



Wilmington College Isaac Harvey Fund

The William Penn House is a home away from home for thousands in the most influential city of our nation. In the 50 years of its existence the William Penn House has been home to Black Panthers, American Indian Movement marchers, and many more agents of change. This summer alone we had the privilege of hosting groups such as Veterans for Peace, Citizens Climate Lobby, and FCNL's Advocacy Core. I'm incredibly honored to be a part of an organization with relationships working to promote the values of social justice, equality, respect, and peace.

My work at the William Penn House also allowed for me to be a change agent myself. They gave me the tools for service work on food security and justice. Washington D.C. is a food desert. Meaning that people do not have access to healthy and affordable food. We combat the oppression of this food system two ways. By preparing and serving healthy meals to the homeless and by empowering people to grow their own food by installing and tending to urban gardens. Through the garden project, I met many amazing families and individuals who are so grateful for the hope and community that a garden creates.

I also had the opportunity to chaperone a service trip for Quaker high school students to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. It's home to the Lakota tribe; we spent time working on their farms and making home improvements. But most importantly we spent time building relationships. We listened to their stories and witnessed their tradition. The people were so welcoming they even invited us to participate in the Sun Dance ceremony that we helped set up. The experience was beautiful and spiritual but also indescribable with mere words. I hope to go back to the Sundance next year.

I'm so thankful to the Isaac Harvey Fund for supporting my summer adventure, not only for myself but for the lives that William Penn House service touched.

Sarah Holtsclaw

