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Filing Relief VCP

Form 990-EZ

Short Form

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code
(except black lung benefit trust or private foundation)

► Sponsoring organizations of donor advised funds and controlling organizations as defined in section 512(b)(13) must file Form 990. All other organizations with gross receipts less than \$1,000,000 and total assets less than \$2,500,000 at the end of the year may use this form

► The organization may have to use a copy of this return to satisfy state reporting requirements

OMB No 1545 1150

2008

Open to Public
Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

A For the 2008 calendar year, or tax year beginning 3/13 , 2008, and ending 12/31 , 2008		C The Strongheart Group 1410 Lakeway Drive Austin, TX 78734	
B Check if applicable <input type="checkbox"/> Address change <input type="checkbox"/> Name change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial return <input type="checkbox"/> Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Amended return <input type="checkbox"/> Application pending	D Employer identification number 26-2190101 E Telephone number 512-293-7970 F Group Exemption Number		
• Section 501(c)(3) organizations and 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must attach a completed Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ).			
I Website: ► www.strongheartfellowship.org		H Check ► <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF).	
J Organization type (check only one) — <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 501(c) (3) □ (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527			
K Check ► <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A return is not required, but if the organization chooses to file a return, be sure to file a complete return			
L Add lines 5b, 6b, and 7b, to line 9 to determine gross receipts; if \$1,000,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ ► \$ 100,496.			

Part I Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances (See the instructions for Part I.)

REVENUE	1
1 Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	76,456.
2 Program service revenue including government fees and contracts	2
3 Membership dues and assessments	3
4 Investment income	4
5a Gross amount from sale of assets other than inventory	5a
b Less cost or other basis and sales expenses	5b
c Gain or (loss) from sale of assets other than inventory (Subtract line 5b from line 5a) (att sch)	5c
6 Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G) If any amount is from gaming, check here ► <input type="checkbox"/>	6
a Gross revenue (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1)	6a
b Less, direct expenses other than fundraising expenses	6b
c Net income or (loss) from special events and activities (Subtract line 6b from line 6a)	6c
7a Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances	7a 24,040.
b Less cost of goods sold	7b 4,313.
c Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c 19,727.
8 Other revenue (describe ► _____)	8
9 Total revenue (add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8)	9 96,183.
EXPENSES	
10 Grants and similar amounts paid (attach schedule)	10
11 Benefits paid to or for members	11
12 Salaries, other compensation, and employee benefits	12 28,500.
13 Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13 2,473.
14 Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14
15 Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15 271.
16 Other expenses (describe ► <u>See Statement 1</u>)	16 51,526.
17 Total expenses (add lines 10 through 16)	17 82,770.
ASSETS	
18 Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18 13,413.
19 Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (from line 27, column (A)) (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	19 0.
20 Other changes in net assets or fund balances (attach explanation)	20
21 Net assets or fund balances at end of year (Combine lines 18 through 20)	21 13,413.

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$2,500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ

RECEIVED	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	22	13,413.
23 Land and buildings	23	
24 Other assets (describe ► <u>FOCU IRS OGDEN, UTAH</u>)	24	
25 Total assets	0. 25	13,413.
26 Total liabilities (describe ► <u>IRS OGDEN, UTAH</u>)	0. 26	0.
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	0. 27	13,413.

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the instructions for Form 990.

Form 990-EZ (2008)

TEEA0803L 09/18/08

VCP

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Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments (See the instructions.)

What is the organization's primary exempt purpose? Create profound and sustainable change

Describe what was achieved in carrying out the organization's exempt purposes. In a clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, or other relevant information for each program title.

Expenses
(Required for 501(c)(3)
and (4) organizations and
4947(a)(1) trusts, optional
for others)

28	Strongheart Fellowship is a healing and learning guidance program for youth from extremely challenging circumstances. See attachment.		
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	28a 32,645.
29	Ten Days is a hands-on, grassroots volunteer program that enables people from around the world to spend ten days in Africa as part of an organized service mission. See attachment.		
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	29a 17,815.
30	Plan 180 is a collaborative effort helping marginalized people in post-conflict regions access, understand, and utilize ideas and resources to improve their lives. See attachment.		
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	30a 19,378.
31	Other program services (attach schedule) See Statement 2		
	(Grants \$) If this amount includes foreign grants, check here	<input type="checkbox"/>	31a 9,510.
32	Total program service expenses (add lines 28a through 31a)		32 79,348.

