

FORAGE CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Forage Center for
Peacebuilding and
Humanitarian Education, Inc.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

As President of the Forage Center, I have had the privilege of seeing graduate students and professionals expand their knowledge of peacebuilding and humanitarian education and efforts. And I've seen Forage Center staff time and again create unparalleled and innovative programming with limited resources. As a result, our programs have impacted real-world situations by preparing emerging humanitarians with the tools and training necessary to be effective change agents. 2022 was no different.



In 2022 we continued our Forage Center Conversations webinar series with three discussions focused on sustainability in disaster response, humanitarian career pathways, and faith-based work; hosted our 10th annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar; welcomed 10 new graduate students to our simulation alumni roster following our 4-day, immersive field exercise; implemented a land acknowledgement as part of our diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging goals; and continued to build and strengthen our staff.

We owe our success to the support of our donors, volunteers, guest speakers, the students who engage in our programs, and the dedication of our staff. And while we had plenty to celebrate in 2022 as an organization, we also celebrated our staff's professional accomplishments - leading seminars, guest speaking, creating and managing humanitarian education and training programs, deployments, and field work. These efforts not only build the Forage Center expertise and create an even stronger foundation for our work, but they create lasting change for people around the world.

Our work in 2023 will be guided by our renewed strategic goals: sustain organizational and financial operations beyond 2026; engage and strengthen our reach; and amplify our efforts by becoming story-driven and clearly defining our role as a peacebuilding and humanitarian education and training organization.

This report shares highlights of our collective accomplishments, innovative approaches, and provides a look at what's in store for 2023. Please join us in empowering emerging humanitarians.

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

President



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



In June 2022, the Forage Center held a four-day live simulation at our site in Western Maryland. Ten graduate students from three universities (George Mason University in Virginia, American University in Washington, D.C. and University of Massachusetts/Boston) attended the immersive simulation designed to test their ability to apply humanitarian principles in unfamiliar contexts. The new alumni join over 500 U.S. and international undergraduate and graduate students who have participated in Forage Center exercises over the last 22 years. Read more [here](#).

In September, participants of the June event joined the Forage Center's David J. Smith for a panel discussion, [*The Intersection of Peacebuilding and Humanitarianism*](#), where they shared their experiences participating in the Coastal Promise field simulation.

- We held three thoughtful discussions around important topics affecting the humanitarian field in our Forage Center Conversations series:
- [Sustainability in Disaster Response – Understanding the Progression of Vulnerability](#) (Sept. 23)
- [Humanitarian Career Pathways Supporting Refugees in the U.S.](#) (Oct. 28)
- [Haiti, Tearfund, & Faith-Based Work](#) (Nov. 18)

The Forage Center also hosted the [10th Annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar](#), held virtually on three consecutive weekends in October and November. The 2022 seminar brought together over 40 faculty, administrators, and students from around the U.S. to consider issues in peacebuilding, human rights, social justice, international affairs, conflict, and nonviolence.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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Forage Center for Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Education

Statement of Financial Position
For the Period Ending December 31, 2022

ASSETS

Total Assets	9479
Liabilities	0
Opening Balance Equity	6470
Retained Earnings	2006
Net Revenue	1003
Total Equity	9479
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$9,479

REVENUE

Amazon Smile	59
Program Fee	4782
Individual Donations	10534
Gross Revenue	\$15,375

EXPENDITURES

Contractors	4312
Cost of Labor	2275
Insurance	1261
Meals & Entertainment	51
Office/General Administrative Expenditures	3294
Rent & Lease	525
Travel	2035
Uncategorized Expenditure	619
Total Expenditures	\$14,372

The Forage Center received generous donations from board members and the public in 2022. These donations helped us run our programs and pay financial obligations. The Forage Center operates on a small budget and has historically spent all of its money on programmatic activities.

We continue to pledge donating 10% of net revenue (after expenses) from programs held at our training site in Western Maryland to Indigenous causes. Our training site occupies the traditional home of the Massawomeck and other Indigenous people, and we are grateful to work, live, and educate here.



The Forage Center has big goals for 2023 - namely in collaborating with like-minded organizations, expanding our reach, and continuing to develop our innovative programming and advance progressive and inclusive approaches to our work.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We 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 2023 we renew our commitment to contributing 10% of our net revenue from any programs we offer there to Indigenous causes.

PROGRAMS

Our annual multi day, in-person field exercise will be held at our training site in Western Maryland April 20-23.

In late May 2023 we anticipate hosting a train-the-trainer program for Sauvons la Vie, a Togo based NGO. The three-day event will be held at George Mason University.

We will continue to offer host our Forage Center Conversations in 2023, though the format may change slightly to allow for reaching a broader audience.

Finally, we have already begun work around our 11th Annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar, to be held in October-November 2023.

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COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

In 2023 we seek to enhance our online presence with an updated website and broader communications efforts. We will also look at hosting humanitarian networking and fundraising events, launching a best practices series, and much more.

CONSULTING

In 2022, we partnered with the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies to develop a virtual humanitarian simulation for the university's online master's degree in humanitarian assistance. Building on this partnership, in 2023 we will look at universities and organizations where we could make an impact by offering one-off programming.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

In 2022 we began an Advisory Council; the work is meaningful and necessary to reach our collaboration and outreach goals. In 2023 we aim to solidify the Advisory Council and set goals and objectives with council members.

ALUMNI BOARD

Our annual field exercise alumni have gone on to join humanitarian organizations around the world. In 2023 we will create an Alumni Board to build on relationships forged at exercises and leverage alumni experience and networks to expand and strengthen the Forage Center's outreach and core programming.



COMPANY PROFILE



The Forage Center has seven board members: President David J. Smith, Vice President Sarah Lough, Treasurer Doda Johnson, Secretary Matt Collette, Cindy Epperson, Armen Gregorian, and Peter Reynolds.

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 (last updated in December 2022). 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 led by director of education & training Jess Bonnan-White and program manager Chelsea Cornwell. There are seven program specialists on staff: Christy McGuire, Lena Choudhary, Sydna Cooper, Will Muehl, Ninette Irabaruta, Logan Varker, and Heather Payne. There is one paid staff member, administrative manager Priscilla Briones.