

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. Our current projects include the following:

Issue Area: Economic Justice

LEAP: Local Economic Action Project for Socially and Economically Excluded Groups in Alfred Zzo Municipality – Through this innovative program, residents of the Eastern Cape of South Africa join savings and credit groups to pool their resources. Participants extend loans to each other for food, education and health care. In 2009, LEAP expanded its partnership with the Society-sponsored Masangane AIDS Programme, which provides HIV/AIDS education to LEAP's savings and credit group members. In turn, Masangane clients learn savings techniques and receive livelihood training.

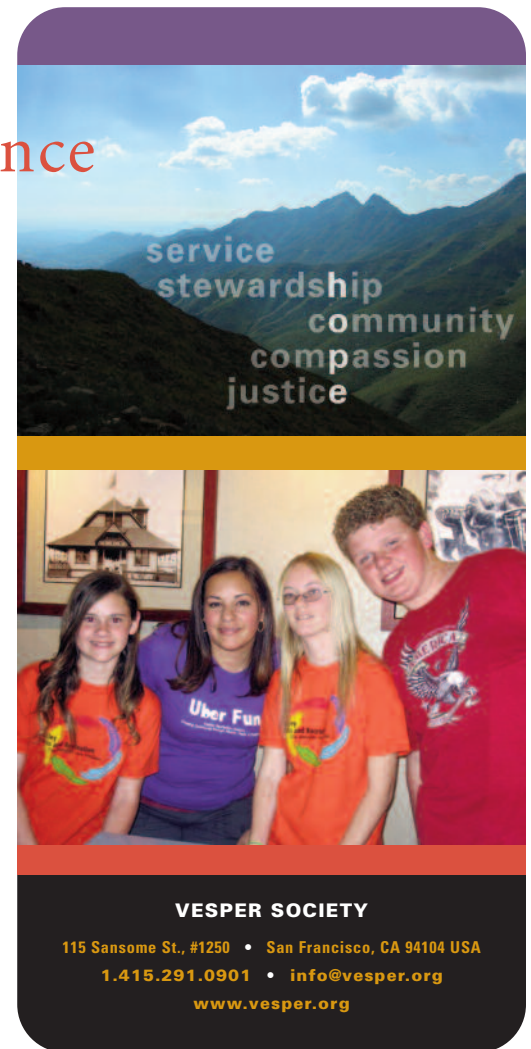
Issue Area: Health Care Access

Masangane AIDS Programme – Masangane seeks to break the cycle of isolation and shame for people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa's rural Eastern Cape Province. The initiative provides diagnostic services and antiretroviral therapy as it builds support networks that enable clients to follow treatment regimens successfully. A 2009 evaluation confirmed Masangane's effectiveness despite extraordinary challenges.

Adolescent Health Initiative – The Society helps young people in Hayward, California, cope with the pressures of adolescence by supporting St. Rose Hospital's Silva Clinic and Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center in their provision of counseling and mental health services for students at Hayward Community School, an alternative education program. In 2009 more than 200 students visited the two health centers.

Issue Area: Youth and Trust

Oakley Youth Empowerment Program – Supporting youth as they develop positive values and a sense of belonging and worth is the purpose of the Oakley Youth Empowerment Program. The Society collaborates with the city of Oakley, California, to create programs and improve policy efforts that help youth succeed within the home, school and community. In 2009 the Society provided technical assistance to the city in developing a Youth Master Plan, which provides a road map for engaging young people.



believing in individuals, creating opportunities