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justice

Vesper Society 2009 Annual Report

Whether local or global, secular or interfaith, every Vesper Society project provides an opportunity to live out the principles of service, stewardship, compassion, community and justice.

Dear Friends:

For 45 years Vesper Society has been guided by a set of values: service, stewardship, compassion, community and justice. These are not abstract concepts for us. The values inform our decisions and shape our actions. Through these principles, we connect deeply with others – our staff, our board, our partners, our friends like you.

Values are very much on our mind today as we consider the Society's future. We realize that, at one level, the Society is not all that different than other philanthropic groups. However, at another level, because of our values, there is something distinct about the Society. We see the world in a special way. We see the great challenges of our time – economic injustice, health care disparities, religiously inspired conflict, and difficulties facing youth – yet we also see our world hopefully. As people of faith, we see possibility.

Such vision has always marked the Society. If you've participated in one of our projects, or joined a Society conversation, you know our vision makes us optimistic about the world's prospects. But we're not naïve. We see the hard realities of disease, pain and discord. Still, we trust that a more compassionate world is possible – because our vision, formed by our values, compels us to look for hope.

And every day we do find hope. We witness the commitment of our partners. We marvel at the power of project participants. Each of our issue areas brings our values into clearer focus; there's no mistaking that service, stewardship, compassion, community and justice are alive and well. This gives us hope.

As we reflect on these values, we remember one who held these principles dearly: Society co-founder Bob Cummings, who died on March 23, 2010. With his passing, 37 years after the death



(from left) Miyoko Oshima, Mary Olson Baich and Barbara Varenhorst

of co-founder Gene Heckathorn, the Society enters a new era. In this time of discerning our future, we believe the Society must be clear about the founders' intent.

Bob Cummings and Gene Heckathorn believed in the possibility of a better world, because they could see it. They knew their skills could make the Society's values even more visible. That prospect gave them hope. And so they answered a call to live into this vision with others, a community of kindred spirits.

We are grateful for the privilege to do the same. And we invite you to join us in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Barbara Varenhorst  
*Chair, Corporate Members*

Miyoko Oshima  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Mary Olson Baich  
*President and CEO*

“The nature of the work done by Masangane can take an emotional and physical toll. Development programs are essential to assist staff in helping maintain a level of equilibrium. Vesper’s contribution has been significant in this support.”

— *Loretta van Schalkwyk and Nomathemba Sithole*



## ISSUE AREA: ECONOMIC JUSTICE

### **LEAP: Local Economic Action Project for Socially and Economically Excluded Groups in Alfred Nzo Municipality**

To an outsider, economic prospects seem bleak in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, where AIDS, generational poverty, and geographic isolation conspire to keep residents vulnerable. But thousands of people, mostly women, have joined savings and credit groups to pool their resources. Thanks to this innovative program, participants extend small 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. Together, their work amplified the Society’s impact by creating new webs of hope.

## ISSUE AREA: HEALTH CARE ACCESS

**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 Vásquez Health Center in their provision of counseling and mental health services for students at Hayward Community School. In 2009, more than 200 students visited the two health centers. AHI’s importance was summed up by 16-year-old José, who for the first time dreams of a future without violence: “It’s the only place I feel comfortable enough to talk about anything and know I won’t be judged.”

**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. In 2009, Loretta van Schalkwyk & Associates completed an evaluation of the project and confirmed Masangane’s effectiveness despite extraordinary challenges. The report highlighted the need for capacity-building. Work is now underway to improve organizational structure, strengthen board oversight, and increase staff training so the program continues to flourish.

“Suggestions from Vesper Society have helped bring Oakley programs to the next level. This has allowed program participants the opportunity to take pride in their community. We look forward to continuing to improve programs with the help of our Vesper partner.”

— Lindsey Bruno, recreation supervisor, City of Oakley



**Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic** With the Society’s support, Sutter Delta Urgent Care Clinic opened its doors six years ago in Antioch, California. While the work continues, 2009 marked the end of the Society’s partnership. Since its inception, the clinic has served more than 30,000 under- and uninsured people. Because of its easy accessibility, short waits and low fees, most patients seek timely medical attention rather than wait until their conditions become serious. In addition to wide-ranging diagnostic and treatment services, the clinic instituted a series of highly regarded educational programs. The Society commends the clinic staff for their commitment to the health and wellness of the people of Eastern Contra Costa County.

#### **ISSUE AREA: YOUTH AND TRUST**

**Oakley Youth Empowerment Program** Young people deserve to have a sense of belonging and worth. To help build this foundation, the city of Oakley, California, ratified a Youth Master Plan developed with technical assistance from Society staff. The effort yielded exciting results in 2009. The Oakley Youth Advisory Council, comprised of 19 middle and high school students, used the plan as a road map for creating activities such as Teen Xtreme. This popular monthly event, planned, staffed, and promoted by Oakley youth, lets young people have fun in a safe environment.

**Youth Intervention Network** The Youth Intervention Network, a collaboration of school administrators, police and residents, addresses youth violence in Antioch, California. To aid their efforts in 2009, the Society provided support for 135 community members to be trained in the methods of Dialogue for Peaceful Change (DPC). Building upon the Society’s previous work with DPC, Antioch leaders used the approach to understand and prevent the cycles of youth violence. To document the project’s impact, the Society commissioned an evaluation that revealed the Youth Intervention Network’s potential to become a model for other cities.

