Dear Loyal Golden Rule Supporters,

We hope you and your families are doing well during these challenging times!!!

As one of the top ten donors to the Veterans For Peace Golden Rule project, I am writing directly you on behalf of the advisory board let you know of the plans for the Golden Rule.

As you probably know already, the Golden Rule returned from a very successful mission to the Hawaiian Islands. Project manager Helen Jaccard and advisory board members gave over 100 educational talks about the mission of the historic sailboat to schools, universities, civic clubs and faith-based groups. The Golden Rule was featured on the front page of the Sunday state-wide newspaper Star Advertiser and several other island newspapers and was covered by many radio and TV interviews.

The Golden Rule was sailed back to San Francisco in May 2021 by Captain Kiko and Captain Malinda of the Big Island of Hawai’i and a crew of two others. From June until now, the Golden Rule has been continuing community outreach in the San Francisco Bay area. In September, she will sail up to her home at Humboldt Bay, California for some repairs from the wonderful team who brought her back to life 7 years ago.

The next phase for the Golden Rule is to embark on an 15-month Great Loop voyage from Minneapolis, down the Mississippi, the Gulf coast, around Florida, up the East Coast, into the Great Lakes and back down the inland rivers. We will sail into over 80 small towns and 14 big cities. We will talk with people of faith, students of all ages, Rotary clubs, indigenous tribes, and people concerned with peace, environmental and climate change issues.

We will need lots of volunteer assistance from Veterans For Peace chapters and other peace and social justice groups along the way to make this voyage work. And we will need funds to get the voyage moving.

Currently we have $10,000 in the bank account after expenses from the voyage from Hawai’i, the cost of returning crew home and some repairs.

As long-time supporters, you know that we have operated the Golden Rule Project on a shoestring budget and we anticipate we will be doing that in the future as we have not been successful in securing any large grants.

We rely on donations received at educational events—usually between $200 and $1000 per event depending on the generosity of the attendees…**and on individual donations from our longtime donors like you!!**

In order for us to begin the Great Loop voyage, we feel we should have $50,000 in the bank to cover trucking expenses to the beginning point of the trip, Captain’s salary and boat expenses for the first six months of the voyage.

We feel we should have the same Captain for at least 4-6 months unless we can find a volunteer Captain that does not need a salary—any ideas of persons who might be interested?

We paid Captain Kiko $500 per week for his work in the Hawaiian Islands and his 29 voyage from Hawaii to San Francisco. We estimate will need $13,000 for the first six months of the voyage for the captain.

We estimate $3500 per month for boat expenses of fuel, insurance, docking fees and minor repairs or $21,000 for the first six months.

Helen Jaccard has been the Golden Rule project manager for six years—and she has done a terrific job working to arrange Captains, crew, boat maintenance and repairs, educational events, fundraising—its been a monumental task and she, with the great help of her partner and past VFP National Board President Gerry Condon, has kept the Golden Rule moving well on her mission against nuclear weapons.

Despite the excellent job, we understand that VFP may be considering lowering the 1/2 time salary of the Project Manager down to 1/4 time and therefore we also will need to cover part of the salary to bring it up to at least 1/2 time. This does not come close to covering the number of hours that she spends on the project.

Therefore, I am personally asking you as one of the Golden Rule’s great supporters and donors, to consider making a substantial donation to help us get to $50,000 so we can begin the Great Loop voyage. Once we are underway, we feel our educational talks and events and the newsletter will generate the funds to keep up going over the next year.

We know you are a very generous person- if you could consider making a donation of $1,000 to $5,000, we would be very grateful.

Again, thank you so much for your dedication for peace and ending the threat of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,

Ann Wright

Golden Rule Advisory Board member