

FORAGE CENTER ANNUAL REPORT 2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As president of the Forage Center, I'm pleased to share with you our 2023 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 you are entitled to know about our financial and programmatic state of affairs.

This past year has been an active one for the Forage Center. We held two successful field exercises. In April, we held our 3-day annual Coastal Promise exercise for graduate students from George Mason University and American University. This was the third field exercise we have held at our training site in Swanton, Maryland. In addition, we were invited by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida to hold a one-day exercise in October for students in the homeland security and international affairs program. This was our first large scale program with undergraduate students. Our third major program was our virtual 11th Annual Community College Peacebuilding Seminar held in October and November. In all our face-to-face programming we continue to engage in appropriate public health practices to protect our student participants and staff.

A major initiative in 2023 was the establishment of the Paul Forage Fellows Program. We have long wanted to create an opportunity for student participants to continue to engage with our work and offer support for their professional interests in humanitarianism and peacebuilding. This program has provided that opportunity. We look forward to a new class of fellows starting in the fall 2024.

We also saw several significant and beneficial staff and board changes in 2023. We welcomed new board members Paz Magat and David Nitsch. They bring significant qualifications in the field, and we look forward to their contributions to our important work in 2024. In addition, Taylor Goodrich joined as our administrative specialist.

Humanitarian education is needed now more than ever. Conflicts and disaster abound where trained professionals are needed. In 2024, we will continue to work to advance opportunities and learning for those wishing to commit to supporting those affected by war and natural disasters. Please join us in empowering emerging humanitarians.

Very truly yours,

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 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



2023 SUMMARY

Paul Forage Fellows

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

Field Exercises

In 2023 the Forage Center held two major field exercise. Students from George Mason University and American University attended the April exercise held in Swanton, Maryland. Over 30 role players, student participants, and staff attended the event which was held over 3-days. This included students from Allegany College of Maryland who acted as role players, continuing the Forage Center's commitment to work with community colleges. Local press coverage included articles in the *Garrett County Republican*, *Community College Daily*, and *Cumberland Times-News*. In addition, Josh Price, a Forage Fellow, wrote a piece about his experiences as both a participant in 2022 and role player in 2023. In addition, in October the Forage Center partnered with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to host a one-day program with 15 undergraduate students. This was the Forage Center's first program in Florida since 2017.

Annual Community College Peacebuilding Seminar

The Forage Center again sponsored the Annual Community College Peacebuilding Seminar. This was the 11th year for this virtual event. The event attracted nearly 60 participants, both faculty and students.

New Board Members and Staff

The Forage Center welcomed two new board members Paz Magat, and David Nitsch. Both bring tremendous insight and experience that can assist with Forage Center initiatives. The Forage Center also welcomed Taylor Goodrich as its new administrative specialist.

Media

Besides the media from our field exercises, Forage Center president David J. Smith was interviewed in December by Alaraby TV about the crisis in Gaza and Israel.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023

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
Total Liabilities and Equity: 10,277.59

REVENUE

Amazon Smile: 65
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



OUTLOOK FOR 2024

For 2024, the Forage Center plans to continue to build its capacity and outreach including relaunching its Forage Center Conversations, hosting a spring/summer field exercise, and continuing the Forage Fellows Program.

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 2024 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 July 12-14. A Forage Center Conversation was held in February on personal violence and hope to continue more conversations. Finally, we will soon begin work around our 12th Annual National Community College Peacebuilding Seminar, to be held in October November 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH. In 2024 we seek to enhance our online presence with broader communications efforts. We will also look at hosting humanitarian networking and fundraising events, launching a best practices series, and much more.

PARTNERING. In April Forage Center staff and board members will attend the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) annual 2-week long field exercise in Andover, Massachusetts. It is hoped that a partnership relationship could be created with the HHI program.

ADVISORY COUNCIL. In 2022 we began an Advisory Council. In 2024 we aim to solidify the Advisory Council and set goals and objectives with council members.

ALUMNI SURVEY. A major survey of alumni will be launched in the spring to assess how the Forage Center experience has impacted our graduates, reestablish connections, and look for opportunities.

