

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

November 1, 2021
to October 31, 2022



QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED. We need each other to face the overwhelming realities of the climate crises and to act on these concerns with love, faith, and reverence.

This year, we focused on being a supportive community for Friends, inspiring and empowering action while also providing a place for reflection and solace. Thank you for being a part of this work.



Hurricane Ian, Courtesy of NASA.

THIS YEAR

Every day we see painful evidence that climate change is happening sooner and more extremely than predicted.

We are also noticing greater awareness of Earthcare in our communities, including ecological grief for the fate of humanity, all living beings, and future generations.

This year we have all experienced the impacts of drought, extreme heat, flooding, wildfires, and biodiversity loss. We also recognize that many communities are facing a much more dire reality, acknowledging that the climate crisis exacerbates every vulnerability experienced by the world's marginalized. We are taking action to address injustices and learn, grow, and change together.

WHO WE ARE

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a Quaker-led organization that brings together Friends to work for ecological integrity with the living world and in right relationship with each other.

Our efforts stem from our sense of spirit, and our understanding that we are all related, all united and part of this world, and feeling called to act accordingly.




We offer


- » mutual support for the actions each of us takes in our own community and in our own lives;
- » educational and outreach programs and resources;
- » direct action that QEW encourages and supports;
- » a public Quaker voice on Earthcare and Environmental Justice.

SPREADING THE WORD IN 2022

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.



**QUAKER
EARTHCARE
WITNESS**



**BEFRIENDING
CREATION**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - VOL. 35 #03
JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

Gail Melix and Lewis Randa

A Native American Land Reparation Pledge

Reparations to Indigenous Peoples can take many forms. Through our work with Massachusetts' Peace Abbey, we have developed one action that might work well for others, the Native Land Reparation Pledge (NLRP). The pledge states one's intention to donate 1% of the sale price of our homes (when we sell) to the Indigenous tribe whose ancestral homeland we now own and from which we financially benefit.

The origins of the Native Land Reparation Pledge arose from the Quaker-inspired Native Land Preservation Action. In 2020, the Trump administration took the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's 321 acres of land out of trust. A reservation is key to self-governance, housing, health care, education, judicial services, and language reclamation. As a result, Friends gathered signatures to reinstate the tribe's land trust and sent them to the Department of the Interior. The action says, if our land is protected, then certainly the Mashpee Wampanoags' land should be. How could we accept otherwise?

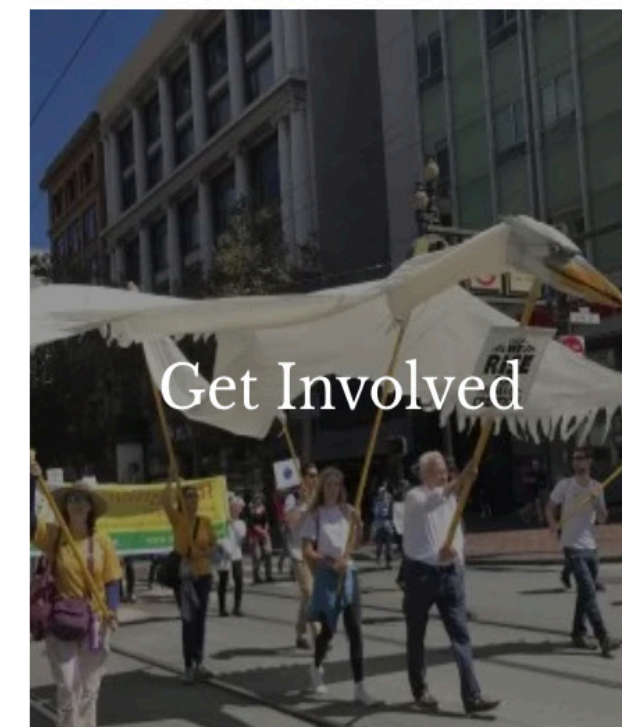
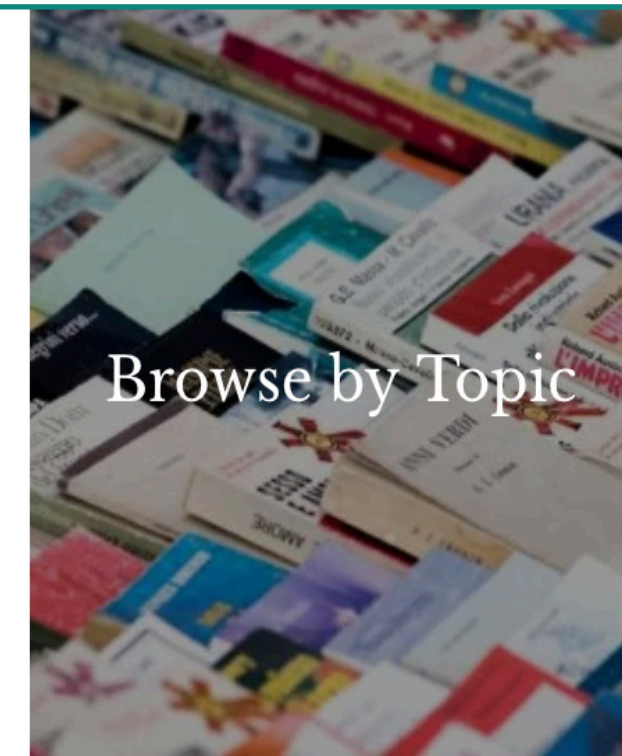
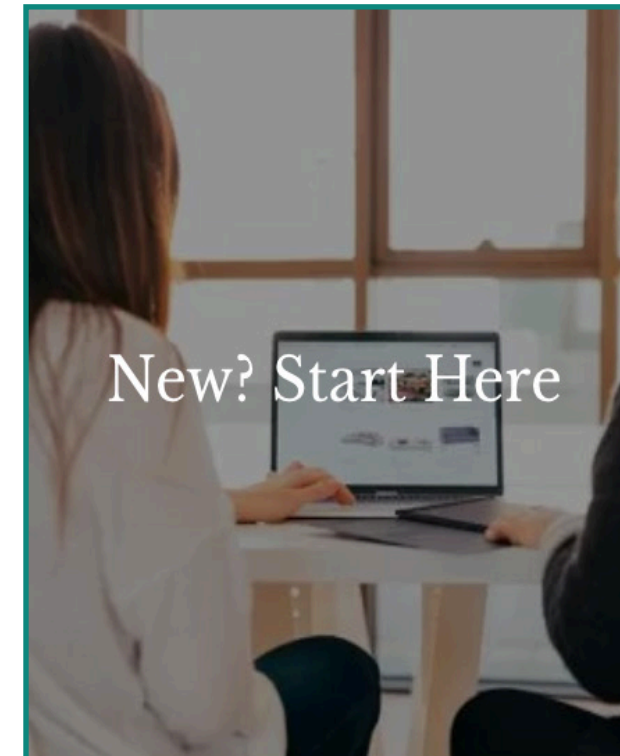
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Image Above: Popponesset, Mashpee, MA by Christopher Ryan.

