

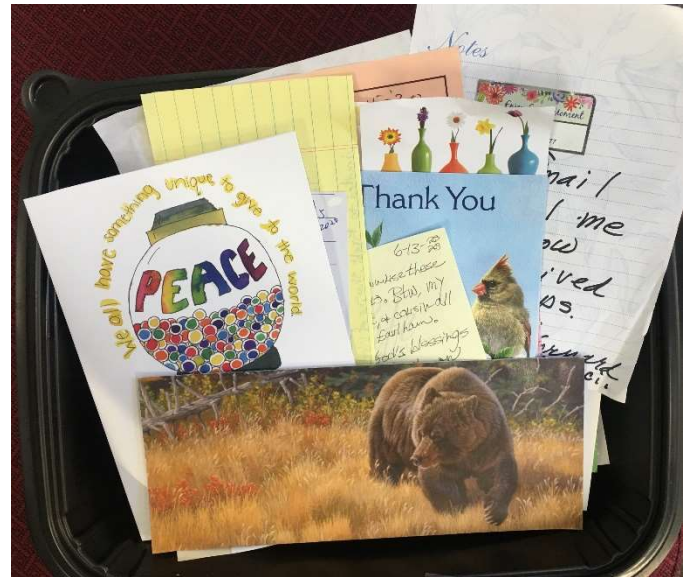
\$TAMPING for DOLLAR\$

Vol. 1 No. 5

Stamping for Dollars is an occasional newsletter of the Indianapolis First Friends team who sell donated postage stamps to benefit Right Sharing of World Resources (www.rswr.org). RSWR is an independent Quaker organization partnering with groups of women in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone for community transformation.



"Letters . . . We Get Letters"



Many donors include cards and notes in their stamp packages, thanking, encouraging, and expressing support for us. For these we are grateful. We save them all.

In Memory of Earl Walker, 1933-2020

We are sad to announce the death of longtime stamp ministry manager Earl Walker, who died at his home in Claremont, California, on September 22 at the age of 87. Earl faithfully managed the stamp program for eight years, raising more than \$11,000 for RSWR during that time. Not only did he enjoy sorting and organizing stamps, calling donors to thank them for sending in stamps was one of the highlights of the job. When the program transitioned to First Friends, he mentored current stamp team co-leader Amy Perry by phone and snail mail, giving advice and instruction generously and cheerfully. He also gave generously to other causes. The Stamping for Dollars team sends its sincere condolences to Earl's wife Sherrill and daughter Kate. We will miss this patron saint of stamps.

History of the Stamp Program

Brad Hathaway Era

On April 29, 1997, Brad Hathaway of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts wrote a \$50 check to Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) and a \$100 check to the George Fox school in Peru. These were the first of hundreds of checks and thousands of dollars his project, **Quaker Missions**, was to write to Quaker and other worthy causes. A retired newspaper editor, Brad had been searching for an activity that he enjoyed and that would make a meaningful contribution to the world. Under Brad's direction, Quaker Missions gathered used stamps and sold them to customers all over the United States and Canada. He had the support and help of his meeting, Mattapoisett Monthly Meeting, and of an interdenominational team of volunteers. Members of his meeting gathered stamps. Several non-Quaker volunteers, including a Congregationalist woman and a Roman Catholic couple, trimmed stamps from envelopes.

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Brad advertised in stamp publications and gained customers. As the program grew, it expanded to include other good causes in addition to Quaker entities, for example, the multid denominational United Mission to Nepal. Brad favored Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) and FWCC. Over the years the program donated more than \$10,000 to each.

At one point, Brad learned that previous stamp programs had existed which raised funds for Quaker entities. One was a peace center at a Quaker college.

In 2009 Brad turned over the greater part of Quaker Missions to **Earl Walker** of Claremont, California (see nearby article). Brad continued to support a few customers and causes and in 2018 he distributed a check that brought his total distributions to a whopping \$100,000.

Brad's work was honored in November 2018 when the Inter Church Council of Greater New Bedford, Massachusetts, awarded him the Sydney Adams award for ecumenical service on the occasion of distributing \$100,000 in good works all over the world.

Earl Walker Era

Earl Walker named his program **Quaker Missions West**. He ran it entirely by himself (spending up to 20 hours per week). He made contributions to RSWR, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), FWCC, and Whittier Friends School in Whittier, California. In April 2017 due to health issues Earl had to lay down his ministry of Quaker Missions West.

First Friends Era

RSWR made multiple appeals for a volunteer to step forward and continue the stamp program. In November of 2017, after a sermon by pastor Bob Henry at First Friends Quaker Meeting in Indianapolis, Amy Perry felt a leading to investigate volunteering for the program. Amy consulted with Earl Walker and with Beth Henricks, Assistant Pastor of First Friends and then Clerk of the RSWR Board of Directors. Amy and Beth decided to volunteer First Friends as an organization to continue

the stamp program (with Amy as team leader) and to contribute all proceeds to RSWR rather than to several causes.

Earl Walker and Jacqueline Stillwell, RSWR General Secretary, gave helpful advice in setting up the program. Word of mouth and notices in the First Friends newsletter led to several members and attenders volunteering to help: Phil Goodchild (an RSWR Board member), Linda Lee, Jody Long, Ed Morris, Dan Rains (deceased), Kathy Rhyne, Norma Wallman, and Mary Blackburn. Lifelong stamp collector Brad Jackson became the co-leader of the team. The stamp team named itself **Stamping for Dollars**, with reference to a 1970s popular song by Janis Joplin. The song, "Mercedes-Benz," begins with the words, "Oh, Lord," and is a humorous and satirical look at consumerism, appropriately for a group that helps support Right Sharing of World Resources.

K-I-S

K-I-S stands for Keep It Simple. It's a motto and strategy used by salespeople, trainers and others, meaning "Make your statements easy to understand and act on." **K-I-S** also is an easy way to remember the countries where RSWR works: Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone. Thanks to frequent donor Betsy Chesney for this idea. Every stamp donated to RSWR helps a woman and her community in K, I, or S.



Sierra Leone

Kenya

India