Dear Supporters,

This past year, we have witnessed another milestone in our journey together toward a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace. The revolutionary events known as the “Arab Spring” have underscored the universal struggle for the full recognition of human rights that binds us all. The courage and determination of human rights advocates in North Africa and the Middle East have inspired us and given us new energy to continue our work in realizing The Advocates’ vision and mission.

Over the last year, The Advocates for Human Rights has expanded its programs to address pressing human rights issues. By preparing education materials and resources that are easily accessible to the public, we are better able to process and react to emerging human rights violations. We have been working to prevent such violations by writing and proposing legislation both locally and globally, particularly on violence against women. We have also spoken out against torture, the mistreatment of sexually exploited youth, and other gross human rights violations occurring within and outside of the United States. In addition, we have increased the number of Nepalese children who have successfully evaded child labor through the Sankhu-Palubari Community School, continued to aid refugees and immigrants by providing legal services, and educated communities and built networks to make Minnesota a more welcoming state.

This year has been full of accomplishments, all made possible by you, our supporters. Thank you to our extraordinary volunteer team, donors and sponsors. The Advocates looks forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Robin Phillips
Executive Director

C. Christopher Bercaw
Chair, Board of Directors
The Advocates for Human Rights is an independent, nonpartisan, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees who are victims of human rights violations; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and uses advocacy, research, and education to engage the public, policy makers, and children in human rights work. The Advocates builds broad constituencies in support of human rights and cultural understanding across the United States and in targeted communities around the world. The mission of The Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law.

To accomplish this mission, The Advocates' professional staff recruits and leads volunteers in the important work of promoting human rights. Each year, The Advocates receives millions of dollars of in-kind support from hundreds of volunteers. These volunteers include lawyers, paraprofessionals, technology experts, educators, students, psychosocial service providers, translators, graphic designers, and many other people dedicated to the human rights movement.
Women's Human Rights
Mirjam, a young woman in Croatia, suffered repeated death threats from her husband. After he threatened to kill her and began chasing her with a knife, Mirjam called the police. When they arrived, her husband told the authorities that she had called him a name. She was fined. Her husband also received a fine for his conduct, but Mirjam’s fine was six times the amount of his. Under Croatian law, verbal insults constitute a form of domestic violence, allowing victims like Mirjam to be fined, and even arrested, along with their abusers.

Mirjam’s story is just one example of the alarming situations documented by The Advocates in its fact-finding missions to Central and Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union countries. When the Soviet Union fell, no laws existed to protect women from domestic violence in the Eastern Bloc. In 1993, The Advocates created the Women’s Human Rights Program to help advocates document violence against women and advocate for legal reform. As demonstrated by Mirjam’s story, just passing laws is not enough. When asked by local partners, The Advocates’ staff attorneys work to ensure that the laws passed do not punish victims or give their attackers new legal weapons. The Advocates’ Stop Violence Against Women website, www.stopvaw.org, provides information and resources to advocates worldwide.

Other highlights of the Women's Program's work this year include:

- hosting regional workshops in collaboration with The Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation in Sofia, Bulgaria and Istanbul, Turkey to aid in monitoring the implementation of new domestic violence laws;
- traveling to Croatia, Lithuania, Russia, and Kazakhstan to monitor the implementation of domestic violence laws or to provide technical assistance to advocates, judges, prosecutors, and police;
- creating the Justice module of the UN Women's Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls, which will be translated into seven languages;
- hosting Rashida Manjoo, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, in her fact-finding visit to the United States; and
- working with local partners, including The Family Partnership, to pass the Safe Harbors legislation in Minnesota, protecting sexually exploited youth.
After fleeing to Tanzania to escape the aftermath of a brutal regime change, Alain Kinsala Lopez returned to his home country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), only to find his family members had been killed by the government. Lopez became active in the opposition movement and was forced to flee again after government security forces ransacked his house and killed his campaign partner. He hid in Tanzania until he secured an invitation to attend a religious conference in the United States. Four years later, aided by pro bono attorney Dick Zonneveld and The Advocates, Lopez gained asylum. He recently petitioned for his remaining family to join him.

The Advocates’ Refugee and Immigrant Program works to protect the rights of refugees and immigrants in the United States. Refugees flee their countries after persecution or fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group and seek asylum within another country. Because many refugees and immigrants cannot afford legal representation, The Advocates’ program pairs asylum seekers with volunteer attorneys to ensure that clients like Alain Kinsala Lopez have the best chance of remaining in the United States, safe from fear and persecution.

