**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**Boulder Friends Meeting**

2018 Annual Report, Oct 1, 2017 – Sept 30, 2018

Submitted by Paula Palmer

This report describes work completed this fiscal year, corresponding to the objectives listed in the approved FY 2018 Project Description and Work Plan.

**Objectives**

1. Discern, through prayer, worship, and consultation with my Spiritual Care Committee and other seasoned Friends, how to faithfully serve in the ministry of building right relationship with Native peoples.

As always, I met monthly with my Spiritual Care Committee, for worship and discernment. We labored together over an invitation from Friends General Conference to give a TED-type talk as a plenary presentation during the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo OH. The invitation seemed to us to over-emphasize “performance.” Also, FGC only offered to cover expenses at the Gathering, not travel expenses or an honorarium. Two members of the Spiritual Care Committee joined me in a conference call with the FGC planners and together we raised the issues of concern to us. FGC changed their emphasis from TED-type performance and publicized the talk as a Quaker Truth Talk, which felt more appropriate. They also offered $300 toward travel expenses, so I agreed to give the talk. My Spiritual Care Committee listened to early versions of my talk as I was preparing it, and offered helpful questions and comments. And they accompanied me to the FGC Gathering in July. We worshiped together and then they sat in the front row as I gave my talk. Together, we were faithful, and I felt deeply grateful and nurtured by their care. It was a highlight in my life in ministry.

I also continued to meet weekly for “prayerful listening” by phone with Friend Linda Jenkins in Boston. We followed a practice I learned during FGC’s 8-week Spiritual Deepening webinar-course which I also completed in Fall 2017. I also continued to meet by phone monthly with Gretchen Reinhardt and Kitty Ufford-Chase for peer ministry and mutual support.

In April, I was honored to be accompanied on a three-week tour of meetings in California by Elaine Emily, a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting in Berkeley CA whose ministry is eldering. As I facilitated TRR workshops, gave talks about my research on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, and facilitated discussions of the documentary film, “Two Rivers,” I also learned much from Elaine about the relationship between elders and ministers, as it was practiced by Early Friends and as she has experienced it in her lifetime of service. I cherish her wisdom, and I continue to worship and talk with her, not on a regular schedule, but as the Spirit moves us.

1. Raise funds to support this work plan and meet the budget through individual and group donations, grants, honorariums, and social media fundraising strategies.

Income for this fiscal year was $58,246. Expenses were $57,207, with $7.046 remaining in the TRR Restricted Fund at the close of the fiscal year. For details, see the attached report from Toby Gallegos, bookkeeper.

1. Present the three TRR workshops -- “*Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America’s Native Peoples*” (for adults in the general U.S. population), “*Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization”(*for middle schools, high schools, and religious education programs), and *“Native History; Native Rights: Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change,”*(for Native American communities, organizations, and tribal colleges) at least 25 times, hosted by faith communities, educational institutions, and Native organizations around the country. Note: These presentations will be given by Paula and by other TRR workshop facilitators who are trained and certified.

During this fiscal year, TRR facilitators presented 41 workshops in 11 states (CO, CA, AZ, MT, PA, NY, ND, OH, NJ, FL, MD) and Canada. In addition, as a follow-up to the TRR workshops, we facilitated discussions of the documentary film “Two Rivers” eight times.

1. Train, certify, and coach at least 10 people to present the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshops on their own as part of the TRR Facilitators’ Network.

During this fiscal year, I trained 28 people to facilitate the TRR workshops nationwide.

1. Build a support and communications system for the TRR Facilitators Network, so that facilitators continue to share and grow in effectiveness together.

I haven’t been able to put very much time and energy into this very necessary task. I did, however, initiate a Quaker Google Group so that Friends around the country can (and do) share information, questions, advice, resources, and ideas as we work in our own settings toward right relationship with Native peoples. This has become a valuable forum for the Friends who are using it, which is a much larger group than just the workshop facilitators.

1. Report findings of research on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools through slide presentations, a film of the slide presentation, the TRR webpage, articles, pamphlets and academic papers.

My paper on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools was accepted for publication with other selected papers from the 2016 conference on Quakers and Native Peoples. I gave my slide presentation on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools at a Pendle Hill conference in May. FGC invited me to speak about the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools as a “Quaker Truth Talk” at the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo OH. My talk is posted on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwsxweZW0XI>

I was invited to speak as part of a panel on “Truth, Reconciliation and Healing” at the first annual conference of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, to be held at the site of the Carlisle Indian Boarding School, Oct 2-4, 2018.

1. Research, develop, and post a new webpage that offers positive models and examples of steps toward right relationship with Native peoples, including processes for acknowledgement, apology, atonement, truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, and community healing. Gather and post information about Native approaches to these processes. Consider designing a workshop where participants would create plans for carrying out such actions and processes.

I am gathering content for this website. This year I recorded an interview with Brett Shelton, who coordinates the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, and Judge Tim Connors who uses Native peacemaking circles in his court in Ann Arbor MI. Otherwise, all the data collection has been via internet.

