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Form **990-EZ**

Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-1150

2009

Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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 \$500,000 and total assets less than \$1,250,000 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.

A For the 2009 calendar year, or tax year beginning , 2009, and ending ,

B Check if applicable:
☐ Address change
☐ Name change
☐ Initial return
☐ Termination
☐ Amended return
☐ Application pending

C The Strongheart Group
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

D Employer identification number
26-2190101

E Telephone number
512-293-7970

F Group Exemption Number

G Accounting method ☒ Cash ☐ Accrual
Other (specify) _____

H Check ☐ if the organization is not required to attach Schedule B (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF)

I Website: www.strongheartfellowship.org

J Tax-exempt status (check only one) — ☒ 501(c) (3) (insert no) 4947(a)(1) or 527

K Check ☐ if the organization is not a section 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts are normally not more than \$25,000. A Form 990-EZ or Form 990 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 \$500,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ **\$ 186,322.**

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

1	Contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts received	1	63,597.
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)	5c	
6	Special events and activities (complete applicable parts of Schedule G) If any amount is from gaming, check here <input type="checkbox"/>		
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	122,725.
b	Less cost of goods sold	7b	39,559.
c	Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory (Subtract line 7b from line 7a)	7c	83,166.
8	Other revenue (describe _____)	8	
9	Total revenue Add lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5c, 6c, 7c, and 8.	9	146,763.
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	38,000.
13	Professional fees and other payments to independent contractors	13	1,907.
14	Occupancy, rent, utilities, and maintenance	14	15,045.
15	Printing, publications, postage, and shipping	15	609.
16	Other expenses (describe See Statement 1)	16	43,351.
17	Total expenses. Add lines 10 through 16	17	98,912.
18	Excess or (deficit) for the year (Subtract line 17 from line 9)	18	47,851.
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	13,413.
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	61,264.

Part II Balance Sheets. If Total assets on line 25, column (B) are \$1,250,000 or more, file Form 990 instead of Form 990-EZ. (See the instructions for Part II.)

	(A) Beginning of year	(B) End of year
22 Cash, savings, and investments	13,413.	58,979.
23 Land and buildings		
24 Other assets (describe See Statement 2)		2,285.
25 Total assets	13,413.	61,264.
26 Total liabilities (describe _____)	0.	0.
27 Net assets or fund balances (line 27 of column (B) must agree with line 21)	13,413.	61,264.

BAA For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Form 990-EZ (2009)

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Expenses

(Required for section 501(c)(3) and (4) organizations and section 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.

28a	77,833.
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29 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

29a	6,019.
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30 The Name Campaign is an effort to raise awareness for the plight of
abducted children who are forced to be soldiers and slaves.

30a	4,278.
-----	--------

31 Other program services (attach schedule). See Statement 3

31 a	5,774.
------	--------

32 **Total program service expenses** (add lines 28a through 31a)

32	93,904.
----	---------

(a) Name and address

(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-.)

(c) Compensation (If not paid, enter -0-.)

(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation

(e) Expense account and other allowances

Zoe Adams
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

Pres & Exec Dir	40.00
-----------------	-------

19,000.

0.

0.

Cori Stern
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

VP & Co-Founder	30.00
-----------------	-------

19,000.

0.

0.

Kristi Manning
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

Director	12.00
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0.

0.

0.

Dawn Heusser
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

Director	2.00
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0.

0.

0.

Paige Buechley
1410 Lakeway Drive
Austin, TX 78734

Director	2.00
----------	------

0.

0.

0.

Part V Other Information (Note the statement requirements in the instrs for Part V.)

See Statement 4

	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		X
34 Were any changes made to the organizing or governing documents? If 'Yes,' attach a conformed copy of the changes		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 why the organization did not report the income on Form 990-T. See Statement 5		
a Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more or was it subject to section 6033(e) notice, reporting, and proxy tax requirements?		X
b If 'Yes,' has it filed a tax return on Form 990-T for this year?		
36 Did the organization undergo a liquidation, dissolution, termination, or significant disposition of net assets during the year? If 'Yes,' complete applicable parts of Schedule N		X
37a Enter amount of political expenditures, direct or indirect, as described in the instructions	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 outstanding at the end 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 Section 501(c)(7) organizations. Enter:		
a Initiation fees and capital contributions included on line 9	39a	N/A
b Gross receipts, included on line 9, for public use of club facilities	39b	N/A
40a Section 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 Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Did the organization engage in any section 4958 excess benefit transaction during the year or is it aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule L, Part I	40b	X
c Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax imposed on organization managers or disqualified persons during the year under sections 4912, 4955, and 4958.		0.
d Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations. Enter amount of tax on line 40c reimbursed by the organization		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 organization's books are in care of ▶ Zoe Adams Telephone no. ▶ 512-293-7970
 Located at ▶ 1410 Lakeway Drive Austin TX ZIP + 4 ▶ 78734

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: .. ▶

See the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1, Report of a Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts.

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: ▶

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

44 Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds? If 'Yes,' Form 990 must be completed instead of Form 990-EZ
 44 | X |

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 |

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Part VI **Section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts only.** All section 501(c)(3) organizations and section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts must answer questions 46-49b and complete the tables for lines 50 and 51.