Highlights of the Refugee and Immigrant Program this year include:

- providing assistance to 550 individuals, including both advice and full representation;
- helping clients in many countries affected by the “Arab Spring,” as well as many other countries including Rwanda, Sudan, Nepal, Belarus, Guatemala, and Mexico;
- assisting individual clients at walk-in legal clinics; and
- providing asylum law training around the state of Minnesota in partnership with the Battered Women’s Legal Advocacy Project and making presentations on asylum law to local law firms and volunteers.
At the Minnesota State Legislature, a victim of human trafficking came forward to testify about her experience being prostituted. She described the physical trauma and emotional scarring she suffered at the hands of abusive traffickers, intensified by isolation from her family and friends. Like several other sex trafficking victims who came before the House Judiciary Policy and Finance Committee to tell their stories, this brave woman spoke to the common themes of all trafficking cases—violence, abuse, and the inescapable cycle of dependence. After sharing her story, she stressed the importance of creating a support system for similarly victimized youth to replace the current system that criminalizes victims of trafficking. The Advocates led the legal reform effort in Minnesota to ensure that commercially sexually exploited children are provided services rather than prosecuted.

The Advocates has also been actively attempting to abolish the death penalty worldwide through its membership in the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, a 121-member coalition based in France. This year, The Advocates was elected to serve on the Steering Committee and presented on the international jurisprudence of the death penalty to the World Coalition’s annual General Assembly meeting in Rabat, Morocco.

Other highlights in Research and Advocacy include:

- advocacy at the Minnesota State Legislature and United States Congress in opposition to anti-immigrant proposals. The Advocates’ Energy of a Nation website, www.energyofanation.org, served as an information hub to keep policy makers, advocates, and activists informed;
- expanding the One Voice Minnesota initiative to combat anti-immigrant bias and build welcoming communities in Minnesota;
- bringing the Immigration Fuels Our Nation campaign to the Minnesota State Fair; speaking with 3500 people, distributing hundreds of lesson plans and human rights toolkits, and collecting signatures calling for respect of the human rights of migrants; and
- leading the national effort to secure permanent resident status for Liberians living in the United States.
When The Advocates asked third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Lake Harriet Community School what they would like to know about life in Haiti after the earthquake, one student responded, “I would like to know what it’s like to lose everything you own in a blink of eye.” Another asked, “How long do you think it will take to build enough houses to have everyone in a home? Will everyone eventually get a home?” In all of the students’ responses, however, the overarching question was “What can we do to help?”

After discussing the problem, the students acted by organizing a Sleepout for Shelter—sleeping outside in tents to raise awareness about homelessness in Haiti and Minnesota. This event was the culmination of the students’ service learning initiative—an ongoing partnership between the school and The Advocates.

The Advocates partners with schools to provide training and support to teachers, administrators, students, and parents on incorporating human rights education into the existing school curriculum. Human rights education reduces bullying, improves student achievement, and increases teacher satisfaction. It helps to create an inclusive and welcoming school environment and fosters universal values, equal opportunities, diversity, and nondiscrimination.

Other highlights of the Education Program this year include:

- starting a campaign to change social studies programs nationally to encourage the inclusion of human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the classroom;
- updating the teaching resources Energy of a Nation, The Road to Peace, www.discoverhumanrights.org and www.energyofanation.org;
- presenting at schools and conferences, including a training at the MinneTESOL Conference and exhibitions at the National White Privilege Conference and the National Council on Social Studies; and
- educating Nepalese children and celebrating the second and third classes of graduating students from The Advocates’ Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Nepal. The Advocates and its local partner fight child labor by providing a free education to more than 300 children from low-income families.
In August 2010, tension filled the air at a packed meeting for members of the Liberian diaspora community in Minnesota. At the meeting, facilitated by The Advocates, individuals came forward to voice their frustrations with the lack of leadership within the community following its flight from the conflict in Liberia. The meeting was part of the International Justice Program’s efforts to develop strategies to assist post-conflict countries in moving toward peace and accountability. The meeting was a success. Ultimately, the tension in the air dissipated as the convening provided a safe forum for individuals to openly share their opinions and make their needs for cooperative and constructive leadership known.

The Advocates’ International Justice Program uses national and international justice processes to promote human rights, currently working to advance justice through projects related to post-conflict peacebuilding and the rule of law. The Advocates holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations to monitor and report on human rights.

Highlights of the International Justice Program this year include:

- participating in the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review of Bulgaria, Liberia, and the United States in Geneva, Switzerland. The delegation of staff and volunteers monitored sessions and met with Human Rights Council delegates;
- facilitating the Liberian Women’s Roundtable, a local community reconciliation project providing an opportunity for women of the Liberian diaspora in Minnesota to collaborate on the issue of parental involvement in their children’s education;
- participating in the review of Ethiopia by the UN Committee Against Torture, which is the treaty-monitoring body for the UN Convention Against Torture; and
Where We Work
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Week 1

February 2
The Advocates hosts the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women during her visit to Minnesota

February 4-20
The Advocates travels to Croatia to monitor the implementation of new domestic violence legislation

Week 2

February 15
As part of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty campaign, The Advocates sends letters to the governments of Armenia, Poland, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic urging them to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR

February 17
The Safe Harbors Bill to protect sexually exploited children, drafted by The Advocates, is introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives

February 17
Staff give presentations on transitional justice to college students in Northfield and the Twin Cities and train nearly 200 members of the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights in Chicago

Week 3

February 22
Students at the University of Minnesota Law School learn about asylum law from The Advocates’ Refugee and Immigrant Program Director Emily Good

February 22
The Advocates screens Killing Us Softly 4 at the St. Paul Public Library’s Merriam Park branch as part of the Women’s Human Rights Film Series

February 26
The Advocates’ Human Rights Book Club discusses Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn’s Half the Sky
Week 4

March 3
The Advocates hosts a Human Rights Happy Hour for young professionals

March 5
The Advocates celebrates the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day by hosting a panel presentation on Issues Facing Women in Haiti

March 5-19
The Advocates and volunteers conduct a site visit to the Sankhu-Palubari Community School in Nepal

Week 5

March 9
*Newsweek* names The Advocates’ Cheryl Thomas one of 150 “Women Who Shake the World”

March 10
The Advocates facilitates a workshop on homelessness and the human right to shelter at St. Louis Park Junior High in Minnesota

March 11
An LGBT person from West Africa, who had been jailed and beaten because of sexual preference, contacts The Advocates for help in seeking asylum

Week 6

March 15
The Advocates’ Rosalyn Park travels to Burkina Faso to present on best practices in domestic violence legal reform at a regional conference of parliamentary delegations from Central and West African countries

March 16
As part of the *One Voice Minnesota Anti-Bias Initiative*, staff presents on immigration to educators at Sumner Elementary School in Austin, Minnesota
“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Reverand Martin Luther King, Jr.
Thank You to All of Our Volunteers and Supporters

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Statement of Financial Position  
Year Ended June 30, 2010  

Assets  
Current Assets  
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $156,514  
- Marketable Securities: $1,802  
- Accounts Receivable: 13,847  
- Grants Receivable: 97,362  
- Pledges Receivable: 4,979  
- Prepaid Expenses: 0  
Total Current Assets: $274,504  

Property and Equipment - Net: 12,604  

Other Assets  
- Grants Receivable: 98,000  
- Security Deposit: 10,132  
Total Other Assets: 108,132  

Total Assets: $293,237  

Liabilities and Net Assets  
Current Liabilities  
- Accounts Payable: 47,402  
- Payroll Liabilities: 5,184  
Total Current Liabilities: 52,586  

Net Assets  
- Unrestricted Net Assets: (76,544)  
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: 31,795  
Total Net Assets: 24,051  

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $293,237  

Statement of Financial Position  
Year Ended June 30, 2011  

Assets  
Current Assets  
- Cash and Cash Equivalents: $144,645  
- Marketable Securities: 2,509  
- Accounts Receivable: 26,818  
- Grants Receivable: 302,799  
- Pledges Receivable: 2,750  
- Prepaid Expenses: 1,971  
Total Current Assets: 481,492  

Property and Equipment - Net: 12,604  

Other Assets  
- Grants Receivable: 98,000  
- Security Deposit: 10,132  
Total Other Assets: 108,132  

Total Assets: $602,228  

Liabilities and Net Assets  
Current Liabilities  
- Accounts Payable: 47,402  
- Payroll Liabilities: 5,184  
Total Current Liabilities: 52,586  

Net Assets  
- Unrestricted Net Assets: (41,461)  
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: 589,597  
Total Net Assets: 548,136  

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $602,228  

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2010  

Support and Revenue  
Support  
- Foundation and Corporate: $426,189  
- Individual Contributions: 420,086  
- In-Kind Donations: 4,281,971  
- Others: 12,013  
- Special Events, net of direct benefits: 66,712  
- Program Service Fees: 21,257  
- Sales of Publications: 894  
- Interest Income: 735  
- Miscellaneous: 21,018  
Total Support and Revenue: $5,250,873  

Expenses  
- Program Services: 5,391,451  
- Management and General: 114,397  
- Fundraising: 59,971  
Total Expenses: $5,565,819  

Change in Net Assets: (314,946)  
Net Assets, Beginning of Year: 555,597  
Net Assets, End of Year: 240,651  

Statement of Activities  
Year Ended June 30, 2011  

Support and Revenue  
Support  
- Foundation and Corporate: $1,196,418  
- Individual Contributions: 464,113  
- In-Kind Donations: 3,044,521  
- Others: 8,220  
- Special Events, net of direct benefits: 52,376  
- Program Service Fees: 40,343  
- Sales of Publications: 395  
- Interest Income: 0  
- Miscellaneous: 25,361  
Total Support and Revenue: $4,771,747  

Expenses  
- Program Services: 4,293,177  
- Management and General: 110,295  
- Program Services: 60,790  
Total Expenses: $4,464,262  

Change in Net Assets: 307,485  
Net Assets, Beginning of Year: 240,651  
Net Assets, End of Year: 548,136  

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The Advocates for Human Rights envisions a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace; and it believes that every person has a part to play in building respect for human rights and expanding the human rights movement in the United States and around the world.