Part IV List of Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees. (List each one even if not compensated. See the instrs.)

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirement in General Instruction V.)

	Yes	No
33 Did the organization engage in any activity not previously reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a detailed description of each activity	33	X
34 Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents but not reported to the IRS? If 'Yes,' attach a conformed copy of the changes	34	X
35 If the organization had income from business activities, such as those reported on lines 2, 6a, and 7a (among others), but not reported on Form 990-T, attach a statement explaining your reason for not reporting the income on Form 990-T See Statement 3		
a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?	35a	X
b If 'Yes,' has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?	35b	
36 Was there a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or substantial contraction during the year? If 'Yes,' complete applicable parts of Schedule N	36	X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions ► 37a 0.	37a	0.
b Did the organization file Form 1120-POL for this year?	37b	X
38a Did the organization borrow from, or make any loans to, any officer, director, trustee, or key employee or were any such loans made in a prior year and still unpaid at the start of the period covered by this return?	38a	X
b If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part II and enter the total amount involved	38b	N/A
39 501(c)(7) organizations Enter	39a	N/A
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39b	N/A
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities		
40a 501(c)(3) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on the organization during the year under: section 4911 ► 0. ; section 4912 ► 0. , section 4955 ► 0.		
b 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or did it become aware of an excess benefit transaction from a prior year? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	X
c Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958	40c	0.
d Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization	40d	0.
e All organizations At any time during the tax year, was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? If 'Yes,' complete Form 8886-T	40e	X
41 List the states with which a copy of this return is filed ► None		

42a The books are in care of ► Zoe Adams Telephone no. ► 512-293-7970
 Located at ► 1410 Lakeway Drive Austin TX ZIP + 4 ► 78734-5114

	Yes	No
b At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country ►	42b	X

See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22 1, Report of a Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts

	Yes	No
c At any time during the calendar year, did the organization maintain an office outside of the U.S.? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the foreign country ►	42c	X

	□	N/A
43 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-EZ in lieu of Form 1041 – Check here and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the tax year ► 43	43	N/A

	Yes	No
44 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	44	X

	□	N/A
45 Is any related organization a controlled entity of the organization within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ	45	X

Part VI **Section 501(c)(3) organizations only.** All section 501(c)(3) organizations must answer questions 46-49 and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

See Statement 4

		Yes	No
46	Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part I	46	X
47	Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part II	47	X
48	Is the organization operating a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E	48	X
49a	Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?	49a	X
	b If 'Yes,' was the related organization(s) a section 527 organization?	49b	

50 Complete this table for the five highest compensated employees (other than officers, directors, trustees and key employees) who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
None				
Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ►				

51 Complete this table for the five highest compensated independent contractors who each received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. If there is none, enter 'None.'

(a) Name and address of each independent contractor paid more than \$100,000	(b) Type of service	(c) Compensation
None		
Total number of other independent contractors receiving over \$100,000 ►		

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here ► Zoe Adams Date 10/13/2010
 Signature of officer Pres & Exec Dir
 ► Zoe Adams Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's signature ► <u>John Blazek</u> CPA	Date <u>10-13-10</u>	Check if self-employed ► <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions) ► <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 ► Blazek & Vetterling ► 2900 Weslayan, Suite 200 Houston, TX 77027-5132	EIN		N/A
		Phone no	► (713) 439-5739	

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions

BAA

► Yes No

Form 990-EZ (2008)

2008

Open to Public
Inspection**SCHEDULE A**
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service**Public Charity Status and Public Support**

To be completed by all section 501 (c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts.

► Attach to Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. ► See separate instructions.

Name of the organization

The Strongheart Group

Employer identification number

26-2190101

Part I Reason for Public Charity Status (All organizations must complete this part.) (see instructions)

The organization is not a private foundation because it is. (Please check only one organization.)

1 A church, convention of churches or association of churches described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(i).
 2 A school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii). (Attach Schedule E.)
 3 A hospital or cooperative hospital service organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii). (Attach Schedule H.)
 4 A medical research organization operated in conjunction with a hospital described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iii). Enter the hospital's name, city, and state:
 5 An organization operated for the benefit of a college or university owned or operated by a governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(iv). (Complete Part II.)
 6 A federal, state, or local government or governmental unit described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(v).
 7 An organization that normally receives a substantial part of its support from a governmental unit or from the general public described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
 8 A community trust described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). (Complete Part II.)
 9 An organization that normally receives: (1) more than 33-1/3 % of its support from contributions, membership fees, and gross receipts from activities related to its exempt functions – subject to certain exceptions, and (2) no more than 33-1/3 % of its support from gross investment income and unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 tax) from businesses acquired by the organization after June 30, 1975. See section 509(a)(2). (Complete Part III.)
 10 An organization organized and operated exclusively to test for public safety. See section 509(a)(4). (see instructions)
 11 An organization organized and operated exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or carry out the purposes of one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2). See section 509(a)(3). Check the box that describes the type of supporting organization and complete lines 11e through 11h.
 a Type I b Type II c Type III – Functionally integrated d Type III – Other
 e By checking this box, I certify that the organization is not controlled directly or indirectly by one or more disqualified persons other than foundation managers and other than one or more publicly supported organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or section 509(a)(2).
 f If the organization received a written determination from the IRS that is a Type I, Type II or Type III supporting organization, check this box
 g Since August 17, 2006, has the organization accepted any gift or contribution from any of the following persons?
 (i) a person who directly or indirectly controls, either alone or together with persons described in (ii) and (iii) below, the governing body of the supported organization?
 (ii) a family member of a person described in (i) above?
 (iii) a 35% controlled entity of a person described in (i) or (ii) above?
 h Provide the following information about the organizations the organization supports.

	Yes	No
11g (i)		
11g (ii)		
11g (iii)		

(i) Name of Supported Organization	(ii) EIN	(iii) Type of organization (described on lines 1-9 above or IRC section (see instructions))	(iv) Is the organization in col (i) listed in your governing document?		(v) Did you notify the organization in col (i) of your support?		(vi) Is the organization in col (i) organized in the U.S.?		(vii) Amount of Support
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Total									

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2008

Part II Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Sections 170(b)(1)(A)(iv) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 5, 7, or 8 of Part I)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received. (Do not include "unusual grants.")					76,456.	76,456.
2 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to it or expended on its behalf						0.
3 The value of services or facilities furnished to the organization by a governmental unit without charge. Do not include the value of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge						0.
4 Total. Add lines 1-3	0.	0.	0.	0.	76,456.	76,456.
5 The portion of total contributions by each person (other than a governmental unit or publicly supported organization) included on line 1 that exceeds 2% of the amount shown on line 11, column (f)						18,471.
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4						57,985.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	0.	0.	0.	0.	76,456.	76,456.
8 Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						0.
9 Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the business is regularly carried on						0.
10 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV)						0.
11 Total support. Add lines 7 through 10						76,456.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc (see instructions)					12	24,040.

13 **First five years.** If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here ▶ **Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage**

14 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))

14 %

15 Public support percentage for 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 26f

15 %

16a **33-1/3 support test – 2008.** If the organization did not check the box on line 13, and the line 14 is 33-1/3 % or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ▶ b **33-1/3 support test – 2007.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, or 16a, and line 15 is 33-1/3% or more, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ▶ 17a **10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2008.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, or 16b, and line 14 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ▶ b **10%-facts-and-circumstances test – 2007.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, or 17a, and line 15 is 10% or more, and if the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test, check this box and stop here. Explain in Part IV how the organization meets the 'facts-and-circumstances' test. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization. ▶ 18 **Private foundation.** If the organization did not check a box on line 13, 16a, 16b, 17a, or 17b, check this box and see instructions ▶

BAA

Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2008

Part III Support Schedule for Organizations Described in Section 509(a)(2)

(Complete only if you checked the box on line 9 of Part I.)

