



## American Friends Service Committee

*Quaker values in action*

*The American Friends Service Committee is not a peace agency; it is not a human rights agency, or an environmental agency. It is all of them together; it feels compelled by its reading of the gospel to cultivate the whole vineyard.*

**-Stephen Cary, AFSC Board Chair 1979-1991**

The American Friends Service Committee is not an “issues” organization, but is a “values” organization.

AFSC’s program work around the globe is grounded in more than three centuries of Quaker witness to four basic testimonies: equality, peace, integrity, and simplicity.

Equality is the belief that there is that of God in every person or, said another way, that every life is sacred and that every person has inherent dignity and worth. No person is to be regarded as enemy or *other*.

Our work for Peace expresses our belief in the transforming power of love. Actions grounded in love of our fellow human beings lay the groundwork for healing and integration of individuals and societies while violence can only lay the seeds of future violence.

Integrity is the belief that we must always act in good faith and that our actions and intentions must be whole and transparent.

Simplicity is the belief that we should live and work in ways that are essential, grounded, and sustainable and that do not deprive others of their basic needs or damage the environment.

The practical implications of our commitment to integrity and simplicity also serve to guide our work for peace and equality. AFSC leaves a small footprint in the places it works. We listen to our community partners and respond to their needs rather than attempting to impose solutions. We are known as a fair broker and trusted intermediary.

For 90 years, thousands of volunteers and staff members of many faiths and cultures have committed themselves to transforming society through this framework of practical idealism. Program issues and geographic locations change over time, but the commitment to these principles remains constant and continues to guide our witness in the world.

1917 AFSC founded to provide conscientious objectors with an alternative to military service during World War One.

1921 Fed over 1,000,000 Austrian and German children a day in the aftermath of the War.

1938 Sent delegation to remonstrate with the Gestapo. Arranged emigration for Jewish families in Nazi Germany.

1947 Received the Nobel Peace Prize along with our British counterpart on behalf of Friends worldwide.

1952 Launch of Diplomats’ Conferences to strengthen ties among the world’s nations. 1,770 diplomats from 93 countries participate over the next 22 years.

1965 Helped place 7,000 African-American children in previously all-white southern schools.

1970 During the Vietnam War, counseled thousands of draft-age U.S. citizens about conscientious objector status.

1981 Published “A Call to Halt the Arms Race,” beginning the Nuclear Freeze movement.

1993 Organized health and safety training for maquiladora workers in Mexico and established an information network for gay, lesbian, and trans-gender youth.

2001 Launched “No More Victims” campaign to call for justice—not retaliation—in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

2005 Provided emergency relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami.