Prayer flags in Nepal.
Dear Friends,

Every day, we work with clients and partners from around the globe to realize our vision of a world in which all people live with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace. In Fiscal Year 2015, we:

• published a report on batterer intervention programs and an assessment of 30 countries’ domestic violence laws and policies, and created resource packets for educators, health care professionals, code compliance officials, hospitality sector workers, and others to help them recognize and respond to sex trafficking survivors;

• secured asylum grants for 50 clients; represented clients on nearly 1,000 asylum and immigration legal matters; and in partnership with Pillsbury United Communities–Waite House, opened a walk-in center to help immigrants;

• launched the National Asylum Help Line to connect hundreds of women and their children released from family immigration detention centers with free legal help around the United States;

• filed submissions and advocated with the United Nations about human rights violations facing asylum seekers and others detained by United States immigration officials, the Ethiopian government’s extreme; violent oppression of human rights defenders, and domestic violence in countries around the world;

• served on the United Nations’ Legal Investigations Working Group to revise the Minnesota Protocol, a set of international standards and guidelines for investigating suspicious and unlawful deaths;

• submitted an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case challenging the constitutionality of lethal injection practices, and briefed the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about the death penalty; and

• responded quickly to get Nepal school students into temporary classrooms following the series of major earthquakes that devastated the Kathmandu Valley.

With your support, we continue to change the world for good.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robin Phillips
Executive Director

Howard S. (Sam) Myers, III
Chair, Board of Directors
Who We Are

Envisioning a world in which every person lives with dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace, The Advocates for Human Rights believes that each one of us has a part to play in building respect for human rights and expanding the human rights movement. The Advocates 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 people seeking asylum; trains and assists human rights defenders; and uses research, education, and advocacy to engage the public, policymakers, and children in human rights work.

A diversely-talented volunteer powerhouse helps The Advocates achieve success and build broad-based constituencies in Minnesota, the United States, and around the globe.
Valentina Andrasek, executive director of Autonomous Women's House Zagreb, The Advocates' partner in Croatia.
Women are now safer in Croatia

The Advocates and the Autonomous Women’s House Zagreb (AZKZ) began working together in 2010 to make the country a safer, better place for women. The team interviewed police, attorneys, prosecutors, judges, and social welfare center and shelter staff about how existing laws translated into practice. The result was a comprehensive report, multiple submissions to the United Nations, and on-the-ground advocacy in Geneva in 2015 when the UN Human Rights Committee and Human Rights Council reviewed Croatia.

The hard work paid off. Croatia’s government leaders paid attention, and passed legislation making domestic violence a crime to protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

Other highlights of The Advocates’ work include:

- consulted on draft amendments to Moldovan and Mongolian domestic violence legislation; and traveled to Moldova to train judges and prosecutors and to Mongolia to press for passage of legislation;

- facilitated trainings to prepare lawyers in Central and Eastern Europe and in countries of the Former Soviet Union for litigation before the European Court of Human Rights and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women; and provided training resources for system actors to respond to and prevent sexual assaults;

- published a report on batterer intervention programs in Central and Eastern Europe and countries of the Former Soviet Union and a 30-country domestic violence assessment, and submitted reports to the UN on women’s human rights issues in countries throughout the world;

- created a resource packet on Safe Harbors for educators, health care professionals, code compliance officials, hospitality sector workers, and the general public to help them recognize and respond to sex trafficking survivors;

- conducted trainings and presentations to prevent sex trafficking in Minnesota; and

- worked to end human trafficking through a leadership role on the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force steering committee.
Protecting Refugees & Immigrants

Photo provided by The Advocates.
“It makes sense in my life to help.”

Dr. E, a general practitioner in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), performed reconstructive surgery for rape survivors. One day, a woman Dr. E had treated months earlier showed up at her hospital with a baby, conceived during rape. The mother was desperate—both she and her baby had been raped.

“I couldn’t keep silent,” Dr. E said. The report she wrote and the peaceful protests she organized gained attention about the use of rape as a weapon of war in the DRC. Threats on her life began. “I was waiting for a bus when a man in a police uniform demanded my name,” she said. When she did not respond, the man pulled a photo of Dr. E out of his pocket and warned, “Stop talking, or die.” She fled for her life to the United States and found The Advocates for Human Rights and staff attorney Sarah Brenes, who succeeded in gaining asylum for Dr. E.