Section A. Public Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received. (Do not include 'unusual grants')						
2 Gross receipts from admissions, merchandise sold or services performed, or facilities furnished in a activity that is related to the organization's tax-exempt purpose						
3 Gross receipts from activities that are not an unrelated trade or business under section 513						
4 Tax revenues levied for the organization's benefit and either paid to or expended on its behalf						
5 The value of services or facilities furnished by a governmental unit to the organization without charge						
6 Total. Add lines 1-5						
7a Amounts included on lines 1, 2, 3 received from disqualified persons						
b Amounts included on lines 2 and 3 received from other than disqualified persons that exceed the greater of 1% of the total of lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12 for the year or \$5,000						
c Add lines 7a and 7b.						
8 Public support (Subtract line 7c from line 6)						

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal yr beginning in) ▶	(a) 2004	(b) 2005	(c) 2006	(d) 2007	(e) 2008	(f) Total
9 Amounts from line 6						
10a Gross income from interest, dividends, payments received on securities loans, rents, royalties and income from similar sources						
b Unrelated business taxable income (less section 511 taxes) from businesses acquired after June 30, 1975						
c Add lines 10a and 10b ..						
11 Net income from unrelated business activities not included in line 10b, whether or not the business is regularly carried on ..						
12 Other income. Do not include gain or loss from the sale of capital assets (Explain in Part IV.)						
13 Total support. (add lines 9, 10c, 11, and 12)						
14 First five years. If the Form 990 is for the organization's first, second, third, fourth, or fifth tax year as a section 501(c)(3) organization, check this box and stop here						▶ <input type="checkbox"/>

Section C. Computation of Public Support Percentage

15 Public support percentage for 2008 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) ..	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27g ..	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2008 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)) ..	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2007 Schedule A, Part IV-A, line 27h ..	18	%
19a 33-1/3 support tests – 2008. If the organization did not check the box on line 14, and line 15 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 17 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		▶ <input type="checkbox"/>
b 33-1/3 support tests – 2007. If the organization did not check a box on line 14 or 19a, and line 16 is more than 33-1/3%, and line 18 is not more than 33-1/3%, check this box and stop here. The organization qualifies as a publicly supported organization		▶ <input type="checkbox"/>
20 Private foundation. If the organization did not check a box on line 14, 19a, or 19b, check this box and see instructions ..		▶ <input type="checkbox"/>

Part IV **Supplemental Information.** Complete this part to provide the explanation required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; or Part III, line 12. Provide any other additional information. (see instructions)

The Strongheart Group

26-2190101

Statement 1
Form 990-EZ, Part I, Line 16
Other Expenses

Bank charges	\$ 723.
Fellow living expenses	2,811.
Information technology	1,009.
Office supplies	861.
Other expenses	585.
Program materials	6,001.
Promotional materials	2,048.
Telecommunications	858.
Travel	36,630.
Total	\$ 51,526.

Statement 2
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 31
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

<u>Description</u>	<u>0. Grants</u>	<u>Program Service Expenses</u>
The Name Campaign is an effort to raise awareness for the plight of abducted children who are forced to be soldiers and slaves. See attachment.	3,927.	
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
The Next Right Thing is a program that helps children in medical need from resource-poor countries get the life-saving or life-changing medical treatment they need to live. See attachment.	5,583.	
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
Total	\$ 0.	\$ 9,510.

Statement 3
Form 990-EZ, Part V, Line 35
Reason for Income Not Reported on Form 990-T

Income reported on line 7 relates to the sale of jewelry described in the attachment to Part III, line 28. This income is related to Strongheart's exempt purposes because (1) the jewelry is intended to bring awareness to the public of the tragedy of the Liberian civil war and (2) the jewelry is a by-product of the Fellowship Program, the main purpose of which is education of the Fellow.

Statement 4
Form 990-EZ, Part VI
Regarding Transfers Associated with Personal Benefit Contracts

(a) Did the organization, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract? No

(b) Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract? No

R

Part III – Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

28) STRONGHEART FELLOWSHIP

28 a) EXPENSES: \$32,645

Strongheart Fellowship is a healing and learning guidance program designed to help bright, resilient young people from extremely challenging circumstances around the globe – such as those rescued from child slavery, teenagers once abducted by rebel armies, young people orphaned by AIDS, and young survivors of extreme poverty and war. The program's purpose is to help these young people develop into compassionate, innovative problem-solvers and leaders that can affect significant social change.

• Completed Phase I of the Curriculum Development:

In 2008, Strongheart Group accomplished taking its Inaugural Fellow, Lovetta Conto, through completion of Phase I of the Strongheart Fellowship Program. Lovetta is a survivor of the Liberian Civil War and grew up with sporadic care and very little consistent education in a refugee camp. Lovetta Conto learned how to:

- let go of the limiting factors of her past war and refugee experiences
- take responsibility for her academic advancement
- be aware of her emotions and identify her feelings
- be flexible in her thinking
- communicate appropriately and effectively
- become financially self-sufficient so that she could move herself out of survival mode and have the ability to care about and help others
- become a spokesperson for the possibility of refugees changing their lives
- relate with other people with empathy and compassion
- raise awareness for the potential of all human beings to take bad situations and learn and grow from them
- inspire people to care deeper about the world around them

• Awareness Campaigns:

Strongheart is dedicated to helping each Strongheart Fellow master crucial real world skills to create their own “exit strategy from poverty” and address important needs within their communities and the larger world.

Strongheart successfully guided Lovetta Conto in learning skills she needed to be financially self-sufficient, enabling her to break away from the mentality that she was a victim in the world who needed aid to survive. This breakthrough caused her to move up Maslow's hierarchy of needs - past the physiological and safety needs stages - and into the stage where she could begin to think about and care for the community around her.

As part of her Strongheart Fellowship, Lovetta created a project that facilitated raising awareness for the issues that plagued her life – civil war and being a refugee. Lovetta created a piece of jewelry that she could use to help tell her story. Facilitated by Strongheart as part of her learning process, mentors tutored Lovetta in jewelry design and manufacturing. Lovetta designed a necklace from spent bullet casings collected in the jungle and off the streets of her country following its civil war. She turned the bullet casings into leaf-shaped jewelry to show that new life can arise out of the ashes of war. Lovetta conducted awareness campaigns to spread the message of the plight of refugees and how one needs to have hope in the face of darkness. An example of one of these awareness campaigns was the World Refugee Day Media Campaign which reached five media outlets and an estimated 7,000 people. As one article said, “Lovetta and her Akawelle jewels will make Controlarms.org proud because the symbolism couldn't be any stronger. When a metallic symbol and harbinger of death is squashed and shaped into a jeweled leaf, imprinted with the word “life,” it speaks to the fragility, and at the same time, resilience and defiance of the human spirit.”

• Invited Speaker at Prestigious Event:

Strongheart Fellow Lovetta Conto was a featured speaker at the Aspen Institute's Ideas Festival “Against All Odds: Profiles in Resiliency,” where she spoke to over two hundred people from across the country and received a standing

Part III – Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

ovation. She also participated in workshops with twelve of the country's top public high school juniors as part of the Bezos Scholars Program, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation.

• International Peace Prize:

Because of her work raising awareness for refugees, Lovetta Conto was chosen as a finalist for the 2008 International Children's Peace Prize - an initiative of the KidsRights Foundation with the support of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates - presented by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

29) TEN DAYS

29 a) EXPENSES: \$17,815

Ten Days is a hands-on, grassroots volunteer program that enables people from around the world to spend ten days on the ground in Africa as part of an organized service mission. The focus of the 2008 Ten Days volunteer program was to repair a war-torn building for the purpose of creating the facility for the Strongheart Fellowship Program and Community Center.

• Strongheart House and Community Center:

In 2008, after scouting locations around the world for the selection of the site for the first Strongheart House, Strongheart chose Liberia, West Africa not only because of its long standing history with America beginning in 1822 when the American Colonization Society was established to colonize Liberia as a place to send freed African-American slaves, but because it is a country with an incredible desire to overcome a long and brutal civil war.

Within Liberia, Strongheart chose a building in the small town of Robertsport in Grand Cape Mount County. This building, a 10,000 square foot structure, was once beautiful but had weathered fourteen years of civil war and twenty years total of no maintenance. The facility had been stripped by looters during the war and lost most everything.

