



# IMPACT

2007 Annual Report

- ...willing to take significant risks
- ...taking seriously the dignity and voice of the recipients
- ...passion for a larger vision of justice and a healed and healthy society

— Dr. James Cochrane

 **VESPER**  
Society

“My experience of how Vesper has gone about handling its relationship with ARHAP and with Masangane is one in which agreed arrangements and outcomes are continually measured against changing needs and contexts, with a willingness to adapt, to adopt new approaches, to shift arrangements thoughtfully and with due consideration for the original intentions of the grant, and to do so with an eye enhancing on the larger goals of the project that were the reason for supporting it in the first place. ...

*From a 2007 presentation by Dr. James Cochrane, South African professor and leader in the African Religious Health Assets Program (pictured below with Vesper Society President Mary Baich)*

“Together with the other factors I have mentioned – being willing to take significant risks in the light of a worthy vision that captures an important sign of the times, taking seriously the dignity and voice of the recipients, a real felt partnership and hence joint stewardship, and a passion for a larger vision of justice and a healed and healthy society – what it produces is a *relationship of trust* between yourselves and those whom you fund and with whom you partner.”





**IMPACT.** The word commands attention in philanthropy today as foundations and donors look for evidence that their giving makes a difference. Variouslly defined as outcomes, results or effectiveness, impact can be difficult to measure. Assessment is complicated all the more by an ambitious dream – in Vesper Society’s case, the vision of a “compassionate world which protects human dignity and enhances human potential.” How do you measure that?

At Vesper Society, we use the latest tools to evaluate our progress. We also count those effects not easily captured in surveys. The healing of the human spirit. The return of hope. The capacity of a community to dream anew. Ultimately, we trust our partners to share their stories. They witness to the impact of our collaborative work.

### Social Justice

**African Religious Health Assets Program (ARHAP).** A pioneering project that connects the health-promoting practices of religious entities with public health systems, ARHAP expanded its work in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007. The international, interdisciplinary effort has secured backing from the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. With Vesper Society’s support, ARHAP formalized its governance structure to facilitate future growth.

“Vesper Society is the backbone of Youth Development Services in Oakley, providing opportunities that create healthy boundaries for



young people and encourage them to be the best they desire to be.”

— Denis Nishihara, Recreation Supervisor,  
City of Oakley, partner in the Oakley  
Youth Empowerment Program

BUILDING  
CHARACTER

# IMPROVING ACCESS

## **Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC).**

Teaching leaders to creatively engage people in conflict, DPC expanded its work across the globe in 2007, the final year of this four-year pilot. More than 30 church leaders in Zimbabwe received training. Vesper Society funded an evaluation of the multi-agency project, which aimed to train 200 leaders in Christian laity centers located on every continent.

## **Oakley Youth Empowerment**

**Program.** Building character by building relationships between youth and their community is the goal in Oakley, California. In 2007, the project enrolled youth, city, school and business leaders in a survey process that will assess youth behaviors and attitudes, using the resources of the widely respected Search Institute. The results will show Oakley the present strength of its youth assets and point to opportunities to cultivate positive behaviors.

## **Healthcare Delivery**

**Adolescent Health Initiative.** Three community organizations in Hayward, California, are dedicated to improving the lives of underserved citizens through individual and family counseling. The focal point of the project is the Alameda County Office of Education's alternative Hayward Community School, where at-risk students receive the mental health support they need to succeed in school. In 2007, 60 students were served.

## **Masangane Treatment Program.**

While the South African government struggles to respond to the AIDS epidemic, Masangane is saving lives through a

“Through the support of Vesper Society in 2007, we were able to assist over 60



at-risk students acquire skills necessary to overcome health-related obstacles that prevent their success in a regular school setting.”

— Pamela Russo, RN, Executive Director,  
St. Rose Hospital Foundation, partner  
in the Adolescent Health Initiative

unique approach that ties daily drug therapy to the rituals of a faith community. In 2007, Masangane expanded its services in the rural Eastern Cape with support from Vesper Society. The program acquired a prefab building for its second location, which allows counselors to meet patients in private, an essential need in a country where the stigma of AIDS is strong.

**Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic.** In Antioch, California, working people without health insurance can obtain healthcare services, thanks to a partnership between Vesper Society and Sutter Delta Medical Center. Open seven evenings a week, the Urgent Care Clinic experienced a twofold increase in visits in 2007. The clinic is now a MediCal enrollment site. It also provides breast screenings and diabetes education.

“If we can all work together as one—because HIV/AIDS is like a huge rock in the society. Only if everyone in the society



keeps breaking the rock into small pieces, it eventually becomes dust.”

— *Nokhanyo Mswewu, Treatment Coordinator, Masangane Treatment Program*

# LEVERAGING ASSETS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At December 31, 2007 – Audited

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash	\$ 60,339
Investments	30,838,403
Prepaid Expenses	112,349
Loan Receivable	148,000
Property and Equipment	28,164
Other Non-Current Assets	15,758
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 31,203,043</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts Payable	41,672
Accrued Vacation	26,329
Deferred Federal Excise Taxes	49,915
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 117,916</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	
Unrestricted	\$ 31,085,127
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 31,203,043</b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1 – December 31, 2007 - Audited

<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	
Contributions	\$ 0
Interest and Dividends	2,381,798
Net Loss on Investments	(1,122,880)
Other Income	3,571
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,262,489</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Program Services	835,940
Support Services	
Management and General	571,848
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,407,788</b>
Change in Net Assets	(145,299)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	31,230,426
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 31,085,127</b>

**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, the Society 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.

## Vesper Society Board of Directors - 2007

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Consultant; instructor at UC Santa Cruz  
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Vesper Society, 1975-1985

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**Barbara B. Varenhorst, Ph.D.**,  
*Portola Valley, CA*  
Co-founder, National Association of Peer  
Programs; educator, psychologist, and author



believing in individuals,  
creating opportunities

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