

Communities of Conscience

recognize New York Yearly Meeting's minute: *The Living Spirit works in the world to give life, joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity and compassionate justice among people. We are united in this Power. We acknowledge that paying for war violates our religious conviction. We will seek ways to witness to this religious conviction in each of our communities.* (2005) U.S. citizens are drafted everyday through taxation, investments, purchasing and consumption; each of us must ask ourselves today, "Am I a CO?" Being a CO requires integrity in personal life and finances, sharing one's position with representatives and local newspapers, and engagement in conscientious service to promote peace and security in the world.

Building Communities of Conscience offers a *Conscientious Objection to War* workshop to establish a CO file and prepare before a mock review board. We organize small groups of COs to visit their representative's home offices to deliver their CO files. We also counsel COs on war tax resistance, investments, simple living and conscientious service options.

Quaker Practice is offered through three workshops on *Experiencing the Living Spirit*, *Discerning the Living Spirit* and *Witnessing to the Living Spirit* and used in all aspects of the work.

Alternatives to Violence Workshops are offered in Alfred, NY: *Basic*, *Advanced* and *Training for Facilitators* twice a year that include teenagers and adults.

Indonesian Initiative seeks to connect communities of conscience between the U.S. and Indonesia to provide opportunities for conscientious service. With friends in Aceh, North Sumatra, West Java and Central Java, we support early childhood development, human rights defenders and nonviolence workshops.

Early Childhood Development Training

Early childhood development specialists have gone to Al-Falah School in East Jakarta. Their teachers are now assisting in setting up preschools and training teachers from Aceh and North Sumatra. Friends from NYYM are also funding six preschool teachers to get their Bachelor's Degree through distance learning.

Al-Falah School has collaborated over the past decade to translate, integrate and demonstrate early childhood education and project-based primary education with Indonesian language and culture in a devout Islamic setting.

Preschools were opened in Aceh and North Sumatra enrolling nearly 100 children each. We supplied beads, blocks and hard to procure items and teacher training. Paper and Pencils for All (Buffalo Friends Meeting) provided materials and materials budgets for nearly one year for each school.

Nonviolence Training focuses on developing facilitators through training for facilitators, advanced workshops and apprenticing in basic workshops. AVP workshops are offered in former war zones, with conflict refugees and bridging "sides."

Connecting Communities is achieved by making connections in the very real lives of very real people as the Spirit lives in direct relationship among people and between people and nature.

Visitation includes two trips per year from the U.S. to Indonesia in February and July. Adult and young adult AVP facilitators have gone on each trip.

Work camps assist with training, building schools, conducting AVP workshops and meeting friends.

Speaking tours are available on request by Friends who have traveled to Indonesia. We would like to bring teachers to conferences, new Friends to Quaker gatherings and conflict refugees to the U.N. any of whom could also do speaking tours.

Possibilities for the Future

Trauma Healing and Recovery is a great need, but remains a hope for the future among many of the survivors of the war in Aceh.

Conscience is an inward knowledge of right and wrong with a compulsion to do what is right.

The goal of a legal case for a conscientious objection to war isn't to convince others one's right, but to convince other's one's sincere.

***Conscientious Service
Opportunities to
Promote Peace & Security***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

(Used for contact only; never shared or sold.)

Please send me:

- Newsletters (2-4 times/yr) & emails
- Notices of:
 - Work Camps (Indonesia)
 - AVP Workshops (in US)
 - CO to War Workshops (in US)
 - Spiritual Practice Workshops (in US)
- Friends in Conscience video (\$15.00)

I would like to help:

- Host a workshop or speaker (in US)
- Organize local speaking tour (in US)

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$1,000
- Other: _____

Make all checks payable to:

Alfred Friends Meeting; in the memo write:

- Indonesian Fund (*projects there only*)
- Traveling Ministry Fund (*all activities*)
- AVP (*workshop expenses only*)

Mail to: PO Box 773, Alfred, NY 14802

Friends in Aceh

Al-Falah School (preschool through high School) Jakarta Timur

The Society for Health, Education, Environment and Peace

(SHEEP) Yogyakarta

Tengku Syarwani (Imam—Village Islamic leader) Bagok, East Aceh

Al-Husni Preschool Bagok, East Aceh

Forum Perduli Rakyat Miskin (FPRM—Forum of the Poorest of the Poor) Langsa, East Aceh

Institute for Social, Economic and Environmental Development (ISEED)

Seunuedon, North Aceh

Yayasan Sinar Kasih Desa (YSKD—Village Enlightenment Foundation) Medan, North Sumatra

Al-Munawwarah Preschool Jaring Halus, North Sumatra, Indonesia

Barak Induk (Mother Barracks for conflict refugees) Langkak, North Sumatra

Peace Brigades International, Aceh Team

For more information contact:

Connecting Communities of Conscience

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Written on 1 December 2006.

***C O N N E C T I N G
C O M M U N I T I E S
O F
C O N S C I E N C E***

***Alfred Friends Meeting
Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting
New York Yearly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)***