1. Assist the City of Boulder in implementing its 2016 Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution, which calls for educating the populace about the Native peoples of the Boulder Valley, past and present. Help the City take steps toward truth, reconciliation, and healing between the City and the Arapaho people, whose homeland is the Boulder Valley.

With Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), Ava Hamilton (Arapaho), and Jake Matlak, I coordinate meetings of a group of Boulder citizens called Right Relationship Boulder, who are collaborating with City and County staff to develop people-to-people and government-to-government relationships between Boulder and the Native peoples who lived here historically and live here today. The group meets monthly, hosts educational activities, and carries out projects. Philanthropiece Foundation serves as fiscal sponsor for this group.

In Fall 2017, with Ava and Jerilyn, I traveled to Oklahoma to meet with the Southern Arapaho tribe and to Wyoming to meet with the Northern Arapaho tribe. Our purpose was to ask how the Arapaho people would like to relate to the land and current population of the Boulder Valley, their homeland. We were very warmly welcomed by tribal elders, traditional chiefs, and staff of the education/language program departments. All said very clearly that they consider Boulder their home and that they would like to develop a relationship with the people of Boulder. They also would like to have land here where they can pray, honor their ancestors, camp, have a sweat lodge, and harvest plants that they use for medicine and crafts. We delivered full reports to Boulder’s City Council, the Human Relations Commission, City Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Boulder Valley School District. These reports are posted at [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship).

Right Relationship Boulder secured funding from the Boulder Arts Commission, Boulder Human Relations Commission, BVSD, and many individuals to bring Arapaho people to Boulder for a series of meetings in June and for the City’s celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day, Oct 7-8, 2018. During the June meetings, we visited two pieces of land that the City and County are considering designating for exclusive and private use by the Arapaho and other tribes. One piece of land is the site of the fort where Boulder’s volunteer soldiers mustered to carry out the Sand Creek Massacre. Another has stone circles that date back to 500 years BC. Native people have lived in the Boulder Valley a very long time. Chief Elvin Kenrick sang memorial songs, gave offerings, and said prayers at these sites. We also facilitated meetings for the Arapaho delegates with City, County, and School District officials, and Boulder Meeting joined other churches in hosting a potluck dinner.

In our first meetings with the Arapaho in Wyoming and Oklahoma, they had expressed some concerns about how they might be treated if they came to Boulder. Would their children be safe? Would their elders be respected? During their time with us in Boulder in June, the Arapaho delegates did feel safe and welcomed – so much so that when we asked them how many people they would like to bring with them when they came back to celebrate the 2018 Indigenous Peoples Day in October, they said, oh, maybe 200 or 250! This was way more people than we had imagined hosting, but it was wonderful to feel their enthusiasm. So we kicked our fund raising into high gear, and by October we had raised over $50,000 to cover their costs of transportation, hotels, food, and honoraria, plus organizational costs.

Stephen FastHorse, a member of the Northern Arapaho Business Council wrote:

*“The Boulder area was the chosen place for the Arapaho people in a spiritual sense. Our ancestors had a spiritual quest to search for a certain place, and when they came here they knew they had found it. It was foretold to us by the higher being of life. The Creator has always led our people.*

*“Our hearts always yearn for our original homeland. We’ve never before been invited back to this area that we hold so dearly. It’s a heartfelt emotion for us. We hope we will continue to be welcomed in this place that we belong to.”*

The Oct 7-8 Indigenous Peoples Day celebration was in fiscal year 2019, so it is not reported here.

1. Engage with Quaker meetings, organizations, schools, and colleges about Indigenous peoples’ concerns generally, and specifically about the Doctrine of Discovery, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the impacts of the Indian Boarding Schools, as well as the roles Friends have played in these issues and ways that Friends can contribute to genuine healing processes.

Eleven of the 41 TRR workshops this year were presented at Friends Meetings. In addition, two Meetings hosted my talk/slide presentation about the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools and five hosted screenings and discussions of the “Two Rivers” film. Nine of the 28 people trained as facilitators this year are Friends.

Having served on the planning committee for a 4-day Pendle Hill conference called “Truth and Healing: Quakers Seeking Right Relationship w/ Indigenous Peoples,” I presented the TRR workshop, my talk on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, and the “Two Rivers” film as part of the conference program (May 4-7). I became a member of a steering committee that emerged from this conference, which is looking into developing a Quaker organization to carry forward our decolonizing work among Friends and in the wider society. I also founded a Google Group called “Friends for Right Relationship.”

In July, I delivered a plenary “Quaker Truth Talk” at the annual FGC Gathering in Toledo OH and was invited to give my talk on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools as part of the week’s program offered by QuakerBooks. I also facilitated discussions of the “Two Rivers” film and convened a gathering of Friends who carry a concern for decolonizing.

1. Develop partnerships with other faith communities and civic organizations to carry the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry nationwide.