We produced four issues of our newsletter to stimulate discussion and action, share insights, practical ideas, and news of our network.



The Publications Committee updated key print resources, like *Soil: Begin with the Beginning*, *Divestment as Lived Faith*, *Contemplative Action in the Time of Climate Change*, and *Eco-Justice*.

QEW staff, volunteers, and allies were featured in *Friends Journal's* May 2022 climate issue.

Our new website + social media offer resources and connection.



BRINGING EARTHCARE CONCERNS TO THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



We hosted presentations on eco-spirituality, environmental justice, activism, and population during the virtual Friends General Conference annual gathering.



We launched monthly online workshops, like “International Climate Policy: From Quiet Diplomacy to Youth Activism” with Kallan Benson (Fridays for Future USA Director and Friend from Annapolis, MD) and Lindsey Cook (QUNO Representative for Climate Change).



Through our QEW Presents! program, we connected speakers to monthly and yearly meetings to offer talks on a wide variety of Earthcare concerns.

Our staff and volunteers also presented workshops and talks at yearly and monthly meetings across North America.

The QEW Population Working Group also held monthly meetings, often featuring speakers, and prepared articles for publication.

PROVIDING ECO-SPIRITUAL SUPPORT

ONLINE WORSHIP SHARING

We host monthly worship sharing sessions to build community and deepen faith.

ECOLOGICAL GRIEF RESOURCES

Over 220 people registered for Hayley Hathaway and Gayle Matson's Ecological Grief workshop. They also launched a 10-week course on the topic.

ECO-SPIRITUALITY

Staff offered a workshop for Southeastern Yearly Meeting's Young Adult Friends on eco-spirituality.

118 people joined a 3-part discussion series on the book, *The Depth of Our Belonging: Mysticism, Physics and Healing* by Mary Conrow Coelho.

The Elizabeth Ann Bogert Memorial Fund for the Study and Practice of Christian Mysticism awarded Hayley Hathaway a grant to create a workshop on the connections between eco-spirituality and eco-justice.



43 people registered for Cai Quirk's workshop, *Naturally Beyond Binaries*.

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS

"The workshop worked well to help us access our eco-grief. We found the small group sharing experience to be profoundly moving."

"We love participating in Worship Sharing sessions, and have a great concern for environmental issues. We keep coming because we get encouragement from hearing others' stories and knowing all these people are doing some part of helping the planet and its inhabitants."

"Initially I joined the worship sharing to worship with Friends of like mind... It is very powerful and healing! Thank you for organizing it every month."