Other highlights of The Advocates’ work include:

- welcomed more than 60 new volunteer attorneys to represent asylum seekers, and supported volunteers providing legal representation in more than 500 cases;

- served clients from more than 70 countries on nearly 1,000 legal matters, and secured asylum grants for more than 30 clients, including:
  - an indigenous woman from Guatemala persecuted as an infant during the Guatemalan civil war
  - an elderly couple who endured years of abuse and imprisonment because of their alleged political opinion
  - a woman whose case, based on domestic violence in Honduras, had been on appeal at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) for several years. (She spent two years in detention in a county jail before the BIA remanded her case to the immigration court.)

- conducted trainings and presentations on asylum law for more than 500 attorneys and law students; and

- opened a walk-in center, in partnership with Pillsbury United Communities, with immigration attorneys and trained community members to help immigrants navigate the legal system.
Research, Education, & Advocacy Are at the Heart of Change

Photo provided by The Advocates for Human Rights.
Tackling problems on many levels

The past several years have seen an unprecedented exodus of children and families from Central America coming to the United States to seek asylum from persecution. Women, with children in hand, have fled unchecked domestic violence and sexual assault. Many others escaped to avoid being targeted by gangs. The United States responded to this refugee crisis with punitive detention policies violating the right to seek and enjoy asylum from persecution.

In response, The Advocates for Human Rights expanded access to legal services and shone a light on this human rights crisis.

Other highlights of The Advocates’ work include:

• responded to changing human rights conditions in Central America by serving more than 600 clients from Spanish-speaking countries (124 percent more than in 2014 and up from just 25 clients a decade ago); and targeting outreach throughout rural Minnesota and the Dakotas to serve newly-arrived Central American asylum seekers, resulting in a 200 percent increase in Dakota residents helped;

• launched the National Asylum Help Line to connect hundreds of women released from family immigration detention centers with free legal help around the United States;

• collaborated with legal services partners to screen hundreds of unaccompanied immigrant children and families for immigration relief following their initial immigration court appearances at the Fort Snelling Immigration Court;

• engaged asylum seekers from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in sharing their experiences in reports to the UN Human Rights Committee and UN Human Rights Council about the abuses that forced them to flee;

• filed submissions with the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Committee Against Torture about human rights violations faced by asylum seekers and others detained by United States immigration officials; and

• hosted an event highlighting the human rights of migrants in the United States during the UN Human Rights Council's 28th Session in Geneva.
The Advocates’ Rosalyn Park & Jennifer Prestholdt with volunteers Kate Flom & Colleen Cooper (L-R) on their way to the UN Human Rights Council for a day of testimony and advocacy.
“The Advocates for Human Rights, you have the floor.”

Steven Clay, a volunteer with The Advocates for Human Rights, heard the UN Human Rights Council’s chairperson announce, “The Advocates for Human Rights, you have the floor.” He turned on his microphone and began his testimony. “Governments need to criminalize and prosecute domestic violence, rather than leave it up to victims to privately litigate the violence they suffer,” he said in part.

Clay was among 10 volunteers (including Kate Flom and Colleen Cooper, pictured) who traveled to Geneva in March 2015. Led by The Advocates’ staff, they lobbied and made oral statements at the Council. They also presented at events for UN participants on issues ranging from domestic violence in countries around the world, to the death penalty, to the rights of migrants in the United States.

Other highlights of The Advocates’ work include:


• served on the Legal Investigations Working Group to revise the Minnesota Protocol at the request of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial execution. Originated by The Advocates, the Minnesota Protocol is a set of international standards and guidelines for investigating suspicious and unlawful deaths;

• joined the International Oromo Youth Association to brief the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for its review of Ethiopia about the government’s extreme, violent oppression of human rights defenders; and

• briefed the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about issues arising when people with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities are sentenced to death; submitted reports on death penalty practices worldwide to the UN Human Rights Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights; collaborated with the Greater Caribbean for Life on death penalty stakeholder reports for the periodic reviews of St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia; and submitted an amicus curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in Glossip v. Gross, a case challenging the constitutionality of lethal injection practices.

Advancing & Defending Human Rights Throughout the World

Photo credit: Mark Kalla
Giving Children Hope for a Bright Future

Photo credit: David Kistle
The earth—and their world—came tumbling down

“All our SPCS family r safe,” proclaimed the text message The Advocates for Human Rights received from Anoop Poudel, headmaster at the Sankhu-Palubari Community School shortly after the first of a series of major earthquakes devastated the Kathmandu Valley. While 90 percent of the students and teachers lost their homes, no one from the school lost their lives or suffered serious injuries.

Since 1999, The Advocates’ school has provided a free education to some of the world’s neediest children. Attending the school is a prized alternative for low-income children who would otherwise work as child laborers. About 1.6 million Nepali children work in dangerous conditions in brick yards, carpet factories, and quarries, or in agricultural and domestic work. Nepali children are also vulnerable to being transported to India to be trafficked for sex or labor, particularly since the 2015 earthquakes.

