a half hours of peacebuilding activities to the weekly curriculum. According to Vasquez, “during the weekly sessions the participants [have] demonstrated that they have increased their knowledge and use of Transforming Power, not just at school but also in their personal lives, which positively affects their learning environment.”

Check out the new PLA website at
pla.friendspeaceteams.org

AVP Guatemala plans to train ten student-leaders as facilitators of AVP workshops. With increased funding, AVP Guatemala will evaluate The Peace School Project, provide more AVP workshops and create partnerships with other schools in Guatemala. It would be exciting to have student facilitators from the Peace School leading workshops in other schools.

In Colombia:

An increase in funds to AVP Colombia would help continue a project in Bolivar, a neighborhood in Bogota known for high violence rates. The mayor’s office has given its support to a program to give workshops to Afro-descendant communities, victims of violence, indigenous communities, and LGBT communities. PLA funding would help initiate a publicity campaign and promote government and private funding opportunities.

In El Salvador:

An increase in funds to AVP El Salvador would be used to continue work with at risk youth and juveniles in prisons and increase the number of facilitators. The AVP program in El Salvador has run workshops in 12 municipalities in conjunction with various NGOs and churches over the past eight years. In 2015, the program had to reduce the part-time coordinator’s salary due to lack of funds. As a result, there were fewer workshops in 2015 than in the previous years. In order to maintain pre-existing connections and offer more advanced workshops, funding is necessary.

In Honduras:

An increase in funds to AVP Honduras would be used to train local AVP facilitators and promote peacebuilding programs with governmental and private organizations. Indigenous, incarcerated, and Afro-descendant populations will be especially targeted by these efforts. In 2015, the Tejedoras de Sueños project led 15 AVP workshops across eight communities in various regions of Honduras. They solidified connections with organizations outside of San Pedro Sula, especially with youth programs in educational centers and with indigenous and Garifuna women.

“We are touching communities that are confronting threats in the defense of their land, like in the case of San Francisco de Locomapa and the Tornabe community. And communities that are affected by the violence and criminality, such as the Rivera Hernandez community, the Colonia Municipal, and the Centro Penal,” says Aida Gonzalez, Tejedoras de Sueños, Honduras.

With connections solidified, the only thing missing is funding.



Women in an AVP workshop in a Garifuna community on the Caribbean coast of Honduras. The Garifuna are descendants of African and indigenous peoples.

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Resources, Resources ...

The word “resource” comes from Old French *resourdre*, “rise again, recover”. This is our mission – to “recover” peace. It is there, but it needs to be discovered, recovered, and allowed to rise.

Friends who direct time and energy towards peace work need help to fund real needs, at realistic amounts, in collaboration with indigenous resources. Funding of *presumed* needs often reinforces commercial temptations and violence or learned helplessness, rather than peace.

This is why the Asia West Pacific Initiative supports the travel of volunteers; we need them to share our principles and make decisions based on our mutual best discernment. Lodging costs are minimal, as the hosts who welcome these peace workers from around the world do so in the simple manner of Friends (Quakers).

We have a powerful approach to peace in the world. Firstly, we have faith in the goodness and capabilities of life itself; we actually know that peace is possible when that’s where we turn our investments. Secondly, we travel out of love for life and others, acknowledging that we are all limited, flawed, hurt, distressed, and in need of love and compassion. Thirdly, we engage in the politics of peace, which includes and requires all of us. We share our faith – across religion, class, and culture – in the power of the Living Spirit to give life, joy, peace, and prosperity through love, integrity, and compassionate justice among people who live in simplicity and equality.

In our work, we make no enemies, and take no sides. We seek the liberty of living in accord with our conscience and connecting people of conscience. We build friendships, person-to-person, across ages, cultures, religions, and backgrounds. We ask only for people to commit to living peacefully, guided by our best mutual discernment and a set of common agreements. One of our common

agreements is to “use what we need and share the rest.” We encourage open discussion about “need,” and what it means to “share.” We explore how to share in ways that respects others’ lives and capabilities, fits in scale, and promotes, rather than displaces, justice and development. (Watch our video at fpt-awp.org on the Activities page to hear directly from our friends about how this works.)

