

**What happens when two  
groups come together,  
from different corners of  
the earth, opposite ends  
of town, or right next door?**



**They change the world.**

Dear Friends:

**Today we changed the world. In the morning we came together inspired to serve humanity. We set out bound for stewardship and, led by the spirit of compassion, worked into the afternoon for social justice. In the evening we rested with a community where before there was none. And together we prayed for the strength to face a new day, because tomorrow is the day we will change the world.**

At Vesper Society, our desire to create real and lasting change in the world is at the heart of everything we do. In fact, the Society was founded 46 years ago on the belief that changing the world was not some lofty, idealistic goal but an entirely doable, actionable plan for the faithful.

Along the way we've learned to never underestimate the value of partnership. The desire for change unites us, true, but change itself is elusive, a moving target with an agenda all its own. It's the bonds between people that endure.

2010 saw the transformative power of partnership at play in both the Society's work and that of our project participants. Leveraging resources, sharing knowledge and best practices, building sustainable networks – these partnerships were all in some way about creating momentum. Growth is hard under the best of circumstances, but Society-supported projects are finding new ways to thrive even in the world's most challenging environments.

Whether born from opportunity, necessity or both, collaboration is removing longtime barriers and adding energy and value to work.

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For the Masangane AIDS Programme in South Africa, there's been a noticeable shift from struggling to meet day-to-day objectives toward a more inclusive, community-based model involving the local department of health, faith-based groups and activists for social justice in the area. The Oakley Youth Empowerment Program, initiated as part of the city's strategic plan, brings together city government, local businesses and schools as partners in the effort to build strong relationships between youth and the city of Oakley.

Like other philanthropic organizations, Vesper Society selects projects we feel have good potential to sustain their work long-term, well after our support has concluded. It has long been the Society's intent to fund projects that benefit individuals certainly, but also families and communities. Vesper Society often partners with these projects at a critical make-or-break stage in their organizational development.



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

Our commitment to our core values – compassion, community, justice, service and stewardship – is revealed in the strength of these human connections. We hope you'll join with us. Together we really can change the world.

Sincerely,

Barbara Varenhorst  
*Chair, Corporate Members*

Miyoko Oshima  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

Mary Olson Baich  
*President and CEO*



#### ISSUE AREA: HEALTH CARE ACCESS

**“These kids want to be tough, but they are fragile. Most are angry and have very short fuses. The fact that the counseling is available when the kids are in crisis has made a tremendous difference.”**

— *Mary Fisher, principal, Hayward Community School*

#### **Adolescent Health Initiative**

Success at Hayward Community School happens every day, if you know what to look for. For the youth who attend the alternative school in Hayward, California, success is using the coping skills they receive there to return to public school and, hopefully, complete their education. For counselors with St. Rose Hospital’s Silva Clinic and Tiburcio Vásquez Health Center, progress is expanding the mental health services made available to more than 100 students and their families in 2010. And for Vesper Society, change is measured by the partners’ growing capacity to work together to bridge gaps in service, reach out to more kids more often, and connect families to other support services that can help long-term.

**“Progress is relative in South Africa; everything happens so slowly. But lately there has been a shift. The new Matatiele branch office provided by Vesper Society is helping Masangane run more professionally and provide more services. Now they are seeing themselves as a collective organization.”**

— *Loretta van Schalkwyk, independent contractor*

### **Masangane AIDS Programme**

Not so long ago, Masangane struggled to get antiretroviral therapy to people living with HIV/AIDS in the rural Eastern Cape Province. Today, the organization has transitioned from solely providing medications to people who are already sick, toward disease prevention and counseling, palliative care and support services for grandmothers and other relatives left to care for orphaned children. It’s a sure sign of progress for Masangane, which in 2010 took a significant step in its seven-year partnership with Vesper Society to build organizational capacity. A new, permanent office building donated by the Society is having a tremendous impact on the group’s work. The new office has made it easier for Loretta van Schalkwyk & Associates to conduct ongoing professional development training for project staff, and lately there are encouraging signs that Masangane’s HIV/AIDS education and testing clinics are having an impact on young men in the region.