	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		X
47 Did the organization engage in lobbying activities? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule C, Part II		X
48 Is the organization a school as described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? If 'Yes,' complete Schedule E		X
49a Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization?		X
49b If 'Yes,' was the related organization a section 527 organization?		

50 Complete this table for the organization's 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.'

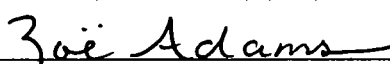

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than \$100,000	(b) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(c) Compensation	(d) Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	(e) Expense account and other allowances
None				

f Total number of other employees paid over \$100,000 ▶

51 Complete this table for the organization's 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		

d Total number of other independent contractors each receiving over \$100,000 ▶

Sign Here	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.			
	 Signature of officer		10/13/2010 Date	
	Zoe Adams Type or print name and title		Pres & Exec Dir	
Paid Preparer's Use Only	Preparer's signature 	Date 10.13.10	Check if self-employed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preparer's Identifying Number (See instructions) N/A
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP + 4 Blazek & Vetterling 2900 Wesleyan, 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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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Form 990-EZ (2009)

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) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
1 Gifts, grants, contributions and membership fees received. (Do not include 'unusual grants'.)				76,456.	63,597.	140,053.
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 through 3.	0.	0.	0.	76,456.	63,597.	140,053.
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).						17,199.
6 Public support. Subtract line 5 from line 4.						122,854.

Section B. Total Support

Calendar year (or fiscal year beginning in) ▶	(a) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(f) Total
7 Amounts from line 4	0.	0.	0.	76,456.	63,597.	140,053.
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.						140,053.
12 Gross receipts from related activities, etc. (see instructions)					12	146,765.

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 2009 (line 6, column (f) divided by line 11, column (f))	14	%
15 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part II, line 14	15	%

16a **33-1/3 support test – 2009.** 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 – 2008.** 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 – 2009.** 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 – 2008.** 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. ☐

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Schedule A (Form 990 or 990-EZ) 2009

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) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(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 through 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 amount on line 13 for the year.						
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) 2005	(b) 2006	(c) 2007	(d) 2008	(e) 2009	(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 on 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 2009 (line 8, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)).	15	%
16 Public support percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 15.	16	%

Section D. Computation of Investment Income Percentage

17 Investment income percentage for 2009 (line 10c, column (f) divided by line 13, column (f)).	17	%
18 Investment income percentage from 2008 Schedule A, Part III, line 17.	18	%
19a 33-1/3 support tests — 2009. 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 — 2008. 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 explanations required by Part II, line 10; Part II, line 17a or 17b; and Part III, line 12. Provide any other additional information. See instructions.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

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

Bank charges ..	\$	6,526.
Depreciation ..		254.
Fellowship living expenses ..		5,087.
Information technology ..		1,864.
Program promotions ..		3,604.
Supplies and materials ..		934.
Telecommunications ..		3,642.
Travel ..		21,440.
Total	\$	43,351.

Statement 2
Form 990-EZ, Part II, Line 24
Other Assets

	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Machinery and Equipment ..	\$ 0.	\$ 2,285.
Total	\$ 0.	\$ 2,285.

Statement 3
Form 990-EZ, Part III, Line 31
Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

<u>Description</u>	<u>Grants</u>	<u>Program Service Expenses</u>
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.		3,640.
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
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.		2,134.
Includes Foreign Grants: No		
Total	\$ 0.	\$ 5,774.

Statement 4
Form 990-EZ, Part V
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

Statement 5**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. In 2009, the efforts to bring awareness to refugee issues reached a wide audience and attracted the attention of media publications. One such media publication was Oprah's O Magazine which featured the Strongheart Fellow in the December issue. This media coverage resulted in an unprecedented and unusually high volume of jewelry sales.

Part III – Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

28) STRONGHEART FELLOWSHIP

28 a) EXPENSES: \$77,833

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 II of the Strongheart Fellowship Program:

In 2009, Strongheart accomplished taking its Inaugural Fellow, Lovetta Conto - a survivor of the Liberian Civil War, through completion of Phase II of the Strongheart Fellowship Program.

Some highlights of the Phase II work with Lovetta included:

- Lovetta grew up in a refugee camp with very little consistent education, and even when she was able to attend school the quality of the education was poor. This resulted in her not learning to read or write beyond a first grade level even as she entered her teen years. Strongheart supported Lovetta's academic advancement through math and English private tutoring as well as science lessons. As soon as Lovetta obtained a more advanced reading ability, she became a voracious reader.

- Strongheart Founders Cori Stern and Zoe Adams spent a large portion of their time throughout the year working directly with Lovetta as mentors and life coaches.

- Strongheart developed a relationship with a Canadian-based educational program called SelfDesign and obtained a scholarship for Lovetta's participation. Strongheart and SelfDesign worked hand-in-hand to further her capacity for flexibility of thinking, imagination, and problem solving. Much work went into Lovetta's interdisciplinary studies social justice course where she explored world issues and was trained on planning for service learning projects. Also as part of the Strongheart and SelfDesign partnership, Lovetta received peace building training so she could learn how to create understanding, respect, and connection between different cultures and worldviews.

