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Campaign Goal

Young Adult Program

Endowment: $6 million
Program: $2 million
“FCNL creates rich opportunities for young Quakers to live into their faith and create real change by lobbying on the issues most important to them.”

Annie Boggess, FCNL Program Assistant, 2012-13

Investing in the Future
How do we support the next generation of leaders and advocates for peace and justice? FCNL is deepening our engagement and broadening our outreach to young adults. We are launching new opportunities for thousands of young people that to invigorate a new dynamic at FCNL and witness for peace and justice on Capitol Hill.

Every year, FCNL relates to hundreds of young adults who want to be part of our work for peace. We saw a 54% increase in participation our Young Adult Spring Lobby weekend between 2013 and 2014 and a 50% increase in applications for our internship program during the same period. Young people are hungry to change the world – but there simply aren’t enough opportunities for concrete, structured training and network-building for young adults dedicated to peace and social justice.

Providing young adults with experiences that can have a lasting impact on their lives will also change the world. By bringing new ideas and energy to our Quaker lobby, greater young adult involvement will strengthen the fabric of the Religious Society of Friends. FCNL helps emerging leaders who share our Quaker social witness speak truth to power.

FCNL as a Mentoring Community
FCNL is known for providing excellent training in the pragmatic skills of lobbying, organizing and leading change. We help young people develop the policy knowledge that they need to communicate effectively about issues from climate change to nuclear disarmament to mass incarceration. FCNL offers young people opportunities to cultivate the confidence needed to use these skills, to talk with people who disagree and to persist in the face of adversity.

How do we encourage young people to act boldly in a time that urgently requires ambitious change-makers?
When we asked young adult Friends this question, they talked about the importance of community and the value of mentors. Young adults want a place to be supported but also to be challenged to pursue their hopes and their dreams. In April, 2014, FCNL brought together young adults from across the country for a weekend consultation at Pendle Hill, a Quaker conference center, and considered how we ground our work as a “mentoring community.”

FCNL in many ways already is a mentoring community. Sharon Daloz Parks, who advised our consultation, explains it this way: “A mentoring community . . . offers a network of belonging which young adults feel recognized as who they really are and who they are becoming.” This capital campaign will help us to realize that identity in new and deeper ways.

1. The Internship Program will become the Young Fellows Program
For nearly 45 years, FCNL’s year-long, paid intern program has forged countless lifelong friendships and even marriages among its alumni/ae. Former interns support one another in pursuing their goals, and they look to reconnect at FCNL’s Annual Meeting and other events around the country. To help foster these powerful connections, the Young Fellows Program will include community-building retreats, and opportunities for reflection on their growth throughout the experience.

2. We will develop an alumni program and community of mentors
Former interns are some of the most inspiring change-makers in the country and are eager to help mentor young adults, but this opportunity has not been fully explored. While we are still in close touch with many former program assistants, FCNL sees tremendous potential to build a fully developed alumni/ae program that will deepen the engagement of former program assistants to FCNL and will connect alumni/ae through a print directory and a career resource directory.

“I have been an avid supporter of our FCNL program assistants, especially recently when I depended on their support as clerk of the Field Committee. I am deeply grateful for their enthusiasm, creativity and intelligence that so energizes and inspires our ministry at FCNL.”

Tom Ewell, General Committee Member

(continued)
**Investing in the Future**

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Providing young adults with experiences that can have a lasting impact on their lives will also change the world. FCNL offers young people knowledge that they need to communicate effectively and requirements FCNL holds for the young adults who are selected through a competitive application process. *Young Fellows Program highlights the signature nature of the experience, and more accurately represents the contributions of these exceptional individuals.* Those selected for the FCNL Young Fellows Program work as program assistants, assigned to work closely with seasoned staffers in FCNL’s legislative and strategic advocacy programs. We are strengthening this program by giving new attention to:

**Increased Professional Development**

FCNL now coordinates a monthly professional development speaker series in which program alumni/ae and other experienced professionals come to share their expertise and advice with current fellows. We provide coaching on résumé writing, advice on interviewing, and networking and practical advice to getting the next job in Washington, DC—for those who plan to stay here.

**Community-building**

FCNL’s internship program has forged countless lifelong friendships and even marriages among its alumni/ae. Former interns support one another in pursuing their goals, and they look to reconnect at FCNL’s Annual Meeting and other events around the country. To help foster these powerful connections, the Young Fellows Program will include community-building retreats, and opportunities for reflection on their growth throughout the experience.

**3. Spring Lobby Weekend will get bigger!**

*For a long weekend each March, FCNL brings young adults to Washington to learn about an FCNL priority, U.S. policy on that issue and how to engage their members of Congress. Dozens of students have told us that this is a transformative experience – demonstrating to them that they have a voice and influence with our government that they hadn’t thought possible. Participants attend in-depth orientation on critical issues, role-play effective conversations with elected officials, and create ideas to continue organizing at home.*

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