ONLINE EVENT: WORKSHOP OR WORSHIP

| | Date | Number of Registered Participants |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ecological Grief: Engaging with the Emotional Impacts of Climate Change | October 25, 2022 | 67 |
| For the Love of Earth: QEW talks on Eco-spirituality, Environmental Justice, Biodiversity, Population, and What does it all mean for Us. | October 22, 2022 | TBD |
| Online Meeting for Worship for Climate Action | October 7, 2022 | 49 |
| Ecological Grief: A 10-Step Course | October 6, 2022 | 14 |
| Worship in Action: Learning More about the Vanguard S.O.S Campaign & Earth Quaker Action Team's Upcoming Plans | October 3, 2022 | 33 |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Ben Lomond Quaker Center | September 20, 2022 | 35 |
| Ecological Grief: Engaging with the Emotional Impacts of Climate Change | August 25, 2022 | 156 |
| Naturally Beyond Binaries with Cai Quirk | July 14, 2022 | 43 |
| Racial Wealth Gap Follow-Up Session | June 21, 2022 | 59 |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Friends General Conference | May 26, 2022 | 49 |
| Racial Wealth Gap Simulation Experiment | May 17, 2022 | 139 |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Friends General Conference | April 28, 2022 | 51 |
| Divestment from Fossil Fuels – Vanguard Investments – A Plan from Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) | April 8, 2022 | Part of SC |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Friends General Conference | March 24, 2022 | 46 |
| International Climate Policy: From Quiet Diplomacy to Youth Activism | March 15, 2022 | 112 |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Friends General Conference | February 24, 2022 | 38 |
| New Story Book Discussion for the QEW Community | February 8, 2022 | 118 |
| Worship Sharing with Quaker Earthcare Witness & Friends General Conference | January 27, 2022 | 56 |



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We sent three observers to the COP26 in Glasgow and published articles about the UN climate conference. We are sending 4 observers to COP 27 (two in person and two online), and will include a report-back in future publications and/or forums.

We joined the global campaign to divest from asset manager Vanguard in collaboration with Earth Quaker Action Team and UK Friends.

QEWs Friends Committee on National Legislation Working Group drafted and submitted our priorities for FCNL's work with the 118th Congress.

QEW participates in a monthly meeting of international Quaker organizations working on climate.

QEW staff spoke at the Friends World Committee for Consultation's midwest climate consultation with 40 Friends from 14 Yearly Meetings on "Spirit-led Action on Climate Change."

We continue our work to consider racial and environmental justice in all of our actions, including in our partnerships with other organizations and coalitions.

LOCAL EARTH CARE PROJECTS

Each year, QEW offers mini-grants to Quaker meetings, churches, and other Quaker groups to support hands-on projects that foster Earthcare. In this fiscal year, we supported:

Monteverde Friends Meeting and School (Costa Rica)
Solar Array Inverter Replacement: Funds to replace failed inverter for solar array for Friends School

Albuquerque Friends Meeting (Fellbaum Health Center Landscaping, Kaimosi, Kenya): Landscaping to divert rainwater at Fellbaum Community Health Center, Kaimosa, Kenya

Kwibuka Yearly Meeting (Friends Church of Burundi)
Tree Nursery for Reforestation: Establish tree nursery to support reforestation efforts

Newtown Square Friends Meeting (Pennsylvania):
Wildflower Garden

A photograph of two women standing next to a solar inverter mounted on a wall. The woman on the left is wearing a dark t-shirt and has her hands raised in a gesture. The woman on the right is wearing a striped shirt and light blue pants, also with her hands raised. The inverter is a white unit with a digital display and various cables connected to it. A dark blue banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

Support QEW Mini-Grants!