“Vesper Society support really helped launch the Los Angeles Public Library on what will continue to be a dynamic series of conversations on interfaith issues. The process of strategizing and conceiving the programs with the Society’s staff was very important to my thinking on this subject. As a program curator, I was challenged to think big – for which I am very grateful.”

— Louise Steinman, curator of *ALOUD* at the Los Angeles Public Library



Irene Khan, Secretary General,  
Amnesty International

## ISSUE AREA: RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

**Religious Pluralism Speaker Series** In 2009, under the rubric of the Religious Pluralism Speaker Series, the Society supported public conversations that explored the intersection of faith, cooperation, and service. Held at the University of San Francisco and the Los Angeles Central Library, the series underscored the Society’s commitment to catalytic convening and open dialogue. The project has already begun to yield noteworthy results. For example, a keynote speech by Eboo Patel, founder and executive director of Interfaith Youth Core, inspired the San Francisco Interfaith Council to create a city-wide training program for youth engaged in the work of economic justice.

## VESPER MEDIA

**Faith in the World** Vesper Society published its first book in 2009: *Faith in the World*, which chronicles the Society’s pivotal role in the 20th century laity movement. Co-authored by Nelvin Vos, Daniel Pryfogle, and Melvin George, the book tells the inspiring story of the Society’s partnership with Mark Gibbs, a British lay leader who urged the church to move beyond its four walls to ministry in daily life. The book invites reflection on how such ministry may yet be a force for good in our world.

**SaveAct/LEAP Video** From participants and organizers to funders and partners, stories describing LEAP capture the presence of hope even in the most challenging economic circumstances faced by residents in a remote community in South Africa’s rural Eastern Cape. In 2009, SaveAct and Vesper Society co-produced a promotional video to share this life-changing work. In addition to being posted on SaveAct and the Society’s home pages, it will be distributed through social media sites such as Facebook and YouTube.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At December 31, 2009 - Audited

### ASSETS

Cash	55,493
Investments	24,879,985
Prepaid Expenses	27,439
Loan Receivable	148,000
Property and Equipment	35,438
Other	37,960
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,184,315</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	36,869
Accrued Vacation Liability	25,576
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 62,445</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 25,121,870
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<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 25,184,315</b>
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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 health care services.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1 - December 31, 2009 - Audited

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants and Contributions	1,279
Interest and Dividends	796,223
Net Gain (Loss) from Investments	4,256,389
Other Income	25
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 5,053,916</b>

### EXPENSES

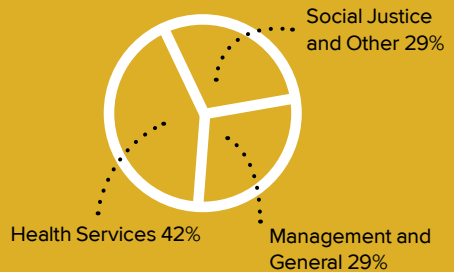
Program Services:	
Social Justice and Other	416,681
Health Services	615,536
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	425,059

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,457,276</b>
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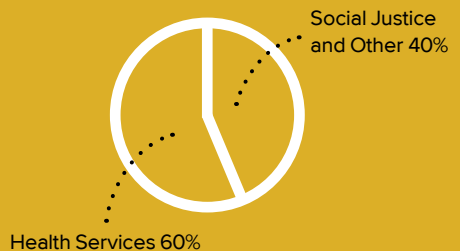
Change in Net Assets	3,596,640
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	21,525,230
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 25,121,870</b>

A copy of the full audit for 2009 is available on Vesper Society's web site at [www.vesper.org](http://www.vesper.org).

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES



## PROGRAM EXPENSES



## 2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Japanese American National Museum

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President and Chief Executive Officer, Education Development Center

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General Manager - Clorox Caribbean, The Clorox Company

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Attending Physician, Division of Adolescent Medicine; Co-Founder & Director, FACES for the Future, Children's Hospital and Research Center, Oakland; Medical Director, Juvenile Justice Center of Alameda County

#### Chief Financial Officer

**Melissa L. Anderson**, Portola Valley, CA  
Subcontract Program Manager, TMK Program, Lockheed Martin

**Laura L. Mitchell, Ph.D.**, Alexandria, VA  
Consultant, Strategic Planning and Fundraising

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Software Engineering Project Management Consultant; Instructor at UC Santa Cruz Extension

**Randall Schieber**, San Bruno, CA  
Sr. Business Leader, Corporate Strategy, Visa Inc

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\***Rev. George Spindt**, Thousand Oaks, CA  
Past President and Chief Executive Officer, Vesper Society, 1975-1985

### DIRECTORS

**R. Guy Erwin, Ph.D.**, Thousand Oaks, CA  
Belgium Professor of Lutheran Confessional Theology, Professor of Religion and History, California Lutheran University

\***Barbara B. Varenhorst, Ph.D.**, Portola Valley, CA  
Co-Founder, National Association of Peer Programs; Educator, Psychologist, and Author

**Bernice L. Ledbetter, Ed.D.**, Long Beach, CA  
Faculty, Graziadio School of Business and Management, Pepperdine University

### CORPORATE MEMBER

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Former Board Member

\***Rodric A. Lorimer**, Albion, CA  
Former Principal Officer, Vice President, Manufacturing and Engineering, The Clorox Company

### STAFF

**Mary Olson Baich**, President and CEO  
**Sabrina Lynn Motley**, Vice President  
**Rich Watson**, Director of Finance  
**Carol McKeivitt**, Project Associate

\* Dual role of Director and Corporate Member

