



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER.®

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2010



TAHIRIH
JUSTICE
CENTER®



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DIRECTORS' NOTE

Dear Friends,

Every day, the Tahirih Justice Center receives an overwhelming number of calls from women and girls who face horrific abuse. The women and girls who reach out to us are heroes by the time they come to our doors—they have overcome incredible odds and shown tremendous courage to make that first call for help. Every day, Tahirih works to give these women the help and protection they need: offering skilled legal services to overcome obstacles to justice; providing social services to help them rebuild their lives; and leveraging public policy advocacy, precedent-setting litigation, strategic amicus briefs, and new coalitions of like-minded advocates to ensure that our nation's laws and policies protect the women we serve.

Of course, we cannot do this alone. Tahirih maximizes your contributions by skillfully leveraging our Pro Bono Attorney Network, Pro Bono Medical Network, and the donated services of dozens of other professionals in order to magnify the impact of each dollar donated. In 2010, the Tahirih Justice Center provided direct services to 852 women, girls, and family members fleeing violence. Including referrals, we assisted a total of 1,022 individuals from our three offices across the United States. In 2010 alone, professionals gave more than \$6.8 million in time—effectively quadrupling our cash income of \$2.1 million and exponentially increasing our impact on the lives of women and girls in need. Still, it is not enough. It is heartbreaking when we don't have the resources to assist all those who come to us for help.

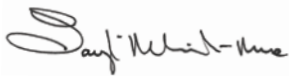
Recognizing our obligation to do more, Tahirih has launched an ambitious plan to replicate our award-winning model for services in other locations. As you will see in the pages of this report, our office in Houston is thriving and has already assisted hundreds of women. Our newest satellite office in Baltimore is underway and making great strides to increase its capacity to meet the needs of the many women and girls who come to us for help.

None of this would be possible without your dedication and support. We hope you will find this Annual Report to be an inspiring testament to the changes you have made possible.

On behalf of the women and girls we serve, thank you for your support.