The school plays an important role in the children’s lives, their families, and community. As a result, The Advocates and its supporters responded quickly after the earthquakes to get the children into temporary classrooms less than 30 days after the earthquakes’ devastation.

Other highlights of The Advocates’ work include:

- served 340 students in grades pre-K through 10 during the 2014-2015 school year, giving them a bright future;

- increased the number of girls staying in school in grades 6-10—a significant step—and maintained gender parity overall. Girls comprised 52 percent of student enrollment in 2015; and

- continued the outstanding tradition of all 10th grade students passing their School Leaving Certificate examinations with High Distinction or in the First Division. Their scores were among the highest in the country, a coveted and respected honor.
“I raise my voice—not so that I can shout, but so those without a voice can be heard.”

Malala Yousafzai
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Bud & Carol Hayden with The Advocates at the United Nations.

The Advocates with Congressman Keith Ellison (R), Minneapolis City Council member Ailonda Cano (4th from L) at its walk-in center to help immigrant families stay together.
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In Honor of Max Schott, Jessica Toft, & Family
An asylum client

In Honor of Kathleen Seestadt
Rebecca Cramer

In Honor of Kathleen & Robert Seestadt
Michael & Carrie Martino; Sarah Hanna

In Honor of Sally Silk
Debra Jessen & Todd Strand

In Honor of Greta Soper
Christopher Soper

In Honor of Marlene Straszewski
Don Howard

In Honor of Sarah Super
Matthew & Mei-Ling Smith

In Honor of James & Monica Von Geldern’s Wedding
David & Amy Moore

In Honor of Chander Wahi
Richelle Wahi & Matt Morgan

In Honor of David Weissbrodt
James Weissbrodt

In Honor of Tom Weist
Katharine & Richard Fournier

In Memory of Alfred A. Anderson
Sue Shoemaker

In Memory of The Berenbom Family
Lois Libby Juster

In Memory of Judy F. Black
Bert Black

In Memory of Alice Bloedoon
Lesley M. Guyton

In Memory of Stanley B. Breen
Aviva Breen

In Memory of Robyn Dehmer
Darlene Dehmer

In Memory of Andy Driscoll
Leah & Michael Driscoll

In Memory of Maurice Heins
Joan Baquis; Jack & Fay Chestnut
Gail Hoch; Dianne & Randy Israelson;
Judy Ney & James Crabb;
Marshall Tanick & Cathy Gorlin

In Memory of Albert & Anna Holton
Joe and Lenore Lewis

In Memory of Barbara E. G. Holthouse
Lynda Thompson

In Memory of Bill Joyce
Lois Libby Juster

In Memory of Don Kahn
Lois Libby Juster

In Memory of Little Katie
Sally Nankivell

In Memory of Steven Klos
Kathleen Klos

In Memory of Jennifer Prestholdt
Jeremy Prestholdt; John Vilandre

In Memory of Jennifer Prestholdt & Charles Weed
Jeremy Prestholdt

In Memory of Juniper Pearl Rauch
Marc Smith

In Honor of Evan
Roberta Merryman & Dwight Fellman

In Honor of Janet Rice
Kelly Henry

In Honor of Andy & Jim Rubenstein
Elien & Jim van Iwaarden

In Honor of Alfonso Sanchez
Elizabeth Koffel

In Honor of Max Schott
Carolyn Hewes Toft

In Honor of Max Schott, Jessica Toft, & Family
An asylum client

In Honor of Kathleen Seestadt
Rebecca Cramer

In Memory of Ken Kohnstamm
Naomi Pernan

In Memory of Kari Ann Koskinen
Luanne Koskinen

In Memory of Carol Kwan
Marlene Medrano

In Memory of Jose Medellin
Jerald & Carolyn Young

In Memory of John W. Mooty
Brianna Mooty

In Memory of Oromo Students
Kim Deprenger

In Memory of Pakistani Children
Kristi & Eric Rudelius-Palmer

In Memory of Oscar Quinonez & Rosa Castillo
Jeffrey Kolnick & Rosa Tock

In Memory of Barbara C. Rohl
Dora Marie Rohl

In Memory of Bernice Sisson & Monica Erler
Kathleen Laughlin

In Memory of Deborah Smith McCloud
Lisa Amman & Philip Steger

In Memory of Tim Tennant-Jayne
Robert Gamble

In Memory of Mary Ann Thomas Todnem
Martha Hotchkiss

In Memory of Sharon Rice Vaughan
Marlene & Thomas Kayser
Board & Staff during Fiscal Year 2015

Howard "Sam" Myers, III, Chairperson
C. Christopher Bercaw
Hon. Diane B. Bratvold
Aviva Brenn
Carolyn Chalmers
Katie Connolly
Colleen Cooper
Amy Crawford
Julie H. Firestone
Matthew D. Forsgren
Wood Foster*
Eric Galatz
Carol Hayden
Loan T. Huynh
Hon. Sangeeta Jain
Marlene Kayser
David Kistle
Mark W. Lee
Kathy Lenzmeier
Sharon Link
Anne M. Locker Bernat
Sarah A. Locker
John Mandler
*Denotes people who completed board service during the 2015 Fiscal Year.

Kelly McLain
Edwine Mubonzi
Mary Parker
Hon. M. Jacqueline Regis
Jonathan Sage-Martinson
Ellen Sampson*
Max J. Schott, II
Marlene Straszewski
Jean Thomson

Robin Phillips, Executive Director
Susan Banovetz
Amy Bergquist
Sarah Brenes
Jane Choi
Lindsay Dreyer
Theresa Dykoschak
Emily Farell
Michele Garnett McKenzie
Emily Good
Sarah Herder
Kent Linder
Madeline Lohman
Deeypinder S. Mayell
Beatriz Menanteau
Ashley Monk
Sally Nankivell
Luke O’Neill
Jennifer Prestholdt
Rosalyn Park
Ayona Riley
Helen Rubenstein
Rachael Steenholdt
Ann Ulring
Rachel Wagner

Interns during Fiscal Year 2015

Asil Abuassba
Kemi Adeleye
Farrah Al Haddad
Mansuda Arora
Nicole Ballou
Nick Bednar
Alex Benson
Witney Bjerke
Zoe Bowman
Delaney Broberg
Veronica Cadavid
Noah Cozad
Paula Cuellar
Austin Dufort
Mohammed El Bashir
Catherine Essenburg
Griffin Ferry
Charlotte Finegold
Maggie Fischer
Travis Fried
Renee Gasner
Marie-Christine Ghreichi
Teri Guhl
Lia Hanson
Zoya Haroon
Mary Hellmich

Sun Hoe Kim
Kayleen Jacobson
Anna Jarman
Anna Jessurun
Stephanie Jones
Saramba Kandeh
Cameron Kesinger
Rebecca Kotz
Sandro Krikijes
Rachel Larson
Johnnay Leenay
Francisco Martinez
Rojina McCarthy
Hannah McKinney
Aramis Mendez
Mary Mikhaeel
Kaija Montaine Hedger
Luiza Montesanti
Antara Nader
Juliet Ogembo
Maria Ohmdahl
Chloe O’Neill
Sofie Pedersen
Julia Potach
Daniela Prigozhina
Nina Santiago

Ryan Schultheis
Alexis Simmons
Lexi Steinkraus
Richard Suel
Catherine Ulrich
Lydia Walter
Kalia Xiong
Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended June 30, 2015

Assets
Current Assets
Cash $184,511
Investments 3,671
Prepaid Expenses 22,447
Accounts Receivable 21,196
Grants Receivable 339,654
Pledges Receivable 82,484
Total Current Assets 653,963

Property and Equipment – Net 34,803

Other Assets
Pledges Receivable 20,000
Security Deposit 10,132
Total Other Assets 30,132

Total Assets $718,898

Liabilities and Net Assets
Current Liabilities
Accounts Payable $35,505
Line of Credit 0
Accrued Vacation 60,033
Payroll Liabilities 4,055
Deferred Lease Incentive 10,132
Total Current Liabilities 109,725

Long-Term Liabilities
Deferred Lease Incentive 37,148

Total Liabilities 146,873

Net Assets
Unrestricted Net Assets (86,213)
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 658,238
Total Net Assets 572,025

Total Liabilities and Net Assets $718,898

Statement of Activities
Year Ended June 30, 2015

Support and Revenue
Support
Foundation and Corporate $539,435
Individual Contributions 394,353
In-Kind Donations 5,036,922
Contract Revenue 72,550
Special Events, Net 274,879
Program Service Fees 62,524
Miscellaneous 56

Total Support and Revenue $6,380,719

Expenses
Program Services $6,375,957
Management and General 131,479
Fundraising 156,410

Total Expenses $6,663,846

Change in Net Assets (283,127)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year 855,152

Net Assets, End of Year $ 572,025
“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dancer performing at the VocalPoint concert held in February 2015 to support The Advocates’ work to make the world a better, safer place for women.