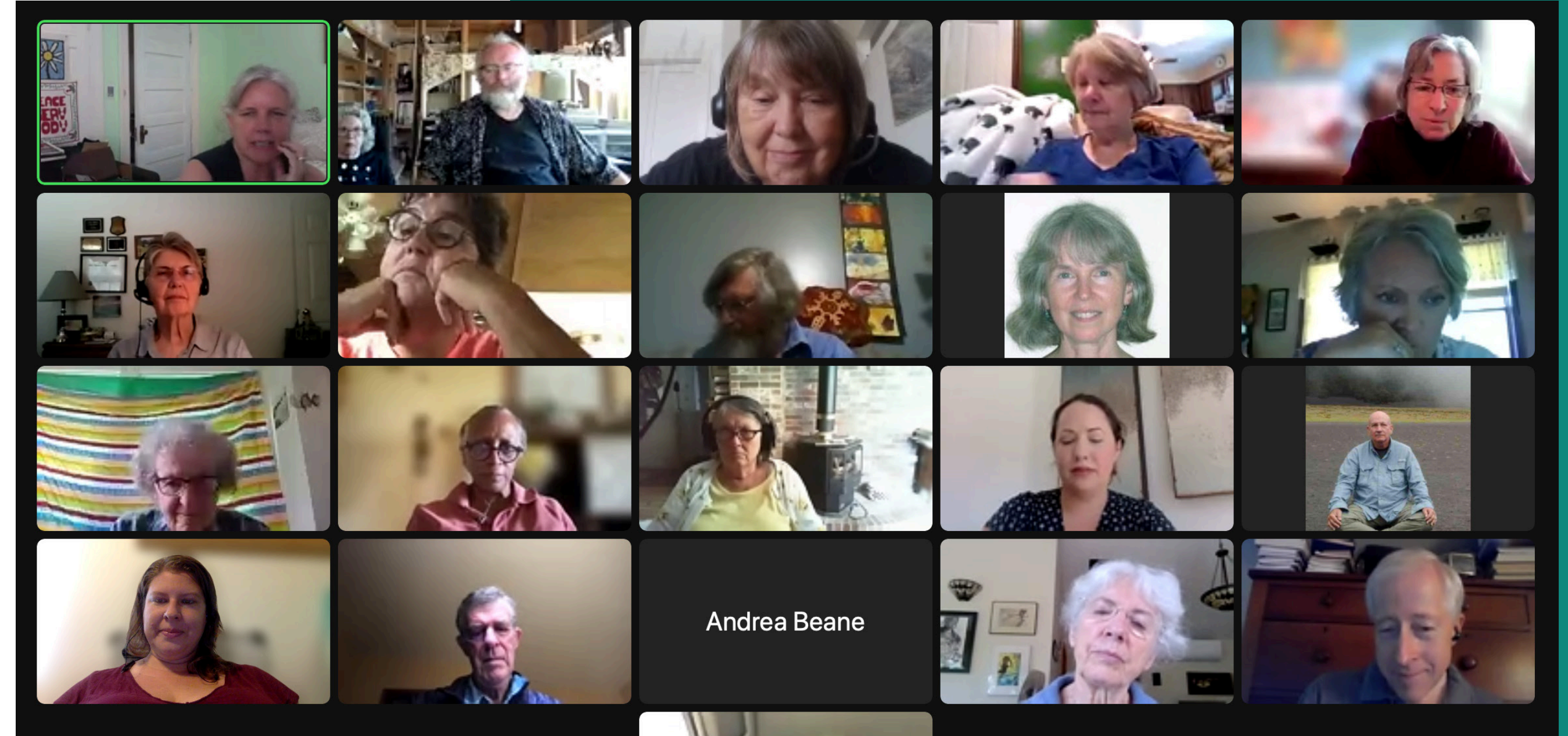
STEERING COMMITTEE

QEW is guided by a 50-person steering committee that uses Quaker process and decision-making, which includes about 20 at-large members and 30 nominated representatives from Quaker yearly meetings in North America.

Steering Committee members serve on committees, visit monthly and yearly meetings on behalf of QEW and share information, and help guide the organization's work.

We held two virtual steering committee meetings on April 7-10 and October 20-23.

We welcomed Brad Stocker and Beverly Ward as co-clerks of QEW. They will serve for this fiscal year and the following fiscal year.



STAFF

QEW's day-to-day work is done by staff. We expanded our team in mid-2021 to enhance our outreach and programming. Our staff consists of General Secretary, Shelley Tanenbaum, Co-Director, Hayley Hathaway, and Technical Administrator, Emily Carroll. We also have part-time bookkeeper, Holly Wilder.

