

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



FORAGE CENTER
for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian
Education, Inc.

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A Message from the President

As president of the Forage Center, I'm pleased to share with you our 2024 Annual Report. We have been issuing reports since 2020, so that our supporters and alumni can be provided with insights into our work. Many small not-for-profits do not take the time to provide such reporting, but we believe as a 501c3 corporation we have an obligation to share with you our financial and programmatic state of affairs.

We were formed as a not-for-profit in 2015, as such, last year we completed 10 years of service. I'm proud of the work we have done during this period in educating, training, and raising awareness of humanitarian needs around the world, and advancing peacebuilding practices.

I am pleased with the work we have accomplished this past year. In July, we held our 3-day annual Coastal Promise field exercise for graduate students from George Mason University, University of North Carolina/Greensboro, University of North Carolina/Wilmington, and Stockton University. This was the fourth field exercise we have held at our training site in Swanton, Maryland. We also hosted the 12th Annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar held in October and November attended by nearly 80 U.S. and international based educators and students. We also continued our Forage Center Conversations, hosting an event on storytelling and narrative.

In September we welcomed our second class of Paul Forage Fellows, with Nikki Stinson and Emily Hall joining us. They are learning about our work and the field, and making important contributions to our efforts. We also saw significant and beneficial staff and board changes in 2024. We welcomed new board member Sarah Doerrer and program and administrative manager Heather Payne. They bring significant qualifications in the field, and we look forward to their contributions to our important work in 2025.

With conflict ranging around the world, as well as the increasing prevalence of natural disasters, qualified humanitarian professionals are needed more than ever before. In 2025, we recommit ourselves to this important work including advancing opportunities and serving all individuals regardless of their ethnic, cultural, religious, political, or sexual identity. Please join us in empowering emerging humanitarians.



All the best for 2025,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Smith".

David J. Smith, J.D., M.S.
President



About the Forage Center



The Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education is a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation that provides educational opportunities for students, educators, and professionals working in environments where peacebuilding and humanitarian responses are needed.

The late Dr. Paul Forage recognized the need for realistic and evidence-based training in humanitarian and emergency management practices. His first programs were offered for college students in South Florida in the 2000s. Today, the Forage Center — operating from our training site in Western Maryland — continues his legacy with educational, public, and professional groups.

What We Do

- Develop and run live scenario programs for higher education and professional audiences designed to improve the skills and knowledge base of those working in conflict, disasters, and other complex emergencies
- Offer educational programs for colleges and universities, professional groups, and the general public on peacebuilding and humanitarian issues
- Consult with professional groups, academia, non-governmental organizations, and governments on the best practices for working in complex emergencies

2024 Summary



Paul Forage Fellows

The Forage Center continued the Paul Forage Fellows Program this past year as a means of continuing to support professional development and provide career opportunities for past participants who have shown potential for continuing in the humanitarian and peacebuilding space.

Peacebuilding Seminar

The Forage Center hosted the 12th annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar. Over 80 students and faculty from 25 universities participated.



12th Annual
Community College
Peacebuilding Seminar

Field Exercise

Our Coastal Promise Maryland exercise was a huge success.

- We had a total of 40 staff, volunteers, and students.
- We uniquely incorporated a holistic approach, emphasizing personal wellness alongside professional development.



New Board Members & Staff

We have had several new staff join the Forage Center this year:

- **Board Member:** Dr. Sarah Doerrer
- **Program and Administrative Manager:** Heather Payne
- **Program Specialists:** Naomi Davis, Josh Price, Katreena Blazewicz, and Chenqi Shi
- **Forage Fellows:** Emily Hall and Nikki Stinson

Financial Statement

Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

Assets

Total Assets: \$10,277.59
Liabilities: \$0
Opening Balance Equity: \$9,031.54
Retained Earnings: \$1,246.05
Net Revenue: \$0
Total Equity: \$10,277.59
Total Liabilities and Equity: \$10,277.59

Revenue

Amazon Smile: \$65.80
Program Fees: \$4,380.91
Individual Donations: \$6,436.78
Gross Revenue: \$10,883.49

Expenditures

Contractors: \$4,540
Cost of Labor: \$5,190
Insurance: \$1,262
Meals; Entertainment: \$191.20
Office/General Administrative: \$43.50
Travel: \$1,101.12
Uncategorized Expenditures: \$315.90
Total Expenditures: \$12,643.72

Plans for 2025



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION. We will strive to provide an environment that fosters inclusiveness, integrity, and credibility within our staff, volunteer base, and the communities we serve. The humanitarian practices we seek to advance require us to recognize oppression and the suppression of human rights. Our training site in Maryland occupies the former home of the Massawomek and other Indigenous people, and in 2025 we renew our commitment to contributing 10% of our net revenue from any programs we offer to Indigenous causes.

PROGRAMS. Our annual multi day in-person field exercise will be held at our training site in Western Maryland June 2025. A Forage Center Conversation was held in February on racism in education. Finally, we will soon begin work around our 13th Annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar, to be held in October/November 2025.

PARTNERING. In 2025, the Forage Center will continue to explore partnering with other similar organizations involved in training and education to offer programming.

FUNDRAISING & GRANT SEEKING. In 2025, there will be a major effort to raise funds to support our work and seek grants to programming.

Company Profile

The Forage Center has seven board members: President David J. Smith, Vice President Sarah Forage-Lough, Treasurer Cindy Epperson, Secretary Matt Collette, Peter Reynolds, Paz Magat, David Nitsch, and Sarah Doerrer.

The board is governed by a set of bylaws drafted at the establishment of the organization and guided by a strategic plan updated every 3–5 years. The board cannot exceed 10 members or fall below three. New members are nominated and elected by existing board members and serve three-year terms. Members hold an annual board meeting and three quarterly board meetings each year. A quorum of at least 50% of the board is required to vote at meetings.

The Forage Center has a mostly volunteer staff. Staff include Jess Bonnan-White, Chelsea Cornwell, Christy McGuire, Lena Choudhary, Sydna Cooper, Will Muehl, Ninette Irabaruta, Logan Varker, Heather Payne, Joshua Price, Katreena Blazwiecz, Naomi Davis, and Chenqi Shi. In addition, two Forage Fellows - Emily Hall and Nikki Stinson - receive a small stipend. There is one regularly paid staff member, program and administrative manager, Heather Payne.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