Referring to this building as "Strongheart House" to convey a feeling of warmth and family, the facility's purpose was to be an international community home of exceptional young people from all around the world who are in the Strongheart Fellowship Program. In addition, it was to be the base of a community program offering learning opportunities to the local Liberian community.

Strongheart conducted a ten-person volunteer planning summit in 2008, at which the goals for Strongheart House were determined and the potential challenges and solutions were addressed. The summit resulted in the coordination of volunteer efforts for getting the house repaired so that it would be livable after its post-civil war devastation.

In 2008, Strongheart led a five-person volunteer team to Liberia to begin efforts to restore this facility that then became Strongheart House.

(At the time of this filing, this building is active as the Strongheart House and Community Center described herein.)

30) PLAN 180

30 a) EXPENSES: \$19,378

Plan 180 is a collaborative effort helping marginalized people in post-conflict regions access, understand, and utilize ideas and resources to improve their lives. The goal of Plan 180 is to bring into Robertsport "best practice" ideas, teachers, innovators, and thinkers from around the world to work directly with the citizens of Robertsport. The Strongheart team behind the Plan 180 initiative believes in the possibility of everyone - regardless of previous education level or lack of

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literacy skills - to understand ideas that can dramatically improve their lives and the lives of their entire lineage as a result of their transformation.

• Planning and Partnership Recruitment:

Plan 180 was a collaborative initiative led by Strongheart for the purpose of consolidating resources from innovative thought-leaders and best-practice organizations to focus them on a single geographic area for the purpose of lifting that community out of post-conflict poverty and into global-class revitalization.

After deciding to make Grand Cape Mount County the location of the first Strongheart House, Strongheart made two trips to Liberia in 2008 to identify a wide-range of specific needs keeping the region stuck in post-conflict poverty. Meetings were held with local and regional government and civic leaders including the county superintendent, legislators, district commissioners, paramount chiefs, ministry coordinators, the capital city mayor, market women, youth program leaders, staff of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the staff of the local schools, hospital and orphanage. Meetings were also held with the local citizens of the town where Strongheart House is located.

Robertsport is a small town with a population of around 4,000. Once flourishing fishing village, the town was devastated by years of civil war. Plan 180 is working on ways to help the citizens of Robertsport rise out of poverty and have a vision for a better life and a stake in the success of their society. It is Plan 180's hope that the work accomplished in Robertsport will be applicable to other communities throughout the developing world.

As part of the Plan 180 effort, Strongheart entered into collaboration with the non-profit organization FLOW. Co-founded by Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, FLOW is focused on the goals of sustainable peace and prosperity and is a sister organization to the Whole Planet Foundation which empowers the poor in global communities through microcredit. FLOW chose to partner with Strongheart to pilot its Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs program in Liberia, beginning with serving the market women in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County. In November 2008, Zoe Adams, Strongheart Executive Director, was a speaker at FLOW's Washington, D.C. "Peace through Commerce" conference hosted by George Washington University and the Institute for Corporate Responsibility. The conference's focus was on poverty alleviation through economic development and on increasing the adoption of ethical NGO and corporate practices that contribute to peace.

In addition, Strongheart team members, as part of the Plan 180 initiative, attended two key U.S. conferences of the National Association of Cape Mountainians in the Americas (NACA). NACA is the largest and most active organized group of Liberian ex-patriots in the United States. Strongheart presented at both of these conferences - the Annual Conference and the Reconstruction Conference. Strongheart also hosted a top delegate from Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia for a series of meetings with Plan 180 collaborators in the U.S.

In 2008, NACA awarded Strongheart with the "Distinguished Service Award" for its dedicated service aimed at improving the quality of life for the people of Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia.

31) NAME CAMPAIGN

31 a) EXPENSES: \$3,927

Northern Uganda was in a 22-year war which caused over one million Northern Ugandans to be displaced. In addition, in the five years before 2008 over 20,000 children were abducted in the dead of night from their homes and hiding places by a rebel group that called itself the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The conflict in Northern Uganda was Africa's longest-running war, exacting a terrible toll by targeting very precisely the children of the region. The Name Campaign was an effort to raise awareness of the plight of abducted children forced to be child soldiers and slaves.

