



# QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE

## **An Invitation to Partner with Quaker Voluntary Service**

Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) is an experiment at the intersection of transformational spirituality and activism. In the QVS program, young adults work full-time in professional positions at community based organizations addressing a wide range of issues, while living in a cooperative house in partnership with local Quakers. QVS Fellows receive housing, transportation, food, support for health and wellness, and a small stipend, while engaging in regular self-led workshops and retreats that allow for continuing education in social justice, leadership development, spiritual exploration and community building topics.

The strategy of QVS is two pronged: we seek to address immediate issues of justice and inequity by expanding the capacity of the service site placement organizations where our Fellows work while simultaneously preparing the next generation of leaders working to build a society in which the symptoms of injustice no longer exist. The organizations that we partner with are able to better fulfill their mission, taking advantage of the increased capacity our Fellows bring.

***We invite your organization to consider applying to become a service placement for Quaker Voluntary Service.***

QVS will place energetic and committed young people in full time positions in local nonprofit agencies for 11 months (early September through late July). QVS Fellows should be utilized to provide extra capacity at your organization, and not to replace a full time employee position. QVS is not a "year off" to "give back," it is a year of reflection and training to prepare young adults for a whole life committed to peace, justice and equality.

### **Benefits to your Organization:**

- QVS Fellows are energetic and committed young adults, equipped to work in cross-cultural settings.
- Fellows bring training in facilitation, communication, conflict resolution and anti-oppression work.
- Fellows bring connections to other organizations through the service sites of their QVS community members.
- QVS provides Fellows with a context for reflection and support, which strengthens their contribution to your organization's work.
- Partnering with QVS provides a low-cost, full time Fellow who has been recruited and screened by QVS and selected by your organization through an interview process.

### **Organizational Investment:**

- The cost to host a QVS Fellow is \$17,000 for 11 months, full time, paid monthly, bi-annually, or in one payment.
- This fee assists QVS in providing the following support to Fellows: rent and utilities, a food and transportation stipend, a personal living stipend, as well as programmatic support such as recruitment, orientation, on-going reflection, retreats, spiritual formation and education, and regular trainings and workshops on topics such as community organizing and nonviolent direct action.
- Your organization is also asked to provide initial training and on-going supervision and mentoring for the QVS Fellow, ensuring that the Fellow remains a valuable part of your team throughout their placement year.
- Two full days of each month, QVS Fellows do not work at their site placement and instead spend that time together with the other Fellows and QVS staff in retreat, training, and reflection. QVS also asks agencies to grant two "Quaker professional development days" that can be used throughout the year to allow Fellows to attend Quaker Conferences and gatherings for continued education and engagement with the service year.

**To Apply:** To learn more and to apply for your organization to become a QVS partner site, please see [www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/information-for-site-placements](http://www.quakervoluntaryservice.org/information-for-site-placements) or email [info@quakervoluntaryservice.org](mailto:info@quakervoluntaryservice.org). We encourage you to explore our website for more information about QVS, [quakervoluntaryservice.org](http://quakervoluntaryservice.org)

## WHAT ARE QVS SITE PARTNERS SAYING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE?



"This year having a QVS Fellow doubled the capacity of our community organizing department."

**-Sara Halawa, Community Action Agency of Somerville (Boston)**

"Our QVS Fellow has allowed us to sit at more tables and join more campaigns than we would have been able to without his presence. He contributes greatly to our work on diversity, equity and inclusion, bringing skills in that area and helping us forge connections with more diverse communities. I can't overstate how valuable this Fellow has been in enhancing our work."

**-Kelly Campbell, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (Portland)**



"Having a full time person to support organizations like ours at a subsidized rate for a budget like ours was game-changing. We're going to have another Fellow for the next cycle as well for sure...QVS Fellows are not interns and do much more than an intern could. We believe that all Fellows and interns need to be paid (and fairly), and I can't imagine a situation for them any cooler than living in a cooperative house with OTHER Fellows also placed in mission-driven organizations around the same city."

**-Esteban Kelly, US Federation of Worker Cooperatives (Philadelphia)**

"QVS is straightforward with very little paperwork. Over the years, the candidates have all contributed to our mission in unique ways and we have been pleased to have them as members of our team. Compared to other service programs, it is a blessing."

**-Melissa Klein, Habitat for Humanity (Atlanta)**

