



2006 Annual Report



Dear Friends:

Since 1965, Vesper Society has been inspired by a sense that something is needed from each of us in order to make the world a better place. A unique contribution is expected of us. It's our vocation, our calling. And the world waits for it.



Our vision is of a compassionate world that protects human dignity and enhances human potential. How we respond to that vision, the manner in which we answer the call and live into the vision, defines our unique contribution as a private operating foundation.

This dynamic between call and response has been present throughout our history. It's what truly engages us as a board and staff: to pay attention to the needs of our world, to define the issues at stake, to discern the opportunities where we can make a difference, then to respond. This is our faithful practice, and it was evident again in 2006. continued inside

First, we respond with openness.

We don't pretend we know the solution when we start a project. So much depends on context. There is no template to create social justice in South Hayward or South Africa. What we know is that solutions will arise as we covenant to work with our partners. We trust good ideas will emerge because we are present with each other.



Vesper Society has always understood this power of convening. We know that learning occurs when good people sit down together, as we did last year in Berkeley at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Here, we met to talk about religious pluralism and economic justice. We trust that a conversation can lead to transformation. But we have to be open.

Second, we respond with respect.

We recognize the strengths of our partners. We notice the resources already present among the people we serve. Indeed, in every one of our projects we make a bold declaration: people with needs are also people with gifts. This belief represents a deep and abiding respect for others.

When we hear about the violence that wracks a country, it's natural to wonder what outside intervention can resolve the conflict. But in our project Dialogue for Peaceful Change we believe the resources for peace are already present among the warring parties.

Or when we look at the tightly drawn face of a South African woman with HIV, it's easy to see her need for help. Yet through the African Religious Health Assets Program we look closer, with respectful eyes, and we discover she and her community possess gifts for their healing.

Finally, we respond with gratitude.

To witness the impact of our work is truly a blessing. We are grateful that our expertise and our funds translate into meaningful and measurable outcomes.

It is a privilege to accompany others in creating a compassionate world. For our friends in this journey, we give thanks. In 2006, we thanked one of our companions, Robert Brorby, who traveled with us as a board member for nearly 40 years.

As people of faith who are passionate about social justice, we are grateful for the opportunity to exercise our gifts. To provide such opportunities was the original vision of the Society's founders: to engage lay leaders in using their talents to make the world a better place. So we give thanks for that vision. And with grateful hearts we share the fruits of the vision in 2006, a year in which we again responded to the call.

Mary O. Baich
President

Rodric A. Lorimer
Chairman of the Board

HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

Adolescent Health Consortium

At-risk students ages 12-17 acquire the skills needed to succeed in school while local agencies discover the power of collaboration in Hayward, California. That's the vision shared by St. Rose Hospital's Silva Pediatric Clinic, Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, and Alameda County Office of Education's alternative Hayward Community School. In 2006, the consortium ...

- Increased the number of students receiving mental health services
- Extended counselors' influence to family members through case management
- Helped more students reintegrate into their high schools and earn diplomas, with some students going on to college

Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic

With its partner Sutter Delta Medical Center, Vesper Society is fulfilling its mission to provide healthcare to the underserved while illuminating the broader healthcare needs in California's Eastern Contra Costa County. The Antioch clinic's evening hours make it convenient for working people, and a sliding scale for fees means no one is turned away. In 2006, the clinic ...



- Served 1,706 people in the first six months of the year, a 31 percent increase in patients over the previous six months
- Hired a bilingual community outreach specialist to respond to the needs of Spanish-speaking patients

Masangane Treatment Program

Each day 70 South Africans with HIV receive life-saving anti-retroviral (ARV) drug therapy through this pioneering program. Masangane's unique approach ties daily drug therapy to the rituals of a faith community. Support groups and "buddy treatment supporters" are pillars of the program. And treatment beneficiaries become adherence counselors for new ARV-patients. In 2006, the program ...

- Decreased the stigma and isolation of the HIV/AIDS diagnosis
- Increased adherence to treatment protocols
- Increased recruitment of beneficiaries as volunteers to help others

SOCIAL JUSTICE

African Religious Health Assets Program (ARHAP)

Religious groups and faith practices must be leveraged to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, according to ARHAP. The



international, interdisciplinary project completed its first major effort in 2006, a two-country study funded by the World Health Organization. The study documents the contribution made by religion in the struggle for health and

well-being in Zambia and Lesotho, two of the countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS. The study calls on public health and religious leaders to ...

- Develop religious and public health literacy so that leaders at all levels can respectfully engage each other
- Align the health-promoting activities of religious entities with public health systems
- Extend the asset-mapping research to other African countries

Oakley Youth Empowerment Program

Youth in Oakley, California, are shaping their city's agenda and cultivating character traits that are key to successful living. The program aims to support youth in gaining a sense of competency, belonging and worth by establishing a youth charter and developing a master plan to increase services for youth. In 2006, the program ...

- Launched the Oakley Youth Advisory Council to advise city leaders on policy and plan activities
- Surveyed middle school and high school students to get their input for the Youth Master Plan
- Established the Community Advisory Committee to review the program's progress and strategize next steps

Dialogue for Peaceful Change

More international leaders have the skills to creatively engage people in conflict, thanks to Dialogue for Peaceful Change, a partnership between Vesper Society, Oikos Foundation of the Netherlands, the Ecumenical Association of Academies and Laity Centres in Europe, OIKOSNET, and TIDES Training in Northern Ireland. The project trains leaders in Mediative Dialogue, a process that helps people in conflict discover how they can live with each other without resorting to violence. In the third year of a four-year pilot, the project is well on the way toward meeting its goal to train 200 leaders in Christian laity centers located on every continent. In 2006, the project ...

- Trained 16 more leaders in Mediative Dialogue
- Certified eight leaders as trainers to expand the program's reach around the world

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At December 31, 2006 - Audited

ASSETS

Cash	\$18,204
Investments	31,158,414
Prepaid Expenses	105,990
Loan Receivable	73,000
Property and Equipment	36,994
Other Non-Current Assets	6,769
TOTAL ASSETS	\$31,399,371

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	82,387
Deferred Federal Excise Taxes	86,558
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$168,945

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$31,230,426
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS \$31,399,371

Vesper Society's mission is to promote social justice locally and globally by addressing critical social issues including the provision of health services for the underserved. As a private operating foundation, Vesper Society does not give grants but selects programs where staff and board can have significant involvement. As a hospital conversion foundation, 60 percent of Vesper Society's program expenditures are for the provision of healthcare services. Whenever possible, Vesper Society collaborates with organizations that share a similar mission – thereby leveraging its funds for maximum effectiveness in addressing critical issues.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1 - December 31, 2006 - Audited

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions	\$2,275
Interest and Dividends	1,836,457
Net Gain on Investments	2,913,855
Rental Income	1,326
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$4,753,913

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$742,746
Support Services:	
Management and General	555,217
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,297,963

Change in Net Assets	\$3,455,950
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	27,774,476
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$31,230,426

Vesper Society Board of Directors - 2006

OFFICERS

Rodric A. Lorimer

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Investment Committee

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Columbia, Missouri

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Finance and Revenue Generation
Committees

Eric Reynolds

San Francisco, California

Chief Financial Officer, Finance
and Investment Committees

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Portola Valley, California

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Program Committees

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Revenue Generation Committee

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Alexandria, Virginia

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Committees

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Redwood City, California

Corporate Member, Program
Committee

Barbara B. Varenhorst, Ph.D.

Portola Valley, California

Corporate Member, Personnel and
Program Committees



believing in individuals,
creating opportunities

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