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• Awareness Campaign:

Inspired by the Museum of Tolerance's practice of giving visitors the name of an actual child affected by the Holocaust, the Name Campaign distributed "nameplate necklaces" that bore the name of an individual child abducted in Northern Uganda. The campaign's goals were to encourage Americans to see these children not as an overwhelming tragedy – but as individuals. In wearing the name necklaces, supporters pledged to remember that individual child – "to speak their name, tell their story, and bring them home." Over 6,000 necklaces were distributed and are worn by people as diverse as school children in California to senior citizens in Mississippi.

In 2008, the Name Campaign banded together with other non-profit organizations working to end the war in Northern Uganda through participating in a public statement regarding the failure of the LRA to sign the Final Peace Agreement. The statement also conveyed recommendations to the U.S. Government, the Government of Uganda and the international community regarding attacks on citizens and the release of women and children. In addition, it covered rebel leader mediation and the development of the "Peace, Recovery and Development Plan".

• Care of Injured Formerly-Abducted Children:

Children injured by the LRA received life-changing medical care through the Name Campaign. These children were brought to the Name Campaign's attention by the Rachel Rehabilitation Centre in Lira, Uganda, a program helping escaped child soldiers emotionally heal from the trauma of war, enter into school or receive vocational training, and reintegrate into their pre-war communities. Amongst these children were:

Rham Ibrahim - a sixteen year old boy who was abducted by the LRA and due to his abuse with the LRA suffered from a hip condition requiring hip replacement. The Name Campaign succeeded in obtaining donated surgery in the United States for Rham. He has now returned, fully healed, to Uganda.

Evaline Apoko – a young girl abducted by the LRA at the age of nine who suffered severe injuries to her face making it impossible for her to eat or speak. The Name Campaign succeeded in getting Evaline tens of thousands of dollars of donated facial reconstruction surgery in the United States and then returned her to Uganda. In 2008, the program continued to support Evaline's living and education in Uganda because she had been rejected by her family and village because of her deformities and the stigma of being a former child soldier. The program enrolled local Ugandan Victor Ochen in the oversight of Evaline's care.

31) NEXT RIGHT THING

31 a) EXPENSES: \$5,583

The Next Right Thing creates awareness of children from the developing world in desperate need of medical assistance with the intention of raising funds for medical travel costs or obtaining donated medical treatment. The program's goal is to connect children in medical need with people who can help. Depending on what's most appropriate, the Next Right Thing either assists with medical costs for in-country treatment or helps secure life-changing medical treatment free of charge in the United States. In the cases of children accepted for treatment in the U.S., Next Right Thing volunteers work tirelessly to raise funds for travel, obtain passports and visas and oversee travel logistics and host family arrangements.

• Life-Changing Medical Care:

In 2008, the Next Right Thing reviewed a dozen cases from East and West Africa brought to its attention by non-profits and individuals doing service work in these regions. A great amount of time was spent presenting cases to receive donated medical care in the United States or raising funds for medical services in the patient's country, if such services existed. When surgeries could be obtained and travel arrangements made (including visas, host families and volunteer travel

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escorts) the Next Right Thing provided life-changing medical care to these children in need. Amongst the children served in 2008 were:

Lamine Traore - a six year old boy from the Ivory Coast who was born with rectal and urinary problems, including his intestine protruding from his abdomen. Lamine was living in constant pain and as a recluse not allowed to go to school or play with other children. The program made possible a series of intense surgeries and rehab in the United States. A Next Right Thing volunteer escorted Lamine to and from the United States. He is now at home in the Ivory Coast where he is living as a happy and healthy child with a bright future.

George Okello – a thirteen year old boy with an amputated leg as a result of a bomb injury was brought to the Next Right Thing's attention due to an increasingly swelling stomach suspected to be internal organ complications including possible kidney failure. Treatment was available and reliable in-country so the Next Right Thing sponsored George's medical services.

King David Onencan– a five year old boy who was a deep degree burn victim as a result of arson in his home. Coming from an extremely poor family, his medical condition went untreated and he suffered severe keloids over much of his body which, in addition to extreme deformity, caused sharp pain and intense itching. The Next Right Thing was able to obtain safe and effective in-country radiation therapy for King David.