The Advocates for Human Rights

Because every person matters.
Dear Friends,

As the late Nelson Mandela said, “. . . vision with action can change the world” — words that epitomize the work of The Advocates for Human Rights. Especially relevant during our 30th anniversary year in 2013, these words define the initiatives and accomplishments we celebrated. With your support, together we changed the world.

Please consider a few of these accomplishments:

- We spearheaded legislation to help youth who are victims of sex trafficking.
- We worked with nongovernmental organizations and advocates in Mongolia, Serbia, Latvia, Uganda, and other countries to strengthen legal systems and help end domestic violence.
- In addition to providing legal representation to hundreds of people seeking asylum and safety, one of The Advocates’ volunteer attorneys achieved a major victory with the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, holding promise for people fleeing their home countries because of gang retribution and persecution.
- We worked with human rights defenders in the Global South to advance LGBT rights and to end the death penalty, immigration detention, gender-based violence, and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities.
- We partnered with diaspora community members serving in the new Somali government on post-conflict law reform.
- We worked in coalition to ensure that communities are places in which the human rights of the newest Americans are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Because every person matters, we work for sustainable change. Requests for our help continue to grow. People count on us — and on you.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Phillips
Executive Director

Howard S. (Sam) Myers, III
Chair, Board of Directors
An international network of volunteers, partners, supporters, board members, and staff, The Advocates for Human Rights implements international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law.

The Advocates is an independent and nonpartisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that investigates and exposes human rights violations; represents immigrants and refugees seeking asylum; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and uses research, education, and advocacy to engage the public, policy-makers, and children in human rights work.

A volunteer powerhouse helps The Advocates accomplish success. People with diverse talents partner with staff to research, educate, advocate, and build broad-based constituencies in Minnesota, the United States, and around the globe.

Envisioning a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace, The Advocates believes that each one of us has a part to play in building respect for human rights and expanding the human rights movement.
It’s a matter of life and death

“I am afraid almost every day,” a woman in Mongolia told The Advocates. “. . . He is always texting, saying, “. . . I’m going to kill you.””

The woman, a law student, is afraid to go to school and to walk home from work. “I fear he will come in the car and take me.”

The Advocates heard this and other frightening accounts of the problems with Mongolia’s laws that put women in jeopardy. Information from about 150 interviews held throughout the country resulted in nuts-and-bolts recommendations and reforms to protect women.

Other highlights include:

- conducting trainings for police in Moldova, Lithuania, and Latvia to implement domestic violence legislation, and for legal professionals in Serbia and Turkey;
- working with UN Women to provide technical assistance through its Virtual Knowledge Centre module;
- developing legislation to end violence against women and girls;
- monitoring implementation of domestic violence legislation in Mongolia, Croatia, and Moldova; and advocating for amendments to strengthen the law;
- drafting legislation to ensure Minnesota Safe Harbor Act’s protections for sex-trafficked children were extended to 16 and 17-year-olds, and helping lead Minnesota’s Human Trafficking Task Force;
- providing resources to people worldwide through the Stop Violence Against Women website;
- drafting strong laws on violence against women in the Maldives, Latvia, Uganda, Solomon Islands; and
- presenting sexual assault law information to 1,500 world leaders attending the 128th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Ecuador.
Like this man, Mr. K and other clients of The Advocates require anonymity because families remaining in their home countries are often targeted.

Photo courtesy of The Advocates for Human Rights
Mr. K found safety

Ethiopian security officers tortured Mr. K, an Ethiopian citizen and an Oromo, for months because of his religion and ethnicity. The beatings so disfigured him that Mr. K’s family did not recognize him.

Out of fear, he ceased exploring his Oromo heritage and associating with Oromo people. However, after the ruling party fraudulently secured another term, Mr. K protested, and was again imprisoned and tortured.

The threats and harassment escalated when, after his release, Mr. K continued his political involvement. Out of fear, he fled to the United States in 2011. With the help of The Advocates, he gained asylum in 2012.

Other highlights include:

- providing service to clients in more than 650 matters, from full representation in asylum cases to brief service and advice at clinics and detained court;
- submitting an amicus brief supporting request for a thematic hearing by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights about U.S. mandatory detention policies;
- presenting trainings and CLEs for volunteer attorneys representing migrants;
- developing a white paper with Dorsey & Whitney L.L.P. that investigates how the adjudication of asylum claims in the U.S. disrupts family unity and violates the human, civil, political, and due process rights of immigrants, children, and families;
- advocating for U.S. immigration legal reform, working for asylum reforms and detention oversight provisions, and developing provisions to help Liberians and others on long-term temporary protected status; and
- presenting information to 2,500 people, helping them understand asylum and immigration law, and presenting at the Refugees in the Heartland conference sponsored by the University of Iowa.
The Advocates’ Michele Garnett McKenzie speaks at a news conference about legislation to protect child victims of sex trafficking.

Photo courtesy of A.J. Olmscheid
“I’m afraid I’m about to be killed”

The terrified girl cried out to the 911 operator, begging for help. She said a couple was holding her captive in a hotel room and forcing her to have sex with men.

Sex trafficking is a scourge from which no community is immune. Change is at hand, however, thanks to The Advocates’ leadership. The Minnesota Safe Harbor Act, legislation enacted in 2011 defining sex trafficked children as victims and not criminals, was expanded in 2013 to include protections for 16 and 17-year-old youth.

The Advocates is now working on the issue with members of the U.S. Congress, where the Safe Harbor Act serves as an inspiration to eliminate sex trafficking of children.