With gratitude and hope,

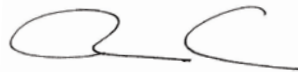
Layli Miller-Muro



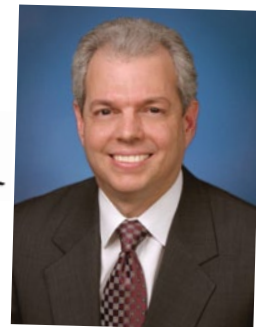
Executive Director



Paul Glist



Chair, Board of Directors



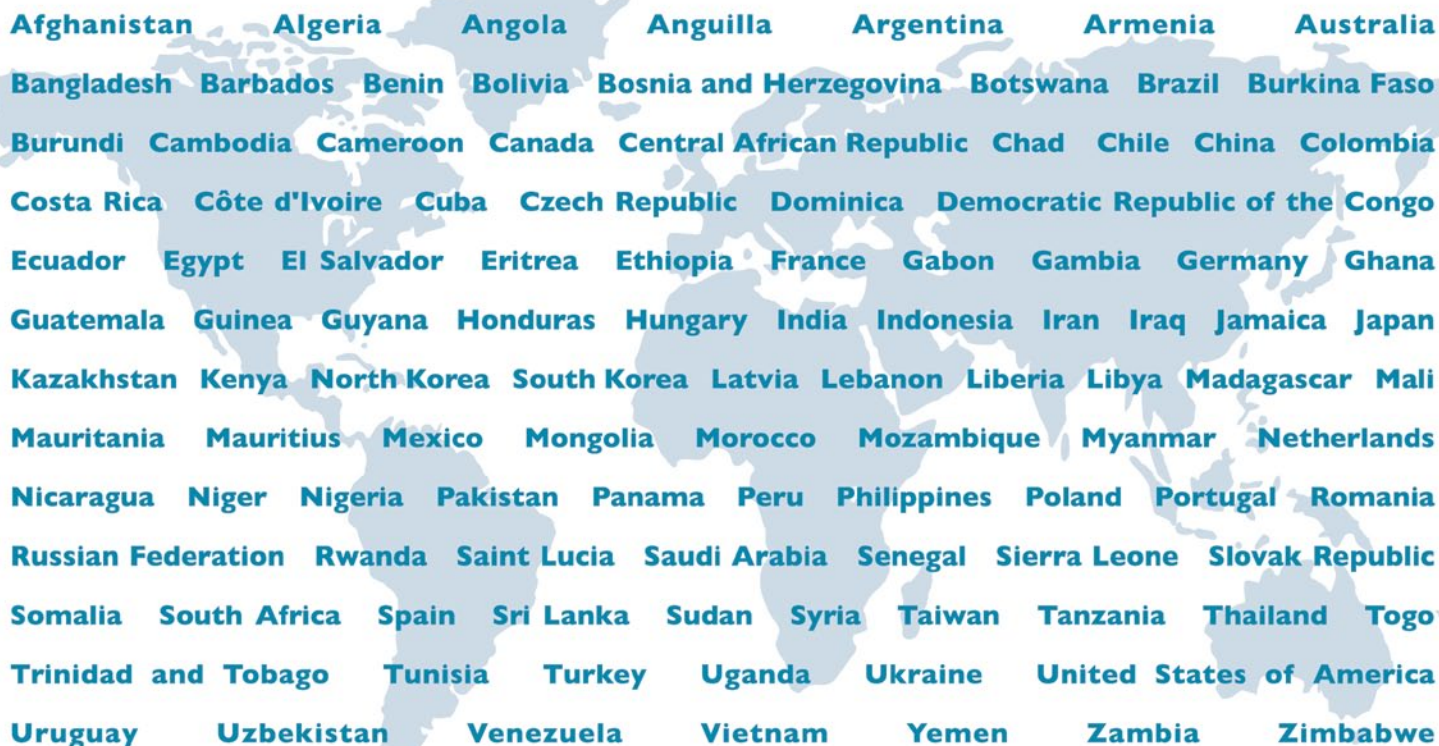
UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES

Today, millions of women and girls live in fear, pain, hunger, and sickness simply because they were born female. Around the world, at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.¹ The serious consequences of violence against women result in ongoing health problems that are comparable to the effects of living in a warzone.²

Some immigrant women and girls seek safety and justice in the United States, either fleeing violence in their countries of origin or escaping from an abuser or trafficker here. These women and girls—the few that are brave and lucky enough to escape the gender-based violence they are fleeing—are often uniquely disadvantaged by cultural obstacles, lack of financial resources, lack of independent legal status, limited English proficiency, and ignorance of the US legal system. They have complex legal cases, often involving life-threatening circumstances and emerging areas of the law. Without competent legal advocacy and access to social services, they may face either extreme forms of violence or deportation. Without the Tahirih Justice Center, many would have nowhere to turn for assistance.

The Tahirih Justice Center fights against gender-based violence by protecting and advocating for immigrant women and girls fleeing violent human rights abuses such as female genital mutilation, rape, torture, human trafficking, honor crimes, forced marriage, and domestic violence. It is our privilege to help these courageous women and girls access protections provided for them under US law, rebuild their lives in safety and peace, and ensure that their voices are heard in important public policy debates.

TAHIRIH CLIENT DISTRIBUTION:



Afghanistan Algeria Angola Anguilla Argentina Armenia Australia
Bangladesh Barbados Benin Bolivia Bosnia and Herzegovina Botswana Brazil Burkina Faso
Burundi Cambodia Cameroon Canada Central African Republic Chad Chile China Colombia
Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Cuba Czech Republic Dominica Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ecuador Egypt El Salvador Eritrea Ethiopia France Gabon Gambia Germany Ghana
Guatemala Guinea Guyana Honduras Hungary India Indonesia Iran Iraq Jamaica Japan
Kazakhstan Kenya North Korea South Korea Latvia Lebanon Liberia Libya Madagascar Mali
Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Mongolia Morocco Mozambique Myanmar Netherlands
Nicaragua Niger Nigeria Pakistan Panama Peru Philippines Poland Portugal Romania
Russian Federation Rwanda Saint Lucia Saudi Arabia Senegal Sierra Leone Slovak Republic
Somalia South Africa Spain Sri Lanka Sudan Syria Taiwan Tanzania Thailand Togo
Trinidad and Tobago Tunisia Turkey Uganda Ukraine United States of America
Uruguay Uzbekistan Venezuela Vietnam Yemen Zambia Zimbabwe

1. UN General Assembly, "In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence Against Women," Report of the secretary General, 2006. a/61/122/Add.1. July 6, 2006.