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

**“The kids have learned so much about themselves and each other, but they’ve also learned to put themselves in their parent’s shoes, in their teacher’s shoes, and so on. They’re also learning about ways they can volunteer and get involved with the city of Oakley.”**

— *Lindsey Bruno, recreation supervisor of youth programs, city of Oakley*

### **Oakley Youth Empowerment Program**

Validation and empowerment are important to a child’s developing sense of self, and kids in Oakley, California, are helping themselves to a healthy dose of both. In 2010, the city’s youth engagement initiative gave more than 400 middle school children the tools to help them form healthier habits for better health, self-esteem, educational achievement, and personal and family relationships. With support from Vesper Society, the Oakley Youth Advisory Council – comprised of 19 middle and high school students – developed “It’s a Girl Thing,” a one-day event for middle school girls aimed at boosting their self-confidence with a series of fun, engaging workshops. The event was so successful that a similar “Boyz Time” event for middle school boys was held later in the year. City of Oakley staff and council members say the program, which was recognized by the California Park and Recreation Society, will continue through 2011 and beyond.

ISSUE AREA: ECONOMIC JUSTICE

**“Our partnership with the Masangane AIDS Programme has proved to be very fruitful. The savings group work is continuously providing our people a sound opportunity to claim back and take control of their lives. The powerful testimonies that people share keeps my fire burning.”**

— *Nolufefe Nonjeke-Dlanjwa, project coordinator, SaveAct*

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

For South Africans in the Eastern Cape region, taking control of their economic well-being can have an equally empowering effect on their physical health as well. More than 3,100 people in the area have joined savings and credit groups as part of LEAP, where members extend small loans to each other for food, education and health care. The groups, made up mostly of mothers and grandmothers, are learning how to network and use their skills to build personal assets into a self-sustaining enterprise. More than half are involved in new ventures – everything from raising poultry and vegetables to making clothing to small appliance repair. LEAP coordinators say putting food on the table gives people a sense of hope and that, in turn, leads them to be more proactive with regard to their health. In 2010, the once-tenuous partnership between LEAP and the nearby Society-sponsored Masangane AIDS Programme grew strong and resilient. Each used the other’s networks to build their membership. They traveled and held regional meetings together, and even shared resources and staff.



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At December 31, 2010 — Audited

### ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents	39,031
Investments	27,153,772
Prepaid Expenses	7,303
Property and Equipment, net	18,911
Other Assets	3,119
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 27,222,136</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	44,204
Accrued Vacation Liability	15,575
Deferred Excise Taxes Payable	38,240
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 98,019</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 27,124,117
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 27,222,136</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 health care services.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

January 1 - December 31, 2010 - Audited

### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Interest and Dividends	849,470
Net Gain from Investments	2,598,412
Loss from Disposal and Write-down of Assets	(195,514)
Other Income	430
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 3,252,798</b>

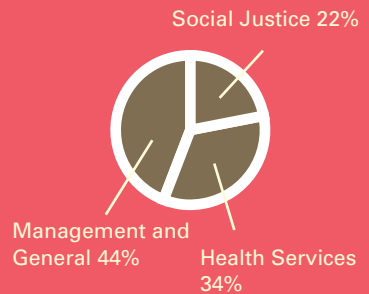
### EXPENSES

Program Services:	
Social Justice	271,854
Health Services	430,344
Supporting Services:	
Management and General	548,353

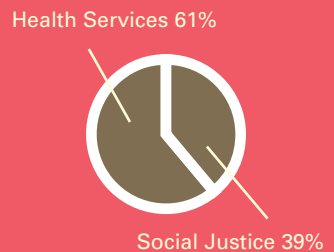
**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$ 1,250,551

Change in Net Assets	2,002,247
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	25,121,870
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 27,124,117</b>

### TOTAL EXPENSES



### PROGRAM EXPENSES



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Major Gifts/Capital Campaigns Program

\* Dual role of Director and Corporate Member



**VESPER**  
*Society*

believing in individuals,  
creating opportunities