

About SPICES for Life, Inc. (as of 12/5/2019)

Six Friends from *Midlothian Friends Meeting's* (MFM) **SPICES for Life Study Group** have been exploring the creation of a non-profit corporation that will use innovative fun activities to convey all six Quaker testimonies (values) to children, and parents where practical. The experiential emphasis on values will be at the core of our offerings. We will eventually expand our program offerings to whatever, whenever, and wherever the Spirit leads us. These are the types of SPICES questions we hope any child will be able to answer experientially from our programs:

- **Simplicity:** How can I give my attention to what is important **now** in this very moment?
- **Peace:** How can I be nourished by peace within myself and among others in every moment?
- **Integrity:** How can I live each moment lit with the same steady Light to guide me?
- **Community:** How can I help to create a team by seeing the worth of each person, particularly those who have been devalued or excluded?
- **Equality:** How can I address in the moment teasing, bullying, and favoritism - so there is respect and fairness for all?
- **Stewardship:** How can I live each moment cherishing and supporting the Earth and all the life on it, so everyone can enjoy it?

The study group has determined that over the summer we will offer half-day, week-long camps (Monday through Friday, no more than half-day sessions) for children ages 6 through 14. The number of camps offered during the summer depends on enrollment numbers. Also the names of the camps (below) and details for the camps are subject to change as more information is gathered. Here are three possibilities currently being considered:

- **Camp SPICES** will bring together a community of diverse ages where campers select their activities rather than have them prescribed for them. Children will explore nature and engage each other collaboratively during interactive activities, such as: Art Projects (drawing, watercolors, crafting), Outdoor Games (Extreme Tag, Capture the Flag, Gaga Ball), Group meal preparation, Spice/Vegetable Gardening, and Yoga.
- **Soccer Friends** will teach campers soccer skills, strategies, and play; with the positive values inherent in soccer presented as beneficial life skills: such as collaboration, humility, focus, and mutual respect.
- **SPICES in "Action!"** will use screen-writing, cinema arts, and video production as a means to demonstrate the skills of collaborating with others, being true to who you are, respecting the equal worth of everyone you work with, and centering oneself in order to be successful.

The plan is to hold the camp sessions at the *Midlothian Friends meetinghouse* due to its central location to the greater Richmond area. Other area locations will also be used whenever needed (such as a soccer field).

Articles of Incorporation and bylaws for the non-profit corporation "**SPICES for Life, Inc.**" have been created. The bylaws allow the corporation to pay for needed improvements to the MFM meetinghouse and grounds if these benefit the mission of the corporation. Upon approval by MFM to proceed, these legal documents will be filed with the Virginia *State Corporation Commission* (SCC). The current six members of the study group are willing to serve as volunteer officers on the board of directors. Yet, we encourage other MFM Friends to join the board as officers as well, if so moved. Before beginning operations an application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status will be sent to the IRS. As *The Quaker Thrift Store, Inc.* already does, *SPICES for Life, Inc.* will be covered as a separate corporation under MFM's current *GuideOne* insurance policy. The additional cost for insurance (which will be covered by *SPICES for Life, Inc.*) is not known at this point. As with *The Quaker Thrift Store, Inc.*, *SPICES for Life, Inc.* will operate independently of MFM for both legal and practical reasons. However, since the corporation will be associating itself with MFM, the bylaws state that Board members are nominated by MFM and may also be removed by MFM.

We are hopeful that MFM will grant *SPICES for Life, Inc.* the April proceeds from *The Thrifty Quaker* to help with start-up costs. We have an offer from a non-Quaker to provide us a matching contribution to whatever the grant amount is from *The Thrifty Quaker*. We will also be applying for any other grants that are available, some of which may be used to make improvements to the MFM meetinghouse and/or grounds per MFM's approval - because they will be beneficial to the life of the meeting, as well as the programs offered by *SPICES for Life, Inc.*

All camps will be managed by a paid camp Director: Laura Clark of MFM. She will work closely with the board of directors. Also, expert paid consultant camp counselors will be hired due to their certification for child care and knowledge in working with children for the offerings of the camps. Existing professionals, local universities, and schools are good sources to find qualified counselors over the summer. There will be an orientation session for the Director and the counselors to explain the purpose of the camp, a practical understanding of the six Quaker testimonies that are important to meeting our mission, and the unique free-form structure of the camps' offerings that will be utilized.