

## BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER

### 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 15, 2021

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Ben Lomond Quaker Center remains committed to its mission to nurture the spiritual growth and faithfulness of Friends and others, while strengthening Quakerism and its witness in the world.

Our new Co-Directors Susan Wilson and Bob Fisher, who had begun working in late August 2019, were becoming comfortable with the management of the various activities at Quaker Center, when the pandemic arrived in March 2020. The subsequent year has been extraordinarily challenging. Because of public health regulations, previously scheduled in-person Quaker programs had to be canceled. Like-minded non-Quaker rental groups, which usually provide about two-thirds of Quaker Center's income, also completely canceled their reservations. In consultation with an ad hoc Covid-19 advisory group of Board members, the Co-Directors worked assiduously to develop safety practices and protocols for the staff and for the remaining limited activities such as individual retreats and hikes when they were allowed by regulatory agencies. To our knowledge, no staff or guest has been infected with Covid-19.

Quaker Center faced a major financial crisis. Initially, a massive deficit of more than \$100,000 was projected for the 2020 fiscal year. Total user fees decreased from the budgeted amount of \$298,000 to an actual of \$82,000. Intensive efforts were undertaken to find additional sources of income to make up for the lost revenue. Quaker Center successfully applied for and received \$30,000 from round one of the federal Paycheck Protection Program. Multiple appeals for donations were sent out during the year. Individual Friends, Monthly Meetings and others generously responded with contributions of \$151,000, which was \$122,000 more than the more usual amount of \$29,000 in 2019. New streams of revenue were developed including additional individual/household retreat options and temporary housing rental. Multiple cost-cutting measures were undertaken. In 2020, total expenses were reduced by \$77,000 from the budgeted amount. When possible, capital expenditure was minimized and postponed. Quaker Center completed fiscal year 2020 with a real deficit of \$2,000 before accounting for an insurance settlement and a returnable grant. It had a positive cashflow for the year and continues to have adequate cash reserves.

The Board consciously maintained its staffing level at close to pre-pandemic levels to preserve the necessary infrastructure during the pandemic, to develop new initiatives and to prepare for an eventual in-person reopening. The staff remained quite busy with activities such as fire mitigation, on-line programs, fundraising and Quaker outreach efforts.

In addition to the Covid-19 pandemic, Quaker Center faced major environmental challenges. In August, the CZU Lightning Complex Fire burned part of the campus and destroyed the woodshed and 2000 feet of underground pipes from the major water source. Partly due to an active brush clearing program during the spring and early summer, none of the buildings were affected. Installation of new pipes is underway and should be completed before the summer. Because of the fire, all on-site activities ceased and staff had to evacuate the campus for several weeks. In January 2021, a potential debris flow, which fortunately did not occur, again led to a temporary evacuation by staff. Frequent power outages and several thefts of generators also plagued Quaker Center during the year.

In response to the cessation of large in-person group gatherings, Quaker Center initiated new activities. In April 2020, a Zoom video worship sharing program on Wednesday mornings was started. It has been successful and is regularly attended by about 20 people each week. In September, monthly online weekend Quaker programs on a variety of topics were initiated. They have been well received by participants. The week-long End of Year Retreat also took place successfully in an on-line format. Pivoting to an on-line format has required much creativity and hard work. However, the on-line format has allowed participation in programs by individuals who previously could not attend programs because of geographical, health or other reasons. Much discernment is being given to integration of this new technology in future programming when Quaker Center returns to in-person events.

In June, the Board formed an ad hoc Interim Use Committee to help the Co-Directors discern appropriate use of Quaker Center facilities during the ongoing pandemic. Since the summer youth Service & Art Camp and the family Work Camp had to be canceled because of the pandemic, an alternate program was developed. While following governmental Covid-19 safety guidelines, about a dozen former campers and camp staff volunteered their services for a week in July to work on various maintenance projects and to send "care packages" to the homebound campers. In September, a work-exchange arrangement was begun with two young Friends, who provided needed help with campus maintenance in exchange for housing at Orchard Lodge. Quaker Center has assisted the surrounding community by allowing use of the Redwood kitchen by a local chef, who prepares and then distributes meals to residents with food insecurity in Boulder Creek.

Quaker Center reached out to its stakeholders during the pandemic. From May to July, nearly 100 individuals participated in multiple on-line Threshing Sessions. Quaker and some non-Quaker participants from various backgrounds were invited to a visioning process in response to the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. The Threshing Sessions were enormously helpful to the Co-Directors and the Board in discerning the way forward. Much love for Quaker Center was expressed at these sessions. Participants reaffirmed the mission of Quaker Center as a spiritual resource for themselves and others.

Quaker Center has been blessed by both dedicated Staff and Board members, who have worked diligently to navigate the extraordinary challenges of the past year. As we look forward to the end of the pandemic and a reopening with in-person Quaker group gatherings and outside group rentals, we ask for your continuing support. We encourage you to attend the spiritually enriching programs. We seek qualified individuals to serve on the Board and its Committees. The financial situation will be as challenging in 2021 as it was in 2020. Because of the CZU fire, our insurance premium has increased by about \$22,000 or more than 2.5 times in the current year. Even when group in-person activities can hopefully resume in the latter half of the year, we anticipate markedly reduced revenue due to health safety needs to operate at 50% or less capacity. Please be generous in your contributions. We are also grateful for any bequests in your will or trust. Quaker Center aspires to continue its mission as a spiritual resource now and in the future for Friends and others in the Western United States.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Yang and Heather Levien, Co-Clerks

Ben Lomond Quaker Center Association

## Ben Lomond Quaker Center Annual Report Appendix: Financial Overview

### Balance Sheet (as of 12/31/2020, in dollars)

#### Assets

##### Current Assets

Checking/Savings	\$296,077
Accounts Receivable	\$3,321
Other Current Assets	\$11,210

<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$310,607</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$985,617</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,296,225</b>

#### Liabilities and Equity

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$12,772</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$1,283,453</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$1,296,225</b>

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### Profit and Loss 2020

#### Income

<b>Insurance Settlement</b>		<b>\$25,032</b>
Use Fees		
QC Programs	\$8,170	
Quaker Groups	\$2,397	
Non-Quaker Groups	\$57,103	
Personal Retreats	\$14,325	
<b>Total Use Fees</b>		<b>\$81,995</b>
Contributions		
Individuals	\$130,361	
Meetings	\$20,689	
Grants	\$47,586	
<b>Total Contributions / Grants</b>		<b>\$198,636</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		<b>\$3,008</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$308,671</b>

#### Expense

<b>Administrative/Office</b>	\$15,380
<b>Personnel</b>	\$144,190
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	\$86,694
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$246,264</b>
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME</b>	<b>\$62,408</b>

<b>Unrealized Capital Gans</b>	<b>\$20,956</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>(\$54,615)</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$28,748</b>