

# Our Projects: Making A Difference

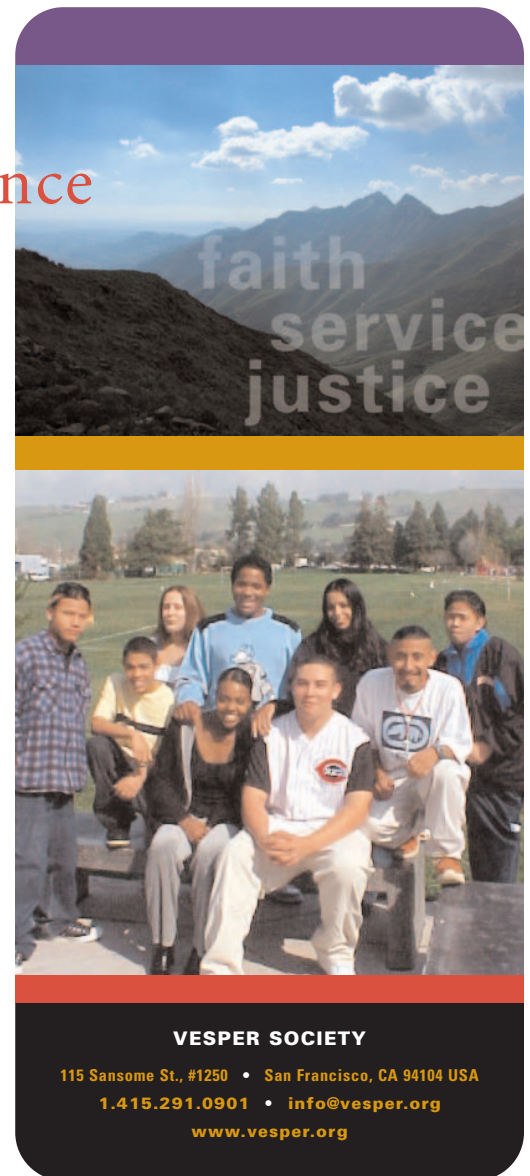
Vesper Society provides a combination of funding, technical assistance, and valuable partner connections for projects in California and around the world:

**Adolescent Health Consortium** – To succeed in school, at-risk youth must overcome many obstacles, including meeting basic physical and mental health needs. Through the Adolescent Health Consortium, Vesper Society accompanies the students of Hayward Community School, an alternative education program in Hayward, Calif., that serves students ages 12-17 whose behavior prevents them from being successful in regular school settings.

**Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic** – With our partner, Sutter Delta Medical Center, we are addressing the need for evening non-emergency care for people who lack health insurance. Faced with the barriers of insurance and the daytime office hours of most primary care providers, the uninsured increasingly visit emergency rooms although emergency care is seldom required. The Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic in Antioch, Calif., is making health care accessible. Sliding scale fees are requested, but no one is turned away.

**Masangane Treatment Program** – The cost of anti-retroviral (ARV) drug therapy is no longer the greatest obstacle to fighting HIV/AIDS, healthcare experts say. The challenge is delivering the drugs and supporting patients through the discipline of daily treatment amid the stigma of AIDS. Vesper Society funds ARV and clinical support for 60 people in two rural South African centers. Masangane pairs those who are HIV positive with family members or friends who are trained as treatment supporters. Vesper Society is also supporting a study of the program's unique approach, which ties daily drug therapy to the rituals of a faith community.

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**faith  
service  
justice**

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**believing in individuals, creating opportunities**

“OUR PROJECTS” CONTINUED

**African Religious Health Assets Program (ARHAP)** – Africa possesses the resources to heal itself of AIDS. That’s the bold and hopeful assertion of ARHAP, an international, interdisciplinary project in which Vesper Society is a lead partner. Launched in 2002, ARHAP is mapping the health assets of religious institutions in sub-Saharan Africa. These health assets are valuable disease-fighting resources already present through the practices and networks of faith communities. The long-term goal is to connect these assets with health leaders and public policymakers to meet the challenge of disease.

**Oakley Youth Empowerment Program** – Accompanying youth as they develop positive values and a sense of belonging and worth is the purpose of the Oakley Youth Empowerment Program. With the City of Oakley, Calif., we are developing a framework to evaluate programs and improve policy efforts that help youth succeed within the home, school and community.

**Dialogue for Peaceful Change** – Conflict naturally occurs in any setting where people are working for social change. How we work through conflict is key to social transformation. Dialogue for Peaceful Change is an international training program that enhances the skills of leaders to address conflict. Developed with Oikos Foundation of the Netherlands, the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe, OIKOSNET, and TIDES Training in Northern Ireland, the program is training leaders to be facilitators of mediative dialogue, a process which emphasizes the practical skills that help people in conflict agree on how they can live and work together without violence. By 2007, the program will train 200 leaders in Christian laity centers around the world where social change projects are underway.

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