We presented two TRR workshops at Methodist churches, and one each at UCC, Unity, and UU churches. We facilitated discussions of “Two Rivers” at one UCC and one Catholic church. Resonance Chorus in Boulder hosted two TRR workshops, and members of Resonance and several other community organizations are actively participating in Right Relationship Boulder.

We presented two programs, funded by the City’s Human Relations Commission, during the City’s official 2017 celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in October.

We have developed very strong collaborative relationships with Boulder’s City Council, the Human Relations Commission, and Open Space and Mountain Parks Department; Boulder Valley School District; Boulder County Commissioners and Open Space Department; Lafayette Cultural Arts Commission, Louisville Cultural Council, Philanthropiece Foundation; Mountain Forum for Peace; and the Museum of Boulder.

1. Develop partnerships with Native American organizations, schools, and colleges to offer the TRR workshops and to promote truth, reconciliation, and healing within Native communities.

We work closely with the Native organizations that participate in Boulder’s celebrations of Indigenous Peoples Day (e.g., Native American Rights Fund, American Indian Youth Leadership Institute) and with individual Native people in our community. Our work in Right Relationship Boulder is toward healing the wounds of forced removal of the Arapaho people from the Boulder Valley and the tragedy of the Sand Creek Massacre where many of their ancestors died. I work closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, and was invited to give a plenary talk at their first annual conference, to be held Oct 2-3 at the site of the Carlisle Indian Boarding School in PA.

Jerilyn DeCoteau facilitated four TRR workshops on her Turtle Mountain Chippewa reservation, hosted by the Turtle Mountain Community College.

1. Continue to develop and maintain the TRR websites ([www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship) and [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research)); and consider ways of enhancing TRR’s presence on Facebook and perhaps other social media.

Caroline Hines (Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee) works with me to update the TRR webpages. We created a Facebook page for Right Relationship Boulder, and we also have a Facebook page for the Toward Right Relationship Project.

1. Undertake new project initiatives as guided by the IPC committee, Native American advisors, Quaker organizations, and the Inward Light.

This year I began exploring how to encourage non-Native people to dig deeper into their family settler stories and find the ways they overlap and intersect with the experience of the Native peoples who lived in those places. I began by researching my own family’s history in Michigan and Indiana, and learned how the lands where we lived had been wrested from the Chippewa (in Michigan) and the Potowatomi (in Indiana). I wove my family stories into my talk at the FGC Gathering (video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwsxweZW0XI&t=14s>) and into a sermon I delivered at a Unitarian church (audio is available here: <http://www.pbuuc.org/OoS/2018-11-4_Service/2018-11-4-Sermon.mp3>). Questions swirl around land, history, family, identity, removal, responsibility, restitution, justice, respect, relationship. I carry these questions and a desire to do further work with them into the 2019 fiscal year.

I will also carry into 2019 my desire to create a website that will lift up positive examples of actions that have been taken by cities, churches, universities, and families toward right relationship with Native peoples. I think it is important to lift up these examples so that they can motivate and inspire others.

1. Meet monthly with the IPC committee and the Spiritual Care Committee, and quarterly with the Oversight Committee. Submit quarterly program/financial reports and post them on the TRR website. Give verbal reports to Boulder Meeting at the invitation of the clerk.

These meetings have taken place as scheduled. In January, the Oversight Committee recommended that I discontinue writing quarterly reports, and instead post more frequent updates in the Miscellany. They also said they believe it is unnecessary to develop annual budgets and work plans, since these are more appropriate for projects than for ministry. I am continuing the practice of writing and submitting annual reports because they are helpful to individuals and foundations as they consider providing financial support.

( See Financial Report, next page)

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| **Statement of Financial Activities****Prepared by Toby Gallegos, Bookkeeper** |  |
|  |  |  | **Over (Under)** |  |
|  | **Actual FY18** | **Budget FY18** | **Budget** |  **% of Budget** |
| Beginning Balance, 10/1/17 | 6,007 | 6,007 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Income |  |  |  |  |
| Individual donations | 29,565 | 22,000 | 7,565  | 134.38% |
| Crowdsourcing | 0 | 0 | 0  |  |
| Workshop host organization donations | 12,264 | 12,000 | 264  | 102.20% |
| Boulder Meeting donations | 800 | 750 | 50  | 106.67% |
| Grants | 15,617 | 29,000 | (13,383) | 53.85% |
| Total Income | 58,246 | 63,750 | (5,504) | 91.37% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Project Director Compensation | 52,500 | 52,500 | 0  | 100.00% |
| Contractor Compensation | 2,853 | 5,000 | (2,148) | 57.05% |
| Conference fees | 0 | 1,500 | (1,500) | 0.00% |
| Supplies, printing, postage, other | 920 | 2,000 | (1,080) | 46.02% |
| Travel | 934 | 2,750 | (1,816) | 33.96% |
| Total Expenses | 57,207 | 63,750 | (6,543) | 89.74% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Operating Income | 1,039 | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 12/31/17 | 10,238 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 3/31/18 | 3,383 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 6/30/18 | 16,829 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 9/30/18 | 7,046 | 6,007 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |