

RECYCLING • EDUCATION • HIV/AIDS PREVENTION



Changing Lives by Recycling Clothes and Shoes



2011
ANNUAL REPORT

FOOD SECURITY • COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



CONTENTS



2011

ANNUAL REPORT



TCE field officers in Mozambique reach out with HIV/AIDS counseling.

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Planet Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes and supports international development projects. It is registered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a private voluntary organization (PVO).

Planet Aid began recycling in 1997 in the Boston area. Today our clothes collection boxes can be found across many major metropolitan areas of the United States, helping to save resources and reduce environmental impacts. Planet Aid sells the clothing it collects, with the net proceeds donated to help people in developing nations meet basic needs. Planet Aid supports community-based development projects that improve health, increase income, aid vulnerable children, train teachers, and enhance the overall quality of life for people across the globe.

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Message from the President



In 2011 Planet Aid celebrated fourteen years of used clothing and shoe collection. We are thankful for all who have helped make us a recognized leader in the field. In this past year alone, we collected 100 million pounds of used textiles. Imagine the open space lost to landfills had these items not been diverted from the waste stream — not to mention the additional greenhouse gases produced or the added cost to municipalities for having to pick up the extra volume in the trash and truck it to a disposal site.

Despite our efforts and the efforts of others, only 15 percent of the total volume of textile waste being generated in the United States is recycled. That is a tragic loss not only for the environment but for the many people around the globe who rely on used clothing for their families.

Planet Aid will continue working toward raising the U.S. textile recycling percentage. Every day we find new hosts for our collection bins, whose total number recently surpassed 16,000. We understand that convenience is a big factor in getting more people to donate their clothes and shoes. Our goal is for everyone to know that recycling their unwanted clothes is as easy as going to the gas station, or the shopping mall, or to the corner store for a carton of milk. We want our bins to be as familiar as possible, and for more people to understand that when they drop off their donation it will be handled with the utmost care and for the maximum good. This latter point, of course, will involve more education. Americans need to know about the used clothing business and how a donation, no matter how small, can make a large difference in the lives of others. Unfortunately, there is not enough information available to the public that explains how clothes recycling works, and why it is so needed.

To help bridge the information gap and clear up the confusion, Planet Aid launched the publication of the *Planet Aid Post*. This biannual newspaper offers insight into the world of used clothing and highlights Planet Aid's activities around the globe. Our inaugural issue was distributed to thousands of locations across the United States during the last week of 2011. The feedback we have received has been great, and by the time this annual report is published our second issue should be on the stands. Look for it at businesses who host a Planet Aid bin or download a copy from our website.

Education is indeed a core part of Planet Aid's mission, domestically as well as internationally. In 2011 we provided approximately \$3 million in direct support to organizations in developing countries to strengthen the quality of education being provided at the primary, vocational, and university level.

We also continue to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in implementing programs in Malawi under the U.S. Government's Food for Progress Program. First launched in 2006, Planet Aid's Malawi program has been focused on training farmers' groups to increase food production, along with addressing the critical issues of education and HIV/AIDS prevention. Planet Aid was also recently awarded a grant by the USDA under the Food for Education Program to conduct a school feeding and nutrition education project in Mozambique. Stay tuned for updates as we begin implementing this key project. Read more about our support of education and other key development initiatives in this report or on our website at www.planetaid.org.

—Ester Neltrup

Mission

Planet Aid's mission is to inform, mobilize, and inspire individuals and communities to work together to bring about worldwide environmental and social progress. Planet Aid recognizes that the Earth's resources are finite and that good stewardship is essential for the well-being of current and future generations. The projects we support thus aim to protect the environment, reduce waste, and increase the efficient use of vital resources. We work to strengthen and organize communities, reduce poverty and promote small enterprise development, support sustainable local food production, improve access to training and quality education, and increase health awareness and encourage healthy lifestyles. We embrace the principles of equality and self-determination in all that we do and foster cooperation and understanding among peoples across the planet. Disadvantaged populations are our priority, and we seek to empower them to create lasting positive change.

Mission elements:

- Protect the environment, reduce waste, and increase the efficient use of vital resources.
- Strengthen and organize communities.
- Reduce poverty and promote small enterprise development.
- Support sustainable local food production.
- Improve access to training and quality education.
- Increase health awareness and encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Foster direct cooperation and understanding among peoples across the planet.
- Help disadvantaged populations of the world create lasting positive change.



For the Environment

The newest Boeing aircraft, the 747-8 Intercontinental, is one of the largest planes ever built in the United States, weighing in at just under 1 million pounds when loaded. Now imagine 100 of these colossal airliners wing to wing and resting on a giant scale. Together they would weigh 100 million pounds, which is also the weight of all the clothing and shoes that Planet Aid collected in 2011.

By having steered this quantity of usable clothing away from the landfill and back into service, Planet Aid has helped the environment in several ways. The most obvious benefit, of course, is the open space that has been spared because there were 100 million fewer pounds of waste dumped on the land.

Next, there has been far less insecticide released into the environment. That is because by reusing clothes rather than disposing of them, there is less need to grow cotton or other materials used to produce new fabric. Cotton is the most commonly grown source of textile fiber and is vulnerable to insect damage. Given that approximately 0.02 pounds of insecticides are used to produce the cotton for one pound of new clothes, saving 100 million pounds of clothing from disposal reduced insecticide use by approximately 2 million pounds. These insecticides would have included some of the most hazardous nerve agents on the planet, namely, aldicarb, parathion, and methamidopho,

Speaking of waterways, according to the World Bank, 17-20 percent of industrial water pollution is due to textile dyeing and treatment. Making fabric consumes a surprising quantity of fresh water (especially given the amount of irrigation water needed to grow the crops). To produce one cotton T-shirt, for example, consumes about 700 gallons of water. The clothing Planet Aid collected last year thus helped save 700 billion gallons of clean water. Put into perspective, Americans drink 8.4 billion gallons of bottled water per year.

Cities, towns and counties also reap rewards as a result of Planet Aid's work. By not having to collect and dispose of an extra 100 million pounds of municipal waste in the form of unwanted clothing, Planet Aid saved municipalities millions of dollars in associated costs.

Perhaps the most important impact of clothing reuse has to do with stopping the acceleration of global warming. The greenhouse effect, as it is sometimes called, is associated with increasing amounts of CO₂ released into the atmosphere. We normally think of CO₂ as coming from our car's tailpipe or an industrial smokestack. However, when solid waste such as textiles are buried in landfills they naturally release greenhouse gases as they decompose. Similarly, at the other end of the clothing life-cycle spectrum, the production of textile fibers and the manufacture of cloth burns considerable quantities of fuel that releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. How much CO₂ is saved through clothing reuse? Approximately 7 pounds of CO₂ are saved for every 1 pound of clothing that is spared from disposal. This means that Planet Aid effectively saved 700 million pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere last year. This is the equivalent of removing 61,000 cars from the road (According to the U.S. EPA, a passenger car emits about 11,450 pounds of CO₂ a year on average).

How does this relate to you? Let's say you fill a plastic bag with 10 pounds of unwanted clothes. By donating this single bag you would have thus prevented 35 pounds of CO₂ gases from polluting the atmosphere. You also would have saved 7,000 gallons of water, and avoided the dispersal of a significant quantity of insecticides. The upshot is that such seemingly small acts are not to be taken lightly. This is especially true when you consider that, in the aggregate, such contributions may steer another 747's weight in clothing away from disposal. We will work hard this year as always to make sure that the idea of reuse really takes off!



For People

Planet Aid supports development projects that help individuals and communities improve the condition of their lives. The projects—designed by Humana People to People and implemented by locally registered member organizations—create the energy and momentum needed to bring about lasting long-term development. For more information on the programs described on these pages visit www.planetaid.org.

Agriculture: Farmers' Clubs

Utilizing the Farmers' Clubs development model, Planet Aid has been helping smallholder producers in sub-Saharan Africa increase production and income while strengthening food security. The projects train participants in conservation agriculture while creating an organizational framework that helps them cooperate and learn from each other. Together, farmers purchase in bulk, negotiate fair prices on products, share transportation costs, and get access to better markets.

Training: Vocational Schools and Primary School Teacher Training

Planet Aid supports teacher-training colleges in Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, the DR Congo, and India. These nations have experienced severe shortages of qualified primary school teachers. In cooperation with each country's ministry of education, the graduates of these colleges are hired to teach in elementary schools in rural areas where teacher shortages are especially critical. The student teachers go on to become skilled at creating exciting learning environments and encouraging children to stay in school. The colleges also work in partnership with local communities to improve living conditions and offer educational opportunities to adults as well as youth. Graduates thus learn about the needs of the communities in which they teach, and in how they can help initiate and guide projects that make a real difference.

Planet Aid also supports vocational training in nations such as Angola, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. These programs provide students with more than trade skills. They equip them with the essential life skills that inspire resilience and perseverance in places where everyday existence is often very difficult.

The schools target youth who have dropped out of school, orphans, and former child soldiers, giving them a second chance. The schools are also a community resource, serving as meeting centers for civic groups and host local sporting and other events.



Community Development: Child Aid

Planet Aid supports community development in India, Ecuador, Belize, DR Congo, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa through the Child Aid model. This comprehensive model's primary aim is to empower participants to become agents of change, while creating safe and supportive living conditions for children and their families. Each project develops local capacity by organizing families to work toward preventing the spread of disease, improving the quality of education, generating income, and caring for orphans.

Village Action Groups (VAGs) are formed in Child Aid projects to carry out the activities. Each group is comprised of approximately 35-40 families, and as many as 85 such groups are formed in a regional Child Aid Program. The VAGs mobilize communities to band together to build preschools, offer adult literacy and maternal health classes, organize youth clubs, plant fruit trees, and construct playgrounds.

Health: AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria

Major epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, threaten to undermine development efforts in Africa and Asia. Planet Aid is helping to fight the spread of these diseases on these continents through the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) program. TCE is a comprehensive behavior change campaign conducted door-to-door by dedicated in-country staff and volunteers.

TCE program staff and volunteers in each country work diligently to increase awareness, decrease stigma and discrimination, and provide support for children and adults affected by the disease. TCE has helped increase the number of people tested, the number of pregnant women attending prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, the number of orphans referred to existing social services, and the number of HIV positive people receiving care. The TCE model is also being used to raise awareness and mobilize prevention of TB and malaria.

Planet Aid also supports the operation of HOPE centers in several African countries. Each HOPE center serves as a resource hub and activity centers for people who have tested HIV positive, people who do not know their HIV status and need information and reassurance about testing, people who need information about sexually transmitted diseases, and people who want to participate in caring for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Through its outreach program, HOPE promotes prevention measures at schools, youth clubs, and throughout the community. For those already infected, HOPE provides support in boosting nutrition, maintaining treatment, and living a healthy life.



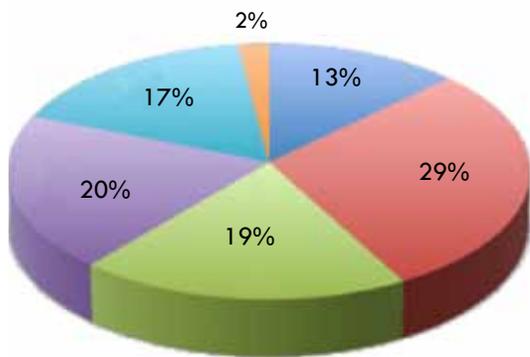
Country	Projects	US \$
Angola	Community Health Program	10,000
	HOPE - for AIDS affected	8,000
	Teacher Training	72,000
	Vocational Schools	10,000
Belize	Child Aid/Community Development	52,746
Botswana	HOPE - for AIDS affected	406,322
	Child Aid/Community Development	53,466
Brazil	Child Aid/community development	302,000
DR Congo	Teacher Training	100,000
	Child Aid/Community Development	117,000
	TCE - HIV/AIDS education and prevention	293,000
	Farmers Clubs	140,000
China	Farmers' Clubs	72,000
	Community Development	75,000
	TB Project	37,000
	Malaria Project	96,000
Ecuador	Child Aid/Community Development	301,237
Guinea Bissau	Farmers' Clubs	9,349
	Rural Energy Project	2,000
	Vocational School	9,000
India	Training Center for Global Development	61,396
	Teacher Training	73,406
	HOPE - for AIDS affected	5,390
	Micro Finance	45,808
Malawi	Farmers Club	1,410,061
	TCE - HIV/AIDS education and prevention	575,300
	Teacher Training	2,138,725
Mozambique	Teacher Training	59,028
	One World University	93,333
	Vocational Schools	90,235
South Africa	ADPP College Maputo	13,889
	TCE - HIV/AIDS education and prevention	312,000
	HOPE - for AIDS affected	75,600
	Child Aid/Community Development	112,400
	Capacity building and development	190,000
Zimbabwe	HOPE - for AIDS affected	128,000
	TCE - HIV/AIDS education and prevention	34,870
	Child Aid/Community Development	141,331
	Ponesai Vanhu Junior School & Technical College	186,195
	Food Aid	288,446
Laos	Capacity building and development	50,255
	Murgwi Community Center	125,000
	Project development	13,850
USA	Misc. charities and schools	122,842
Various countries	Computer equipment	34,508
	For 2012 project initiatives	1,433,537



Worldwide Projects Supported by Planet Aid in 2011



Distribution of Support by Sector



- Community Development
- Training
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Health: The Big Epidemics
- Capacity Building and Development
- In-kind and other programs

International Training and Capacity Building

PlanetAid provides training and capacity building assistance to development organizations around the globe. The assistance can take various forms, from support in meeting the requirements of U.S. development agencies to technical training for program staff. In this report from the field, Consultant Kevin Ivers provides an example of the type of support provided during an assignment in South Africa regarding an HIV/AIDS prevention and community mobilization program.

I removed my shoes and took a seat in the corner of the thatched hut. The walls were decorated with drums and snake skins, the tools of traditional healing practices. My colleagues, Amade and Mirabelle, stood near the center of the hut. They opened their sterile kits and began performing HIV field tests on the locals that had assembled there.

A senior traditional healer, a distinguished, almost regal 59 year old man who spoke in Swati, the local language, informed Mirabelle that he'd never been tested for HIV before. She began to counsel him, asking him questions about his sexual practices and gauging his knowledge of prevention behaviors. It was an intimate conversation, one I never witnessed in the United States. But here in a remote corner of Mpumalanga Province in South Africa things were different.

I had come to Mpumalanga to assist Humana People to People South Africa (HPPSA), a local NGO, in developing a proposal that would help expand their HIV work. The U.S. Agency for International Development office in South Africa was seeking cutting-edge ways to improve care and treatment among a range of priority populations, such as pregnant women, babies and youth. They had issued what is called a "Request for Application" or RFA.

The RFA presented a perfect opportunity for HPPSA, an experienced local leader in the fight against HIV. The organization had worked closely with the South African Department of Health on major disease such as HIV and tuberculosis. HPPSA has developed a reputation for outstanding work and was well poised to expand its reach.

My job as part of the HPPSA team was to tailor a program to meet the RFA's requirements. After an initial meeting, the team agreed that the bid should focus on beefing up South Africa's community health worker model in key districts. We would target pregnant women, and other hard to reach populations, with a door-to-door approach called the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE). TCE systematically educates and mobilizes individuals en masse and encourages preventative behavior. HPPSA had implemented TCE for years in the Ehlanzeni District of Mpumalanga, and had established a strong presence there. Former TCE field officers were still conducting volunteer work, providing HIV tests, enrolling people in clinic care, and following up on their progress.



Kevin Ivers and a TCE district team in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

The TCE district and ward teams were comprised of women who were passionate about serving their communities. They brought me to the healers' estate described at the outset of this article. The TCE teams had worked with the healers in reaching remote populations with HIV testing and referrals to care and treatment. In South Africa there are still areas where traditional healers and community health workers attached to clinics are strongly at odds over HIV treatments. In Ehlanzeni, there was not only harmony and strong cooperation, but a deep mutual respect between the TCE field officers and the protectors of traditional ways of life. HPPSA recognized the vital link the healers provided to individuals, who are often on the margins of the health system and highly vulnerable to HIV transmission. This amazing partnership would become a key part of our proposal.

I also visited an Ehlanzeni clinic, where I interviewed a nurse who worked alone conducting HIV tests and provided medicine to HIV-positive patients. I asked what it would be like if TCE officers could no longer provide support in the field? She responded softly: "It would be a hell." She explained that rural clinics like hers face challenges in getting pregnant women to pick up their medicine and consistently take it. Without the community outreach from TCE, she said follow up would not be possible. It was a model that worked well she insisted.

HPPSA had clearly achieved amazing results with TCE. The challenge now would be to develop a way to present the techniques within an overall approach that USAID would support. We worked long hours that week, putting our plan together for writing the proposal. Over the proceeding weeks we crafted a strong application that presented an innovative community-based solution for the myriad challenges posed by HIV in Africa. The HPPSA team was proud of what it had accomplished. Now it was up to USAID to see the light of the proffered arguments and fund this vital program.



Planet Aid Post Launched

At the end of 2011, Planet Aid published the very first edition of the *Planet Aid Post*. Using an easy-to-read tabloid newspaper format, the *Planet Aid Post* informs readers about how the global trade in used clothes works, what happens to donated clothes, the environmental and other benefits derived from recycling used clothing and other Planet Aid activities.

To help launch the inaugural issue of the *Post*, Planet Aid employees hit the streets to personally deliver copies to nearly 2,800 locations across 22 states.

They visited inner city, suburban, and rural Planet Aid locations. Planet Aid's 16,000 site hosts include small businesses, department and grocery stores, fuel stations, mini-marts, shopping centers, as well as churches, schools, and local civic and community centers.

In total, more than 50,000 copies of the *Post* were delivered to site hosts to share with their employees and customers. Look for the next issue at your local Planet Aid host location or download a copy from our website: www.planetaid.org.

Exploring a World of Ideas with Planet Aid



Planet Aid offers U.S. schools the opportunity to host clothes collection boxes and to learn more about the recycling world. Participating schools are offered lessons in the importance of conserving resources and protecting the environment. They may also visit a Planet Aid center as part of the lesson. The children also learn about the countries and projects supported by Planet Aid, and may participate in exchanges and conduct campaigns to help others like themselves in faraway places.



2011 Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 2011

ASSETS

Cash and current assets	8,077,830
Property and equipment and other assets, net	6,194,667
Total assets	14,272,497

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities	7,134,260
Capital leases, net of current portion	1,932,941
Total liabilities	9,067,201

Unrestricted net assets	4,449,535
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	14,272,497
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STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

December 2011

PROGRAM SERVICES

U. S. Clothing Collection and Habitat Protection	20,638,839
International Training and Capacity Building	186,097
International Aid	10,184,187
Total program services	31,009,123

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	3,231,828
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FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT	2,739,428
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Total expenses	36,980,379
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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 2011

OPERATING REVENUE

Sales of donated clothing and other goods	31,431,821
Contracts - Federal	5,346,995
Other contributions	659,508
Interest and other revenue	409,197
Total operating revenue	37,847,521

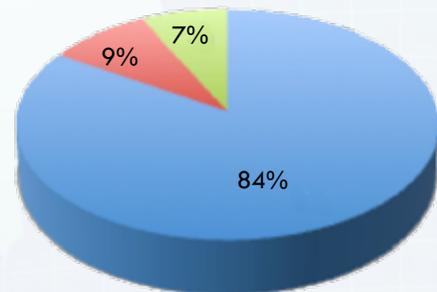
OPERATING EXPENSES

Program services	31,009,123
General and administrative	3,231,828
Fundraising and development	2,739,428
Total operating expenses	36,980,379

Foreign currency loss	(111,381)
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Changes in unrestricted net assets	755,761
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Allocation of Funds



- Program Service
- General and Administrative
- Fundraising and Development

Board of Directors



Mikael Norling
Chairman



Ester Neltrup
President



Jytte Martinussen
Treasurer



Clifford Reeves
Director



Eva Nielsen
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Alfred Besa
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Changing Lives by Recycling Clothes and Shoes

To find the bin nearest you go to www.planetaid.org and click on "find a bin."

www.planetaid.org

info@planetaid.org