

Progress Amid a Pandemic

Despite the devastating impact of the COVID–19 pandemic, FCNL has been able to effectively carry out our work and our forward plan.

The pandemic required us to adjust FCNL’s comprehensive roadmap adopted by the General Committee in 2017.

We quickly transitioned to teleworking from our homes, reduced our budget, and shifted some tactics of the five goals of the FCNL Forward Plan.

Together with the support and trust of our governors, supporters, and advocates across the country, we continue to achieve significant progress despite the challenges of the COVID–19 pandemic. What follows are highlights of what we have accomplished.

*From Fierce Love:
2019-2020 Annual Report*



Young Fellows from around the country spend a year supporting FCNL efforts. Photo: Emily Sajewski/FCNL

Changing Public Policy

- Lobbied for the **passage of the Global Fragility Act** (passed as part of H.R. 1865), **Savannah’s Act** (S.227), and **Not Invisible Act** (S.982).
- Lobbied Congress to focus on the needs of low-income people in **four COVID–19 pandemic relief bills**.
- Lobbied Congress to repeal the 2001 and 2002 **Authorizations to use Military Force** and invoke the **War Powers Act** to say no to war with Iran.
- Worked to secure funding for legislation to address **mass incarceration** and to help formerly incarcerated individuals to re-enter their communities.

Strengthening Strategic Advocacy

- **Grew our grassroots network** to more than 1,500 advocates in 120 active advocacy teams in 42 states and D.C.
- A record **500 young adults** participated in 2020 Spring Lobby Weekend (SLW) to **lobby on climate change**. With the help of FCNL alumni, we shifted the in-person event almost overnight into a virtual one.
- Developed virtual programs that allow FCNL to be present in **60 college campuses** which are our main markets for our Young Adult Program.
- Adopted new data tools to more strategically **engage our grassroots advocates** and FCNL lobbying staff.

Expanding Media, Marketing, and Communications

- **Doubled FCNL’s media reach** to 789,000,000 media impressions in 2020.
- **Reached 7,778 stations and 51.9 million radio listeners** with our radio tours and audio releases. The advertising value of this radio exposure nearly doubled to \$418,450.
- Our first formal social media assessment gave us **a roadmap to continue growing FCNL’s social media presence** on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Through our marketing program, **we gained 21,728 new digital advocates and donors** (March 2019-July 2020). Of these, 32% are still actively subscribed and 26% took more than one action.

Fostering Relationships with the Religious Society of Friends

- Deepened FCNL’s presence with Friends by attending a **record 28 virtual yearly meetings and other gatherings** in 2020. Through these gatherings, we engaged with about 600 Friends.
- Strengthened Quaker leadership within FCNL by **appointing a director** to coordinate and initiate this work.
- Began Quaker program development for the **William Penn House**, which was **acquired by the FCNL Education Fund** in September 2019.
- **Developed new materials about Quakers** and faith-based lobbying in collaboration with FCNL Friends (not) in Washington Margery Post Abbott and Carl Abbott.

Ensuring Organizational Sustainability

- **Awarded a Platinum LEED certification** for FCNL’s office at 245 2nd St., NE, an upgrade from Silver LEED. New solar panels installed at Quaker Welcome Center.
- **Transitioned staff to remote work** by establishing new protocols and ensuring the infrastructure so FCNL continues to **function smoothly during the COVID–19 pandemic**.
- **Invested in new staff** to handle human resources, information technology, major gifts, and foundation relations.
- Improved office, financial, donor management, and IT systems—including moving them to cloud-based systems—to **improve productivity and online security**.



Anthony Weir (center), our lead lobbyist on nuclear weapons policy, recording a podcast. Photo: US Helsinki Commission