

Letter to A.J. Muste Memorial Institute Supporters
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The real value of the Muste Institute can't be measured by the amount of a grant or the cost of a month's rent, however. A \$1,200 grant to a small local group like the Lynchburg (VA) Peace Education Center, for example, is worth tenfold in encouragement--and the Institute supports about 25 such organizations annually. How can we measure the impact of our pamphlet, "Some Writings on War Tax Resistance" on an individual wrestling with his or her conscience about personal complicity in American militarism Or, what does it mean to a group like Paper Tiger, which supplies alternative programming to cable TV stations, to have a convenient place to work, to meet, to edit and store video tapes?

In addition to supporting the projects of other groups, the Institute sponsors its own. The Youth, Militarism and Alternatives Project was formed last year to bring groups working on countering military recruitment in schools together to explore ways to cooperate and share resources. The Muste Institute sponsored the Project directly and assisted with financial management, fundraising and planning. The YMA Project began with a conference in Chicago in June, 1988, which brought over 150 representatives from dozens of groups, for workshops, networking and development of shared resources. In addition, the Institute's Board also contributed \$5,000 to the Project's expenses.

One of the reasons that the Institute can accomplish so much with just one staff member and so limited an annual budget is the hard work of the 23-member Board of Directors. Members meet as a body five or six times a year to make grants, create program, and provide direction to the staff. They also serve on subcommittees that implement Board decisions and help with the day-to-day operations of the Institute and the Peace Pentagon. Our chair for the last three years, George Willoughby, is stepping aside. A longtime Quaker activist, George has provided the Institute with sound and creative leadership, and we offer him great thanks for the time and energy he has given us. Linnea Capps, a public health physician and former national chair of the War Resisters League, who recently spent two years delivering primary medical care to the people of El Salvador, is the new Chair. We welcome her and look forward to benefiting from her insight and enthusiasm.

It is the goal of the Muste Institute to replace the strong, steady hand A.J. Muste himself held out to guide and support those working for justice and peace. Just as A.J. could touch but one person at a time, the Institute offers help on a case-by-case basis. While success may seem limited, the flourishing of a peace group in Burnsville, North Carolina, sustains Institute supporters as much as a smile from a conscientious objector nourished A.J.

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