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

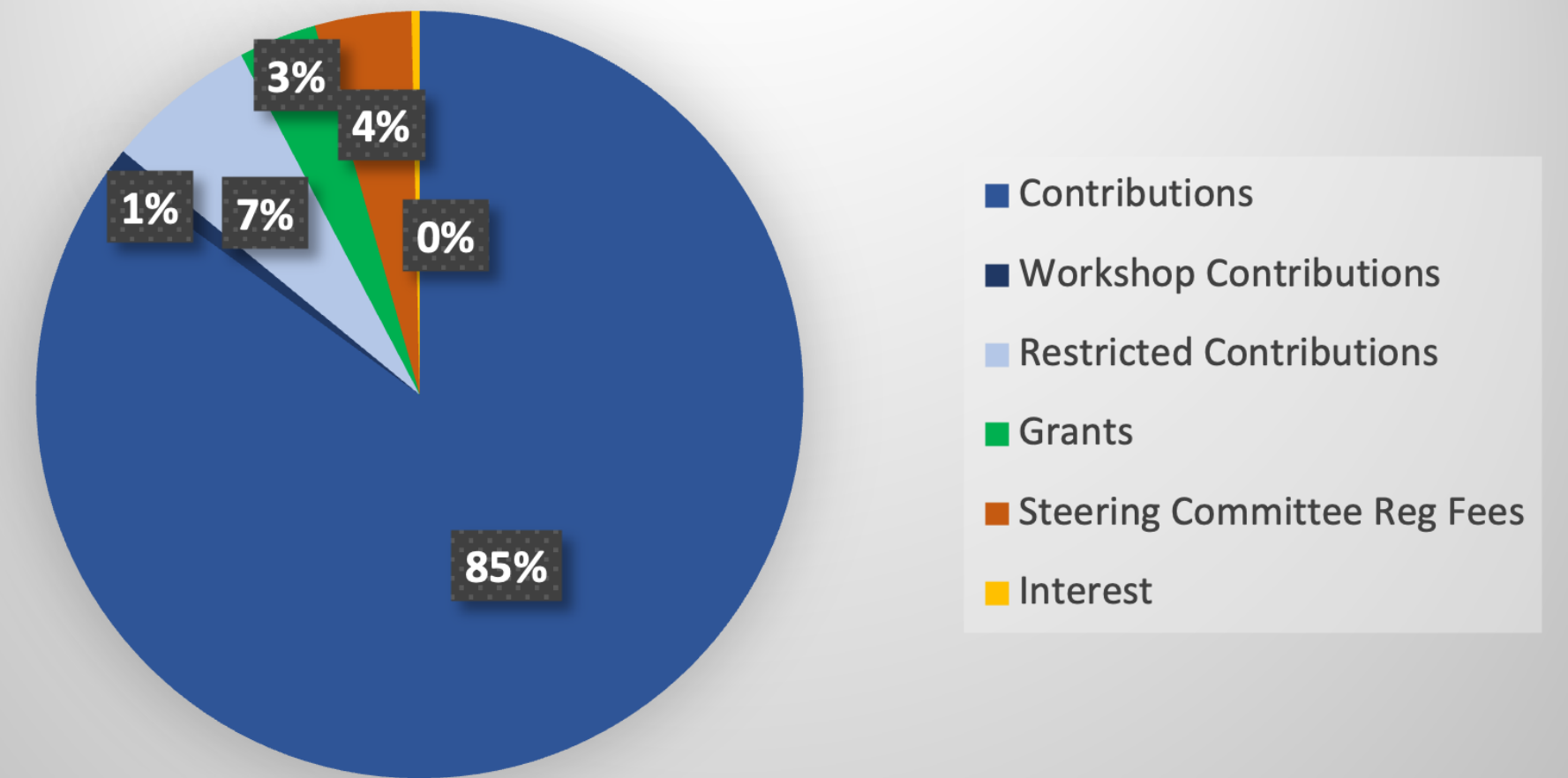
This fiscal year (November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022), most of our expenditures went to:

- staff time
- publication costs (printing, postage, editing),
- outreach (visits to monthly and yearly meetings, and events)
- and maintaining our network (Steering Committee meetings, conference calls, database maintenance).

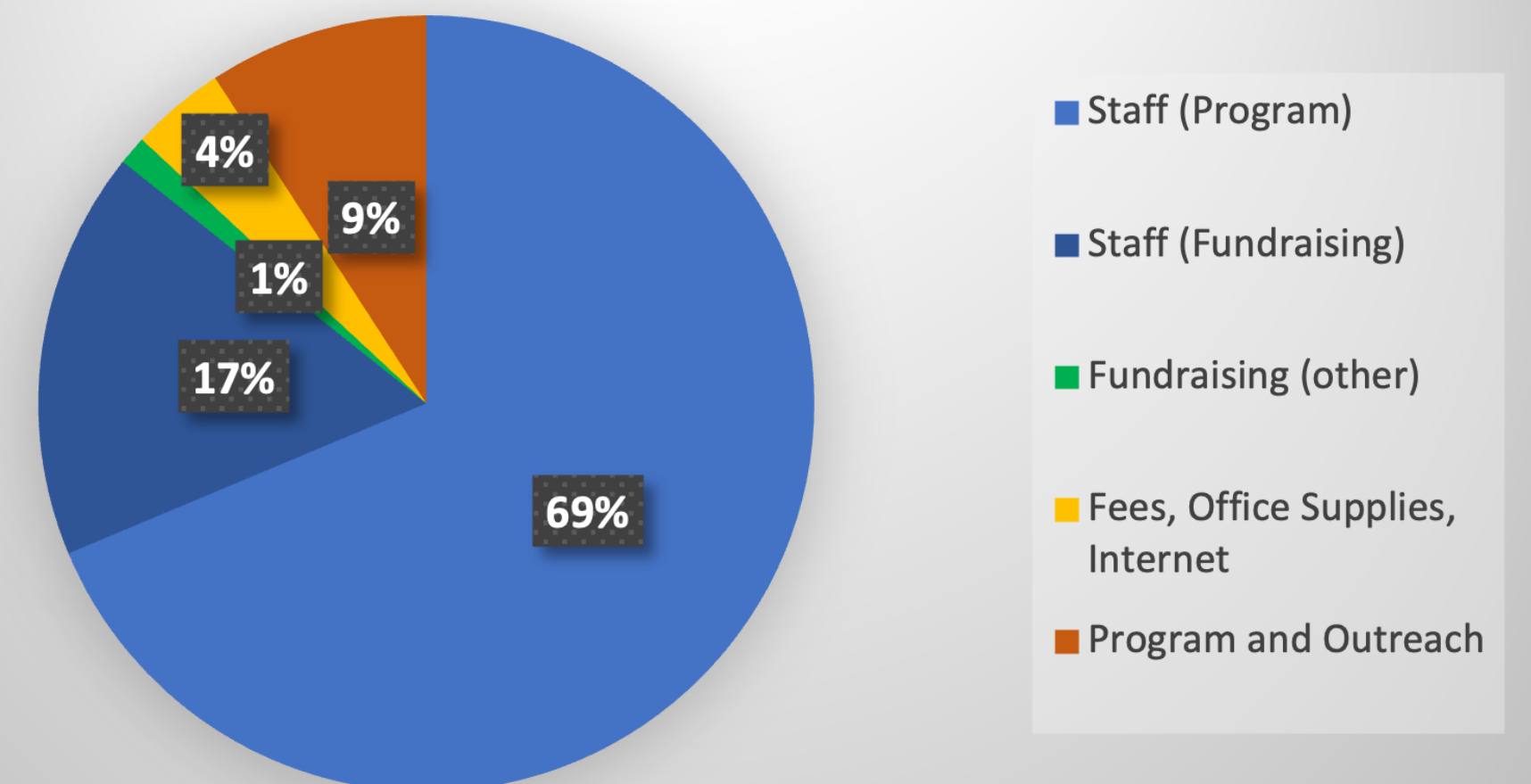
We spend about 10% of our budget on fundraising (15% of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal).