• Awareness Campaign:

As part of her Strongheart Fellowship, Lovetta raised awareness for the issues that plagued her life – civil war and being a refugee. Lovetta accomplished this through creating a piece of jewelry in 2008 that she could use to help tell her story - a necklace from spent bullet casings collected in the jungle and off the streets of her country following its civil war transformed into leaf-shaped jewelry with the message that new life is possible after tragedy. In 2009, Lovetta conducted a major awareness campaign to spread the message of the plight of refugees and how one needs to have hope in the face of darkness.

Lovetta succeeded in spreading her message to tens of thousands of people around the world through radio and television interviews, magazine articles and at live events ranging from schools across America and Canada to private events hosted in living rooms and restaurants.

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and actress Angelina Jolie sought out Lovetta's jewelry to wear at the 2009 U.S. launch of World Refugee Day where she made a call to the world for greater understanding of the plight of refugees. Of Lovetta's Akawelle jewelry Jolie says, "I wear one, and my kids have her necklaces. It was an opportunity to teach them about remarkable people like Lovetta, and pass on her message of love and tolerance."

Lovetta and her Akawelle jewelry were featured in the December 2009 issue of Oprah's O Magazine in the "Gifts that Give Back" section.

Part III – Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

• **Strongheart House:**

In 2009, Strongheart secured the location for the Strongheart House in Robertsport, Liberia, West Africa and began a tremendous amount of work repairing it to a livable state. Strongheart team members and volunteers worked tirelessly to transform this damaged house into an international community center for the Strongheart Fellows that would enable them to have a safe place to heal and then grow and learn from being immersed in a post-war, developing country environment while being mentored by some of the world's leading thinkers and doers across a multitude of disciplines.

• **Strongheart Fellow Recognized on Stage with the Dalai Lama:**

As a result of her work in the Strongheart Fellowship Program, Lovetta Conto was invited as one of only 120 attendees to the "Connecting for Change Dialogue", a program of the Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The "Connecting for Change Dialogue" was a collaborative gathering of international leaders from all fields who came together to address the most pressing issues of our time - with peace as the central message and ultimate goal. Lovetta was invited to participate because of her unique perspective as a teenage war-survivor and former refugee now turned change agent through the Strongheart Fellowship Program. At this event, Lovetta presented her ideas for her next Strongheart Fellowship project - spreading peace through teen outreach in West Africa - to highly-respected luminaries and leaders from the arts, entertainment, social change, conservation, politics, education, business and other sectors.

From the beginning of the event, Lovetta was specifically recognized because of her contributions to the discussions. A reflection of her personal growth and development work with Strongheart, her ideas were thoughtful and relevant, and she was already fully engaged in tangible projects with lofty but attainable goals at home in Africa. As the only youth attendee, she impressed everyone present with her focus, drive, and vision.

On the second day of the event, that recognition became more public when Lovetta was invited to the stage to speak directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. During that exchange, she spoke of her struggles as a child during the Liberian Civil War and resultant time in a refugee camp. It was from this experience, she explained, that grew her driving passion for a more peaceful Africa. His Holiness' response, visibly full of love, acceptance, and open compassion, brought tears to her eyes and the eyes of everyone present.

29) NEXT RIGHT THING

29 a) EXPENSES: \$6,019

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 2009, the Next Right Thing reviewed several cases brought to its attention by non-profits and individuals doing service work in the developing world. 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 escorts) the Next Right Thing provided life-changing medical care to these children in need.

Part III – Statement of Program Service Accomplishments

One such 2009 Next Right Thing case was a month old baby born in Cote d'Ivoire with a cleft lip. Because of his severe condition, the baby was unable to eat and would have died without surgery. The Next Right Thing succeeded in getting the surgery free of charge in the U.S. and escorting the child to and from his home country.

30) PLAN 180

30 a) EXPENSES: \$3,640

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 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 Development:

Strongheart continued its work with the National Association of Cape Mountainians in the Americas (NACA) - the largest and most active organized group of Liberian ex-patriots in the United States. During the course of 2009, Strongheart worked with NACA on the completion of the Konjah Bridge project and exploration of the potential restoration of the Tubman Center for African Culture. The cultural center was deemed as a Plan 180 priority because of the role culture – and the reflection of a society's culture back to itself – plays in the advancement of public consciousness. "Culture goes beyond language, religion, music or art. Culture encompasses the ideas, hopes, and aspirations of a people and the dynamics of a living society," said Dr. Charles Sherman at the original opening of the Tubman Center. In a post-war environment such as Liberia where people are trying to figure out who they are and where they are going, assisting them in creating a healthy vision of themselves for their future can only be done successfully if they understand and honor the culture in which they exist.

In 2009, Strongheart also worked with NACA on the creation of a Plan 180 strategy document that was presented to Grand Cape Mount County leadership and potential Plan 180 partners. Strongheart researched and met with numerous people and organizations for the Plan 180 collaborative partnership as well as continued development of its relationship and planning with the non-profit organization FLOW regarding bringing its Accelerating Women Entrepreneurs program to Liberia.