People like Cush Anthony and Ralph Kerman come to Washington with considerable skill and talents, informed by a lifetime of experiences that bring added dimensions to the work of FCNL. And when they return home, they serve as ambassadors for FCNL and inspire people in their home communities to work for peace.

**FCNL Former Friends in Washington**

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Cecil Thomas, 1962
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Growth policies and the environment

A partial list of FCNL Friends in Washington. Additions and corrections are welcomed.

“The World We Seek: Now Is the Time”

Friends in Washington

**Endowment: $1 million**

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Experienced Friends contributing their expertise to FCNL’s vision of peace and justice.

For more than 50 years, Friends in Washington have been forceful advocates for change on major issues. Friends have lobbied and testified before Congress in support of the Civil Rights Act, the normalization of relations with China, nuclear disarmament, clean energy and other issues that build a more peaceful world.

Today, the Friend in Washington program is inactive. With the purchase of 205 C Street, the row house immediately adjacent to FCNL’s office, we have an opportunity to provide residency for experienced Friends who would like to volunteer with FCNL and revive the program.

Applying a Lifetime of Experience

In 2006, Cushman (“Cush”) Anthony followed his call to work for justice and became a Friend in Washington. Cush spent his career as a lawyer and mediator, as the advocacy director of the Portland Community Counseling Center and as a Maine state legislator. Along the way, he began working for the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, founded by former FCNL executive secretary Ed Snyder, with a focus on Native American issues.

After retiring in 2006, Cush contacted FCNL about volunteering. At the time, Congress was considering legislation that would have settled a large lawsuit brought against the federal government for its mismanagement of funds owed to Native Americans. Realizing that Cush’s decades of legal experience in advocacy on behalf of this population.

hearing, developed a relationship with staffers on the relevant House and Senate committees and spoke with members of Congress after hearings on the issue. FCNL’s work on Native American issues greatly benefited from Cush’s decades of legal experience in advocacy on behalf of this population.

Bringing Wisdom and Expertise to Washington

Friend in Washington Ralph Kerman, who held a doctorate in physics and taught high school and college mathematics in Baltimore, brought his career’s worth of scientific knowledge to bear when he testified before the Senate on renewable energy in 1991.

The Friend in Washington program is inactive today partly because of the housing costs for participants and the staff time needed to assure that the experience is highly meaningful for participants and FCNL. Reviving this program offers an outstanding opportunity for FCNL in today’s legislative environment, when so many issues demand knowledge and expert testimony.

The funds raised in this capital campaign will develop the experience of working with FCNL to good use by leading other constituents on dozens of in-person lobby visits.

Anybody who participates in this program is going to be more active in their community,” says Cush. Currently, he works with Portland’s immigrant community. Many immigrants in his home state have come seeking asylum, and he has started working to improve the immigration process for asylum seekers.

But Cush says one of the most valuable roles he has played is being “a voice back home for FCNL.” He has given talks to his church and Amherst College alums, which mean “increased understanding among a wide range of people about how good FCNL is as a resource.”

Grounding FCNL in the Quaker Community

Friends who participate in the program will offer a stronger Quaker grounding in the FCNL office, through their participation in brown-bag lunches, lectures, planning meetings and legislative strategy sessions. They will be available to serve as mentors to staff and interns, and help to spiritually ground FCNL in the community whose vision for peace we seek to realize.

With housing in 205 C Street and support from FCNL staff, the Friend in Washington program will reinforce FCNL’s connection with Friends across the country.

“Anybody who participates in the Friend in Washington program is going to be more active in their community.”

Cushman Anthony

Establishing an endowment for the Friend in Washington program means that FCNL can:

- Attract and recruit Friends with expertise in FCNL’s issue areas.
- Dedicate staff time to plan, support and stretch the work of participating Friends.
- Provide housing for Friends at 205 C Street.
- Provide staff to facilitate the application and orientation process.
- Encourage collaboration and mentorship between the experienced Friends and younger staff.

A Voice Back Home for FCNL

The Friend in Washington program will also create new advocates for FCNL and our priorities. “I came to understand in a first-hand sort of way the importance of lobbying your local Congressperson, and that has certainly carried back into my work here in Maine,” Cush says. He continues to work with FCNL as a strategic grassroots lobbyist in Portland, Maine, where he has built strong relationships with Senator Susan Collins, former Senator Olympia Snowe and Senator Angus King. He has put his experience of working with FCNL to good use by leading other constituents on dozens of in-person lobby visits.

The opportunity of a revived Friend in Washington at FCNL offers the possibility for the presence of experienced Friends for our Quaker witness in Washington. We are excited by the many benefits of the Friend in Washington program—both for those who sojourn with FCNL on Capitol Hill and for the FCNL staff, our colleagues and our advocacy.”

Diane Randall, Executive Secretary


Ralph Kerman, Friend in Washington on Energy, the Environment, and Nuclear Policy (1988-91)


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Cush wrote papers for FCNL and created materials to give to members of Congress and their staff. He attended hearings, developed a relationship with staffers on the relevant House and Senate committees and spoke with members of Congress after hearings on the issue. FCNL’s work on Native American issues greatly benefited from Cush’s decades of legal experience in advocacy on behalf of this population.

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“True godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it.”

William Penn