Due to the pandemic, most of our travel was converted to video conferences, including our two Steering Committee meetings, significantly lowering these expenses.

Income 2021-22 (\$160,750)



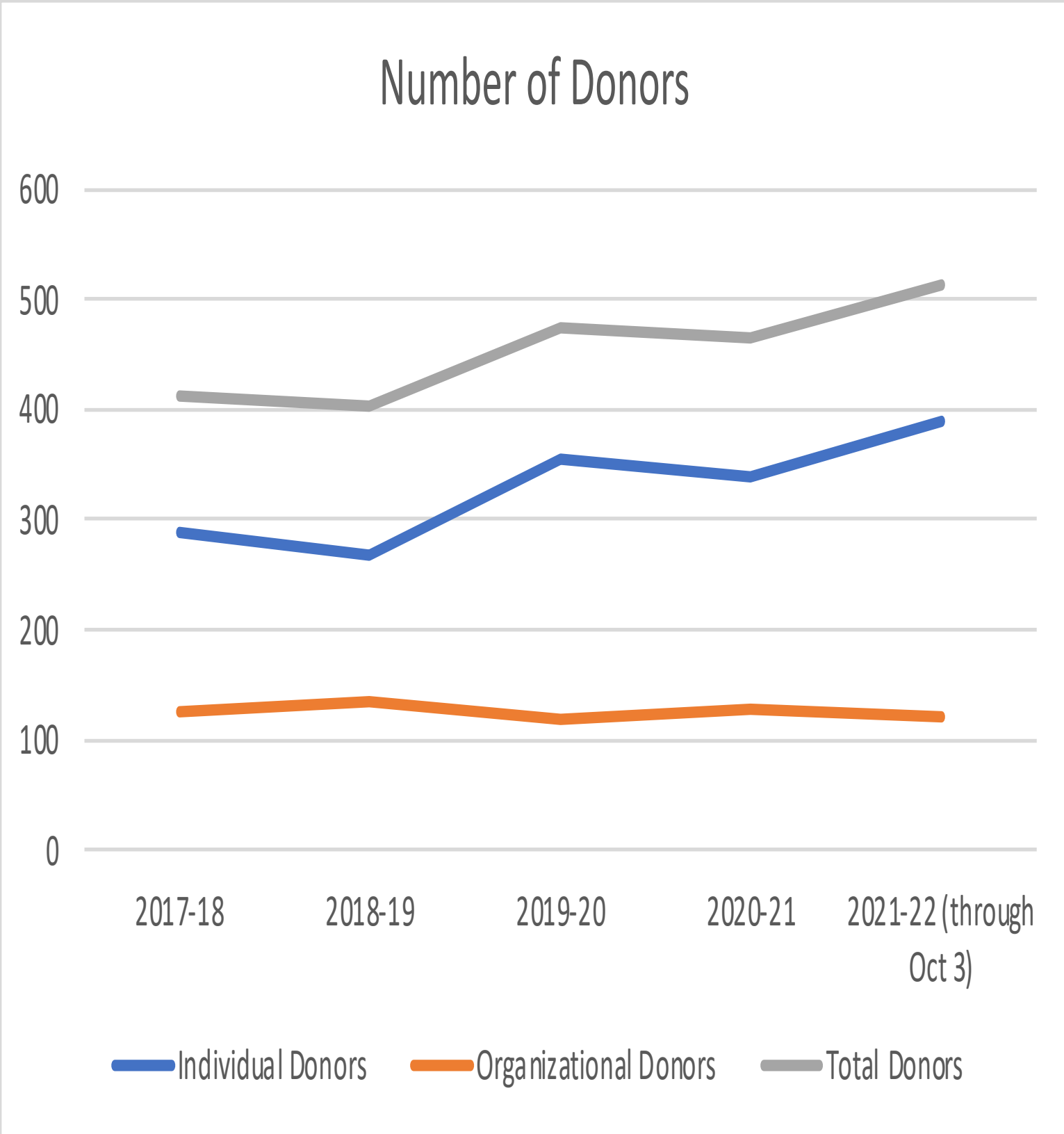
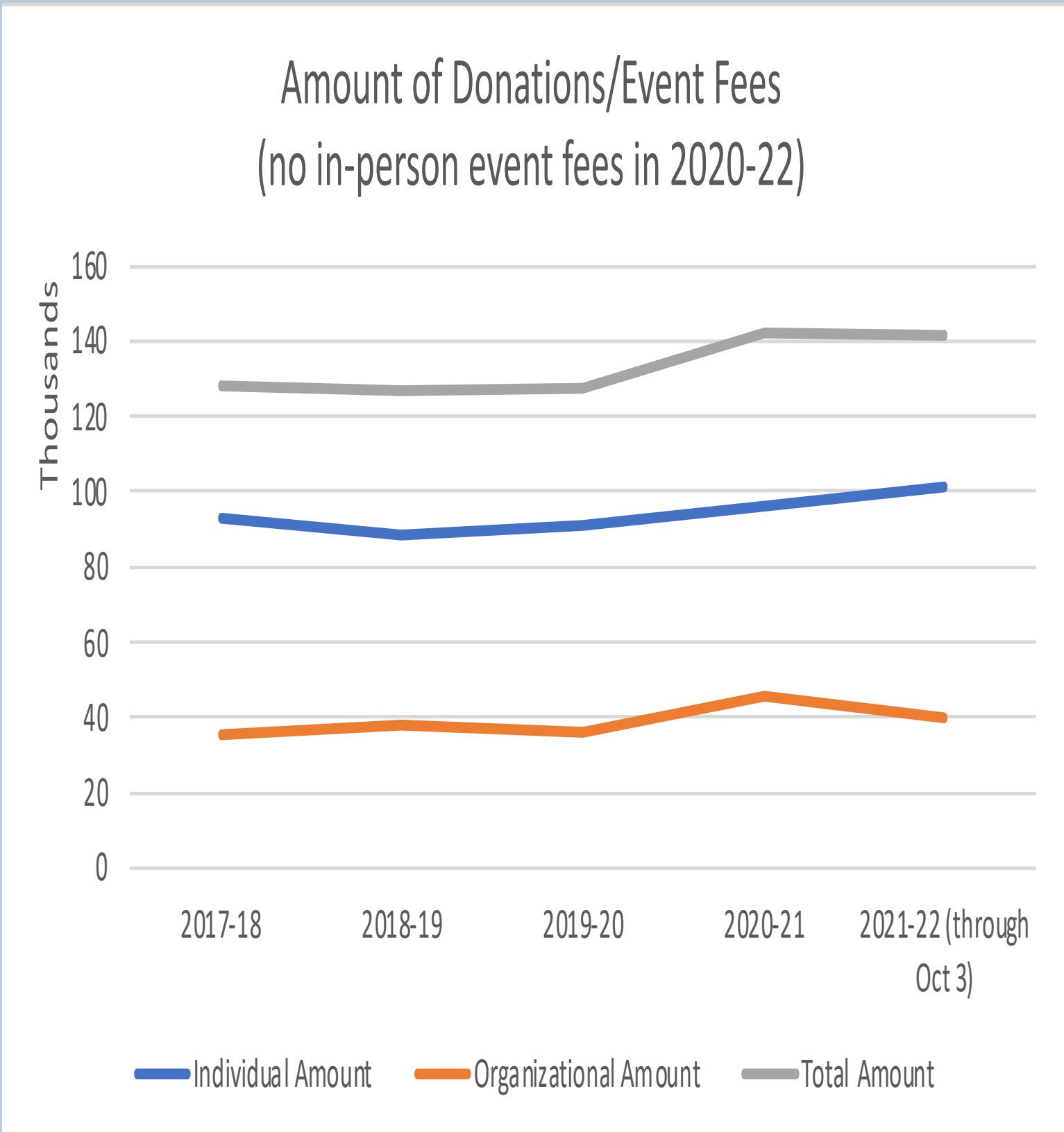
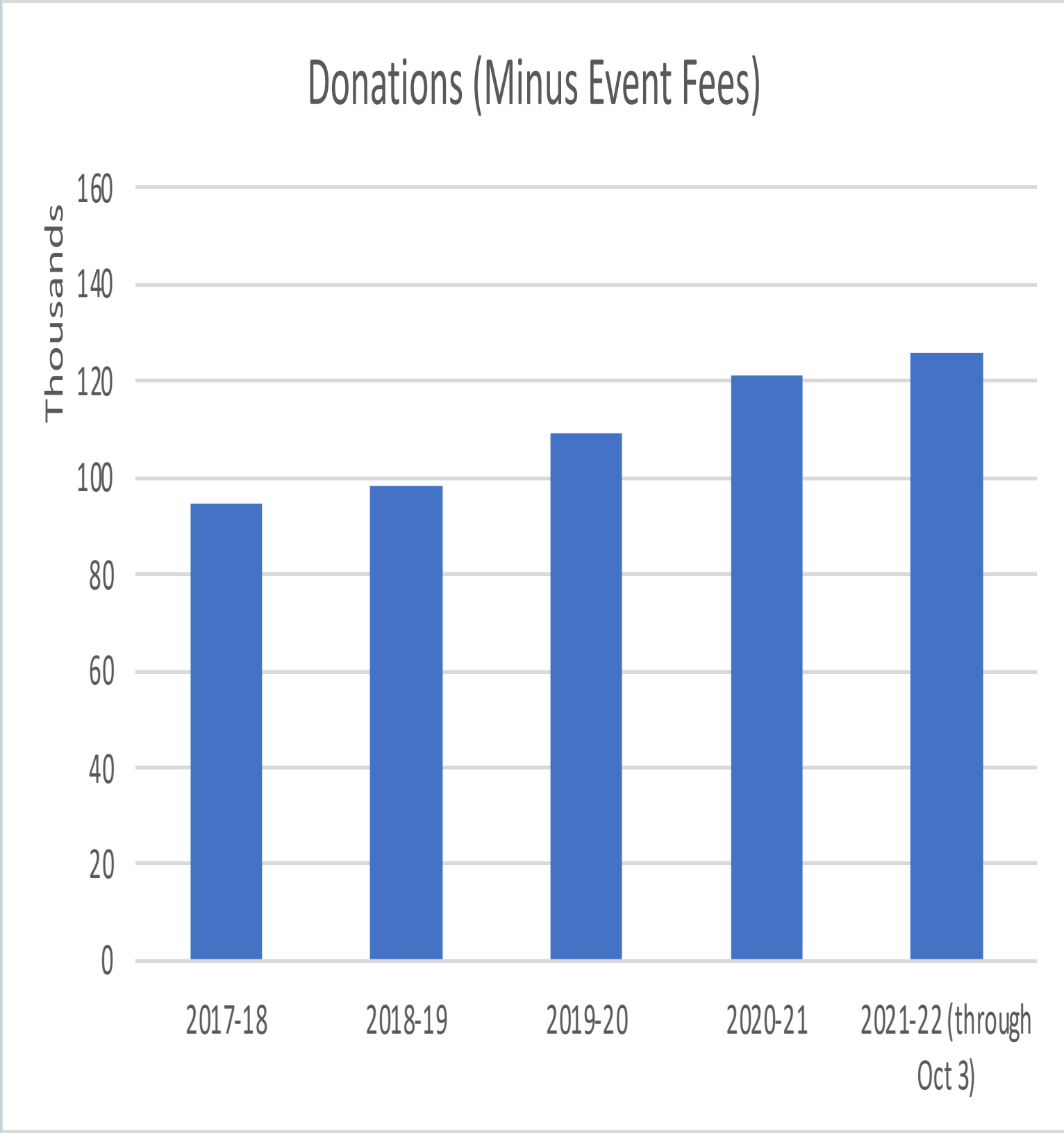
Expenses 2021-22 (\$169,839)



QEW staff have worked to improve our fundraising over the past five years to help us to reach more Friends with our resources, offer impactful programming, and pay staff fairer wages and offer better benefits. This year we used some of our reserves for additional expenses.

FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT

Nearly all of our income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and from individuals. This year, we're grateful for 53 new individual donors & 512 total donors.



WHAT'S NEXT?

We envision a new way of relating to our environment and to each other based in mutuality, care, and reverence. This vision is being shared more and more in the Society of Friends and the world.

In 2023, we plan to work to:

- » Serve as a hub for Friends working on environmental concerns through our website, events, and resources,
- » Offer more support and connection to monthly and yearly meetings,
- » Host monthly online workshops, worship-sharing, and other forums that encourage Friends' faithful action,
- » Produce a quarterly publication, BeFriending Creation, and highlight stories of Friends' engagement and environmental justice,
- » Continue our work on Climate Grief, supporting Friends as they seek way forward
- » Speak out publicly to support Friends actions on Earthcare,
- » Offer mini-grants for hands-on local Earthcare projects.

THANK YOU!

Grounded spiritually in our care for the Earth, we can face unprecedented planetary threats together.

