

# Right Sharing of World Resources Stamp Program at Indianapolis First Friends

An occasional newsletter edited by Amy Perry

In December 2017, Indy First Friends assumed the role of stamp processor, which Earl Walker had fulfilled faithfully for 8 years. Jackie Stilwell brought many packages of stamps from the RSWR office. The packages had been accumulating since April 2017. I stored this backlog on the stage.



**Eight-month backlog of stamps received by First Friends**

Stamps began to arrive directly from donors. I started sorting and sending them to the three dealers, learning from phone conversations with Earl and from emails and phone conversations with the dealers.

In early 2018 a team of volunteers started sorting once a month: Linda Lee, Ed Morris, Dan Rains, and Norma Wallman. Mary Blackburn, Carol Donahue, and our youth group also helped. In March Brad Jackson joined us. Brad, a collector himself, added expertise and a desire to seek out more markets and to sort stamps at home. Brad was so enthusiastic and knowledgeable that we now sort every Monday, and he agreed to be co-leader of the team. In April we moved the stamps to the former choir room. The stamps and supplies were more organized and accessible. Hooray!



**Backlog in April 2018—same number of stamps, but organized and accessible.**



**L to R: Linda Lee, Norma Wallman, Brad Jackson.**



**Brad doing what he loves: sorting. (Norma Wallman photo)**

I had worked with RSWR to set up processes and an online spreadsheet. This enables RSWR and us to share donor information, postage spent by donors and by First Friends, and amounts paid by stamp dealers. Jody Coffin Long enters the donor information and donor postage into the spreadsheet on her own at home.



**L to R: Amy Perry, Jody Coffin Long.**

By late August we not only had kept up with the stamps that came in every week, but also sorted almost all the stamps brought over by Jackie. The only ones left from the backlog that had accumulated at RSWR were the few shown in photo at right.



**Backlog stamps remaining in late August**

In late August, Earl Walker sent us eleven big boxes of stamps. I liked Norma's reaction: "Job security!" This new backlog presents the opportunity to apply what we have learned over the past months. I hope we can process these packages with greater efficiency and effectiveness than ever. I think we all like helping marginalized women in Africa and India become more independent and able to help their families and communities.

P.S. Here is the most interesting stamp I have come across since starting this program. I like it because it relates to the Quaker value of peace. Next issue I will ask Brad Jackson (going in alphabetical order of sorters) what the most interesting stamp is that he has encountered, and feature that stamp, if possible. Also I will report on our income.