We are currently seeking approximately \$2,000 apiece for Elizabeth Walmsley and Jamuna Shrestha to visit Bhutanese refugees resettled in the US. They will connect them to Friends, Alternatives to Violence Project facilitators, and others. Half Australian, Elizabeth lived in Australia for 10 years as a teen, then taught English in a remote town in Western Australia. Jamuna has worked in refugee camps in southern Nepal since

1991. Her Kathmandu home was destroyed in the 2015 earthquake.

We are also seeking funding for:

- Afghani and Palestinian women’s rights activists to attend the International Peace Training in Pati, Central Java.
- Petrus, Nanik and other AVP facilitators to visit West Papua, Mentawai, and other areas to respond to requests for help in developing peace training.
- Support Filipino Friends traveling to Mindanao to support of peace workers.

Peace Place, in Central Java, serves the community in many ways. Besides providing guest lodging and a peace training center, it houses the Joglo Preschool, after-school, and parenting programs. We would like to purchase the adjoining land for \$35,000 so that all who visit and sojourn at Peace



Peace Place guest room (upper right), training center (back), and bamboo gazebo playground (foreground). The green space we wish to purchase is in the background.

January 2016 Photo: Gisele Fowle

Place in the future will experience the natural green beauty of the setting.

Peace Place is making a difference to Indonesians through the peace training, educational programs, and even their manner of greeting and working! When children learn that Friends Peace Teams are leaving, they cry. Even the children feel the love the team brings and shares.



Middle School AVP program at Peace Place February 2016. Photo: Nanik



PeaceQuest2016

Join peace activists working all over the world for a day in peace-action training on Saturday, May 21, 2016, in Olympia, Washington. Interactive workshops will run in four tracks: Personal, Local, Global, and Parent/Child.

Keynote speaker Nancy Irving, former General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation-World, will speak on "Letting our Lives Speak - Near and Far."

Place: Olympia Friends Meeting, 3201 Boston Harbor Rd. NE, Olympia, WA 98506; Time: 8 am to 4:30 pm

For more information, visit our website, friendspeaceteams.org or call the FPT office at 314-588-1122. To register, contact David Zarembka, dave@aglifpt.org.



Tunas Baru Preschool teacher Legiani with student Nikin January 2016. Photo: Fauziah

Wonderful News from Barak Induk!

Preschool teacher Legiani ("Ani") graduated with a bachelor's degree in early childhood development in December 2015. Ani is the first college graduate working in the Tunas Baru Preschool in Barak Induk, North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Ani came to an AVP workshop in 2007 and completely committed to the practice of nonviolence in her life. When she saw the preschool based on nonviolence, she immediately wanted to learn how to interact with children with kindness and love.

She became a teacher in the preschool and FPT provided support for her to attend college.

Following her graduation, Ani wrote to Friends Peace Teams to express her gratitude for their support. The note, translated by Nadine Hoover, reads, in part:

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greeting to all the Friends I miss always.

How are you doing? I hope that we are all well and doing our best, Amen. Here, I want to let you know that I graduated from college! This was possible because of you, your good deeds were received.

Thank you friends,

Legiani (Ani)

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Kakuma Refugee Camp

The photos with the AGLI story (pp. 1, 3) are from workshops in the Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya. The one above shows a small discussion group at a recent HROC training there.

The Kakuma camp houses people from several neighboring countries. Differences in culture, animosities between tribes from the same country, scarcity of resources such as water, and harsh living

conditions result in conflicts that can easily erupt in violence.

In early 2015, when there were violent conflicts in the camp between the Burundians/Congolese and the South Sudanese, two AGLI facilitators responded immediately. As of this writing, AGLI has done 17 AVP workshops and 11 HROC workshops in the camp, and the need continues.

Please contribute to the Friends Peace Teams initiatives and the general fund of FPT. Undesignated donations to FPT go to the general fund to provide shared administrative support to the initiatives, publish PeaceWays, and maintain the website. Donations may also be designated for the initiatives. Checks in U.S. dollars should be made out to "Friends Peace Teams" and mailed to 1001 Park Ave., Saint Louis, MO 63104-3720 USA. Donations can be made online at www.friendspeaceteams.org. Other options for donating to the Asia West Pacific Initiative are available on that initiative's website, www.fpt-awp.org.