Other highlights include:

- training more than 1,200 people to base social justice work on international human rights principles; and making our “Discover Human Rights” website, full of resources, available to people around the world;
- interacting with more than 8,000 people at the Minnesota State Fair;
- training over 60 volunteers, conducting more than 200 interviews, and holding more than 25 community conversations across the state documenting how Minnesota respects, protects, and fulfills the human rights of refugees, and immigrants;
- training more than 500 educators to use human rights education to build respect for human rights, as well as training educators to use creative arts methodologies to teach human rights issues;
- participating in the leadership of regional and national coalitions, including Human Rights Educators-USA, a national network that builds respect for human rights; and
- implementing human rights into Minnesota’s academic standards.
Rally at the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty held in June 2013 in Madrid, Spain

Photo courtesy of The Advocates for Human Rights
He was given $10 to rebuild his life

Albert Burrell served on death row in a Louisiana state prison for 14 years for a crime he did not commit. He was exonerated and the state released him. As he walked out of prison, the state gave him what it does all exonerees to rebuild a shattered life: his meager possessions and $10 from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Because he was exonerated, Burrell filed for redress under Louisiana’s compensation law. Thirteen years after his release, he still waits to receive any award.

Abolishing the death penalty and addressing related issues are organizational priorities. The Advocates submitted shadow reports on the death penalty to the UN; presented at the 2013 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in Madrid, Spain; was re-elected to the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty steering committee; and coordinated the 2013 World Day Against the Death Penalty.

Other highlights include:

- working with human rights defenders in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Malaysia, Morocco, Russian Federation, and the U.S. to bring human rights concerns to the UN and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights;

- developing resources, training, and capacity for diaspora communities to effect change in their countries of origin;

- conducting in-country needs assessments to Cameroon, Liberia, Morocco, and Tanzania to build the capacity of human rights defenders in Africa;

- training parliamentarians on human rights, treaty monitoring, and violation reporting;

- increasing collaboration with LGBTI human rights defenders in Africa, and preparing tools to document police violence and violations of human rights against LGBTI persons in Douala, Cameroon; and

- training U.S. human rights activists on writing shadow reports for UN human rights mechanisms.
Children at the Sankhu-Palubari Community School

Photo courtesy of The Advocates for Human Rights
He woke up at 1:00 a.m. to work in a brick yard

As very young children, Shree and his younger brother Hari labored alongside their parents in the brick factories of Bhaktapur, Nepal. They rose in darkness at 1:00 a.m. to carry heavy loads of mud and sand to mix bricks.

When Shree was seven, luck found him when The Advocates opened the Sankhu-Palubari Community School, providing a free education to boys and girls as an alternative to child labor. The Advocates and its Nepali partner, Educate the Children, jointly run the school.

When the school opened in September 1999, more than 50 percent of the people in Shree’s village were unemployed. Because of the high rate of unemployment and the lack of free education, an estimated 20 percent of children between the ages of 9 and 14 left the village and their families to enter into child labor in Kathmandu, an hour bus ride away.

Shree, now a high school graduate, enjoys writing poetry and listening to music. His score on Nepal’s School Leaving Certificate exam was one of the highest in the district, a highly regarded accomplishment in Nepal.

He is grateful to The Advocates and its supporters for the opportunity to receive an education. “When I’m writing with my hand, I see your hand in mine,” he says.

He is paying the generosity forward: His goal is to teach math and science in a rural part of Nepal where kids often have to work instead of being able to go to school.

While waiting for his university entrance exam results, he works as a teacher at the Sankhu-Palubari Community School — the school where the course of his life changed and where his two younger brothers now study instead of working in brick factories.
Thank You to All of Our Volunteers & Supporters

“Real peace comes from a more compassionate heart.”

Mother Teresa
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The Advocates’ volunteer Scott Jenkins (l) and a police officer at a training in the Baltics

Damon Thibodeaux (center), exonerated and released from death row, is pictured (from the left) with his attorney, Steve Kaplan, and Rosalyn Park and John Getsinger
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Cheryl Thomas, launching a report in Croatia on domestic violence
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at The Advocates’ Human Rights Award Dinner
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| 18 Donations Received | July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 |

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## Statement of Financial Position

**Year Ended June 30, 2013**

### Assets

#### Current Assets
- Cash: $177,433
- Investments: 8,019
- Grants Receivable: 397,813
- Pledges Receivable: 21,998
- **Total Current Assets**: 605,263

#### Property and Equipment - Net
- 23,107

#### Other Assets
- Grants Receivable: 482,630
- Security Deposit: 10,132
- **Total Other Assets**: 492,762

**Total Assets**: $1,121,132

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Current Liabilities
- Accounts Payable: $48,783
- Accrued Vacation: 65,853
- Payroll Liabilities: 6,165
- Deferred Lease Incentive: 10,132
- **Total Current Liabilities**: 130,933

#### Long-Term Liabilities
- Deferred Lease Incentive: 57,412
- **Total Liabilities**: 188,345

#### Net Assets
- Unrestricted Net Assets: (161,646)
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets: 1,094,433
- **Total Net Assets**: 932,787

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $1,121,132

## Statement of Activities

**Year Ended June 30, 2013**

### Support and Revenue

#### Support
- Foundation and Corporate: $1,419,435
- Individual Contributions: 689,102
- In-Kind Donations: 4,177,337
- Others: 3,040
- Special Events, net of direct benefits: 62,456
- **Program Service Fees**: 27,407
- **Sales of Publications**: 660
- **Interest Income**: 73
- **Miscellaneous**: 61,395
- **Total Support and Revenue**: $6,440,905

### Expenses
- **Program Services**: $5,615,738
- **Management and General**: 161,188
- **Fundraising**: 138,035
- **Total Expenses**: $5,914,961

#### Change in Net Assets
- 525,944

#### Net Assets, Beginning of Year
- 406,843

#### Net Assets, End of Year
- 932,787

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**: $1,121,132
“We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference.”

— Nelson Mandela