Creating a

WAVE OF JUSTICE

one act at a time

This past year, waves of disaster took many forms. Natural disasters, unlike any we’ve seen, washed away the homes and lives of thousands of people, while social disasters, like the rising rate of poverty and lack of affordable health care and housing, continued to ripple through society.

In the face of disaster, Heartland Alliance created its own wave — a wave of justice — as a countervailing force to the disasters of poverty and homelessness. Individual acts of justice — some of which are depicted in the pages that follow — represent Heartland’s hallmark of service for 117 years. Through small and large acts, Heartland ensured that the most basic of human rights were protected. By advancing the human rights of the most poor and vulnerable in our society through comprehensive housing, health care, and human services, Heartland Alliance helped turn the tide for those most in need.

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Men and women with HIV/AIDS and a history of substance use found help and a home at Heartland Alliance. In one Heartland residential program, staff created a safe environment and worked with program participants to establish goals, create budgets, and stay healthy during recovery.
safety, counseling, and support

More than 1,600 survivors of domestic violence found safety, counseling, and support from Heartland Alliance.
national model program

Smuggled into the United States or sent here alone, 317 children arrived at Heartland’s residential facility for immigrant children in government custody. During their stay in this national model program, the children remained in a safe environment and took English and math classes while Heartland worked to reunite them with their families.

Natural disasters over the past year have illustrated the severe inadequacies of the nation’s ability to solve the problem of chronic poverty. Social safety net programs offer vital protection for those in crisis or in danger and for those trying to work their way out of poverty. These programs must be protected and expanded in times of crisis. Heartland continues to educate elected officials and community leaders about the importance of long-term change to allow people to achieve greater self-sufficiency.
Establishing

STABILITY

for those in crisis

grandfamilies

Sterline Burns is raising her granddaughter, Ophelia, on a monthly salary of $654 — less than $8,000 a year. Ms. Burns is part of a growing population of “grandfamilies” — grandparents raising their grandchildren.

Heartland Alliance helped Ms. Burns pay a heating bill of more than $800, preventing an eviction from her apartment.
financial literacy

To ensure stable futures for program participants, Heartland Alliance integrated financial literacy curricula into a number of Heartland programs. Program participants were educated on essentials such as debt management, credit cards, bank accounts, and budgeting.
In a new and innovative project, Heartland Alliance conducted extensive outreach into Chicago communities to locate youth not in contact with the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS). Staff offered the wards, who had long been disconnected from DCFS, a home-like setting that served as a therapeutic, educational, and — most importantly — stabilizing environment.

Heartland Alliance worked to improve access to critical income supports, such as food stamps and medical insurance, by informing state legislators of the barriers people face accessing programs. Consequently, the Illinois state legislature created an income supports task force to streamline access to supports for working poor families.
PROTECTING

those who cannot protect themselves
international services

In Iraq, Heartland Alliance collaborated with community-based organizations and the Iraqi Ministry of Health to lay the foundation for health care and legal services for survivors of torture and victims of gender-based violence. Staff provided training and technical assistance to a torture treatment program in Guatemala, trained teachers and government officials working with tsunami victims in Sri Lanka, and provided expertise to a research study of HIV+ Rwandan survivors of genocide.

Expanding Heartland’s international services, staff are exploring opportunities to work with organizations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, and Nigeria on joint efforts to aid trauma survivors and expand the rule of law.
counter-trafficking advocates

Heartland Alliance staff, working with counter-trafficking advocates throughout the Midwest, provided social and legal services to victims of human trafficking. Staff conducted outreach to law enforcement, victim service providers, and community groups to increase awareness of the issue and provided trainings on how to identify and assist victims of human trafficking.
Heartland Alliance 2005 Annual Report 13

During the past year, Heartland Alliance educated the Illinois state legislature about the presence of human trafficking in Illinois and its toll on communities. As a result, the Illinois General Assembly passed a law making human trafficking a state crime and the Governor’s office agreed to make serving victims a priority.

asylum

Having fled their home countries for fear of torture, persecution, and even death, more than 800 asylum seekers received legal counsel from Heartland’s Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center. Thanks to pro bono attorneys from Chicago’s leading law firms, Heartland’s success rate for grants of asylum was 90% last year, well above the 30% national average.
Providing HEALTH CARE to those most in need
Immigrant and refugee children and families suffering from the trauma of war and displacement found help adjusting to life in the United States. Last year, Heartland staff provided culturally-appropriate mental health services, including case management, counseling, psychotherapy, and dance, occupational, and art therapy, to more than 490 men, women, and children from 35 countries.
traveled to shelters

For families living in shelters, health care is hard to find. Heartland staff traveled to shelters all over Chicago to provide quality, respectful health care to families most in need.
Heartland health care staff met regularly to discuss the care given to patients. Last year, staff provided quality care to more than 20,000 people through more than 43,000 visits.
Creating OPPORTUNITIES for better lives
personal success

Heartland staff worked one-on-one with residents of Heartland’s affordable housing buildings to connect them to neighborhood resources such as schools, community centers, employers, and support groups. By understanding the individual strengths of residents, Heartland invested in the personal success of hundreds of individuals.
skills building

To address the barriers individuals face when looking for and maintaining long-term work, Heartland Alliance offered skills-building programs, such as computer classes, to better prepare individuals for employment. With new skills in hand, Heartland Alliance placed individuals in transitional jobs, where they received hands-on work experience and on-site mentors, then helped them find permanent work.
Many refugees, like Abigail, must find employment upon arriving in the United States. Through skills-building, job-readiness, and English language classes, refugees newly arrived in Chicago learned the skills needed to live and work in their new home country.

Transitional Jobs, a highly successful employment program, provides wage-paying real work coupled with case management to people with little or no work history. Participants, who must learn to successfully manage barriers to employment, learn through their real work experiences, training, and on-the-job mentoring. This model increases the likelihood of long-term employment and well-being. Heartland Alliance integrates this innovative approach into several Heartland programs and facilitates the National Transitional Jobs Network to expand the model nationally.
Building spaces to call

HOME

newly renovated

Andy and Margy, residents of Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood for nearly 30 years, moved back to their affordable — and newly renovated — home at the Leland Apartments. Heartland Alliance renovated the historic building this past year, providing 137 affordable apartments for the neighborhood.
Collaborating with the Chicago Housing Authority and a team of developers, Heartland Alliance constructed new and affordable homes on Chicago’s South Side. Heartland will manage the affordable apartments in the mixed-income development, which includes a mix of townhomes, single-family homes, and two-flat and six-flat properties.
Heartland Alliance staff and tenants continued to have dialogue with Illinois legislators about the critical shortage of affordable housing in the state and the unique needs of low-income renters. Ultimately, the Illinois state legislature created the Rental Housing Support Program that will generate an estimated $30 million to provide rental subsidies to at least 5,500 families statewide.
Empowering people by strengthening COMMUNITIES
cultural exchange

In a cultural exchange program, immigrants taking adult education classes from Heartland Alliance worked one-on-one with students from a local university. Heartland students spoke English while the university students spoke Spanish, and all the while, each learned about the other’s culture.
community partners

Heartland staff and community partners taught refugee youth about safety and nutrition in the United States. The youth, in turn, shared this information with other refugees. In one project, a multi-lingual audio-visual presentation was created to introduce refugee families to the grocery shopping experience in their new country.
neighbors

Heartland housing residents with a history of substance use found support from each other and Heartland staff to maintain sobriety. At weekly support groups, neighbors shared their experiences and struggles while receiving support from Heartland staff.

Mixed-income housing developments offer both renters and owners a community of economic and social diversity. By creating housing that is seamless with the surrounding community and that offers access to resources and services for those who need extra support to maintain their housing, mixed-income developments help revitalize neighborhoods and create positive change for those moving from poverty and homelessness to a home and self-sufficiency.
Leading Heartland’s

WAVE OF JUSTICE

Each just act builds momentum in creating a wave of justice. Through the strategic leadership of Heartland Alliance President Sid Mohn and Board of Directors Chair Suellen Long, Heartland is ensuring that human rights — civil, political, cultural, economic, legal, and social — are protected. With vision and passion for creating lasting, meaningful change, Heartland continues to set the course for those still adrift and despairing.
Donors listed in this report made contributions between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005. Due to space limitations, we cannot list donations of $1 - $99, but we sincerely appreciate contributions at all levels.
Heartland Alliance’s unwavering commitment to securing human rights and dignity for society’s most vulnerable men, women, and children provides a beacon of hope for our world.

Heartland Alliance has a vision for a world without want and fear. This vision is made possible for many people as a result of Heartland’s work — respectful and empowering direct services and advocacy and policy work informed by the realities of people’s lives. The Libra Foundation is proud and honored to be a part of this important work.

—SUSAN PRITZKER
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In an increasingly global economy, Heartland Alliance ensures that people — especially newcomers to the United States — are treated fairly and adequately. With our country changing, Heartland plays a vital role in ensuring that the most poor and vulnerable are able to change with it by teaching employment skills, providing affordable health care, proactively working to eliminate poverty, and by providing justice to those who most need it.

--JESSE RUIZ

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Heartland Alliance gives a voice and a helping hand to those members of society most in need of an advocate. With a focus on long-term solutions, Heartland Alliance supplies these individuals and families with the skills needed to advocate for themselves in the future.

Providing the opportunity for self-reliance is perhaps the ultimate act of justice.

~ JAMIE FLOERSCH
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More than 200 guests at Making a Difference by Design: The 2005 Spirit Awards raised more than $100,000 to support Heartland’s work in making nonprofit sites more hopeful spaces.

The 12th Annual Art Against AIDS®, a silent and live auction hosted by Heartland’s Junior Board, raised more than $90,000 to support Heartland’s comprehensive services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

Heartland’s West Suburban Board organized a project for students at a neighborhood school to create blankets for refugee children served by Heartland Alliance.

Guests at the 64th annual gala hosted by Heartland’s Women’s Board mingled, danced, and bid on silent auction items to support Heartland’s services for the most poor and vulnerable women and children in Chicago.
In the last year, more than 895 people volunteered more than 98,975 hours of their time at Heartland Alliance programs. Their dedication and expertise are invaluable, enabling Heartland Alliance to provide comprehensive services to create lasting, meaningful change.
With a team of professional staff and volunteers, Heartland Alliance invests in the future, safety, and well-being of those in need by helping them navigate the complexities of legal and social service systems. By being advocates, Heartland provides justice to those who would otherwise do without it.

~ SEBASTIAN LINYARD
HEARTLAND ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER
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By providing services and education to those in need and by supporting legislation to effect change, Heartland Alliance performs daily acts of justice by ensuring that all people are afforded equal opportunities. With a commitment to defend the defenseless, help the helpless, and empower the powerless, Heartland Alliance programs enable participants to make changes in their own lives.

~ DIANE PEÑA

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Who we are
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights is a service-based human rights organization focused on investments in and solutions to help the most poor and vulnerable in our society succeed. We provide housing, health care, human services, and human rights protections and use more than a century of experience to advocate for social justice.

Mission
Heartland Alliance advances the human rights and responds to the human needs of endangered populations — particularly the poor, the isolated, and the displaced — by providing comprehensive and respectful services and promoting solutions leading to a more just global society.

History
Founded as Travelers Aid and tracing its roots to the Immigrants’ Protective League, Heartland Alliance has been helping the most poor and vulnerable since 1888.

Staff
More than 685 staff provide services 365 days a year.

Volunteers
More than 895 volunteers contributed 98,975 hours, equivalent to more than $5 million.

2005 FINANCIAL REPORT*

Total income
$49,617,045

- 71% Grants and contracts
- 18% Contributions
- 6% Program service fees and third party revenue
- 3.8% Rental and related revenue
- 1% United Way
- .2% Miscellaneous income

Total expenses
$49,617,045

- 35% Social services for impoverished individuals and families
- 33% Health care for homeless and low-income individuals and families
- 10% Housing services
- 7% Human resources, information technology, and financial services
- 6% Services to immigrants and refugees
- 3% Public policy programs
- 2% Fundraising
- 2% Future program commitments
- 1.4% International projects
- .6% Planning and Communications

* Financial information represents fiscal year 2005 (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005) and is unaudited. For a copy of the audited financial statement, please write to Cynthia Fronczak, Chief Financial Officer, Heartland Alliance, 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1818, Chicago, Illinois 60604.
Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one man or woman can do against the enormous array of the world’s ills — against misery and ignorance, injustice and violence...

Each time a [person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lots of others, or strikes out against injustice, [that person] sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

~ ROBERT KENNEDY
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Bonnie Ballard
Director of Strategic Communications

Kristina Francisco
Communications Coordinator, Primary Author, and Project Management

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CITATIONS

Robert Kennedy quote from The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for our Time by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Penguin Press, 2005