

As the world seems to be in a state of collapse, there are resilient and hope-filled individuals who see the cracks where the Light gets in and continue to work for positive change in the world. Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center has provided renewal and refuge for these individuals since our founding in 1942, as the US was preparing to enter World War II. Radical hospitality has always been our calling; now we are naming our intention to live into a Generosity of Spirit.

When the pandemic closed retreat centers across the world in mid-March, Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center jumped with both feet and a lot of hands into the virtual world of Zoom. We have learned a great deal in these months about creating safe space on-line and about extending invitations and opening to the gift of gathering in community. We are realizing that both local space (e.g., at Kirkridge) and nonlocal space (e.g., in the Zoom Room) can be in-person space with unique gifts. Already we have had more than 2,000 individuals attend our on-line programs from March through July, more than double the attendance in the past year. Many people had never physically been to Kirkridge and offered heart-felt thanks for the opportunity. All programs were offered at no cost to participants.

And we received a record number of donations accompanied by sincere notes of appreciation. While the donations are not comparable to in-house room-and-board programs, it is heartening to realize people will give back as their means allow. We have moved from the scarcity of worrying about how to pay bills and sustain staff to living into a place of abundance and hope.

As we live into and out of a Generosity of Spirit, we invite you to join us in this new way of being. And we invite you to financially support our efforts to any possible extent. We are writing a new story. We don't want to go back to old ways of operating where everything is measured in numbers and scarcity is assumed to be normal. One of our partners, the Fetzer Institute, defines generosity as our ability to offer the best of who we are and what we have for the benefit of one another-is perhaps our most valuable human attribute. In fact, it may be the singular quality we possess that has the capacity to transform the world. That fits beautifully with our mission:

Kirkridge is a place  
To be,  
And to become  
A people of hope.  
Compassion, justice, and service.

As Kirkridge continues to live with attention and intention into those carefully chosen words, we see Generosity of Spirit as the ground on which we stand. We know we are in this together, and we need you! Your dollars make a difference. You can go to <https://kirkridge.org/give/> or send a check to Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, 2495 Fox Gap Road, Bangor, PA 18013. Your presence makes a difference. Thank you for your generous spirit.