2. MSNBC.com, "Quarter of US women suffer domestic violence," Feb 7, 2007.

THE TAHIRIH JUSTICE CENTER

OUR MISSION: Through direct legal services, public policy advocacy, and education, the Tahirih Justice Center protects immigrant women and girls in the United States seeking justice from gender-based violence.

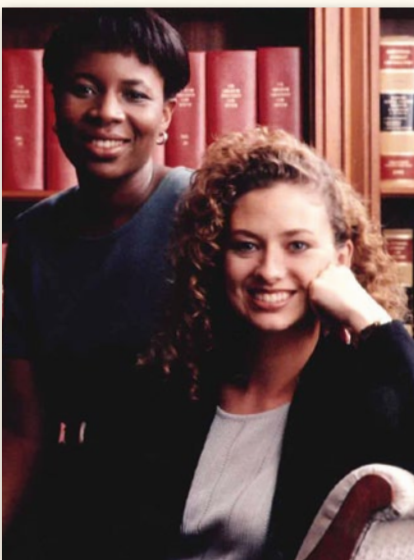
OUR VISION: We are a Bahá'í-inspired organization founded on the belief that the achievement of full equality between women and men is necessary for society to progress. Every day, we work to address violence against women and girls as a critical step in making equality possible.

OUR LOGO: An illustration of a bird with equal wings symbolizes a foundational principle of the Tahirih Justice Center derived from a quote in the Bahá'í writings: "The world of humanity has two wings—one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly."

OUR NAME: Tahirih (TAH-heh-ray) was a champion of women's rights in mid-nineteenth century Persia and one of the first members of the Bahá'í faith, during a time and in a place in which most women were kept illiterate and isolated from the public sphere. She was executed for her beliefs and activities at the age of 32. Her last recorded words were, "You can kill me as soon as you like, but you will never stop the emancipation of women."

OUR HISTORY, FAUZIYA'S STORY: Fauziya Kassindja was the teenage daughter of a progressive Togolese businessman who, contrary to local custom, protected his daughters from female genital mutilation. When Fauziya's father died suddenly, her father's family forced her, at 17 years old, into a polygamous marriage with a man more than twice her age. As a condition of the marriage, she was to undergo the genital mutilation that she had previously avoided.

With the help of her sister and mother, Fauziya was able to escape and eventually make her way to the United States where she petitioned for asylum based on her fear of forced polygamous marriage and female genital mutilation. Tahirih's Executive Director, Layli Miller-Muro, then a law student, argued Fauziya's case before the immigration judge. The case was then brought to American University's Human Rights Law Clinic and Layli continued to assist with Fauziya's advocacy on appeal.



Fauziya and Layli

In June 1996, Fauziya Kassindja became the first woman facing genital mutilation to receive asylum from the Board of Immigration Appeals, the nation's highest appellate immigration court. Her case, *Matter of Kasinga* [sic], set new national precedent and clearly established gender-based persecution as a potential ground for asylum.

Fauziya and Layli co-authored a book about Fauziya's ordeal, entitled *Do They Hear You When You Cry?* (Delacorte Press 1998). Responding to the need she saw while working with Fauziya, and using her portion of the proceeds from the book, Layli founded the Tahirih Justice Center to serve other immigrant women and girls fleeing violence.

Fauziya and Layli have remained close. After she was released from immigration detention, Fauziya lived with Layli's family and went on to finish college and marry. She is currently the proud mother of three boys.

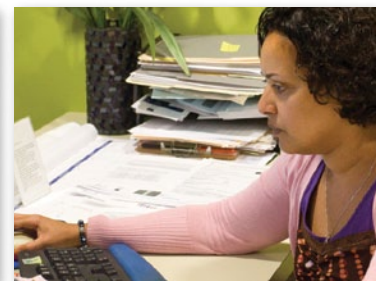
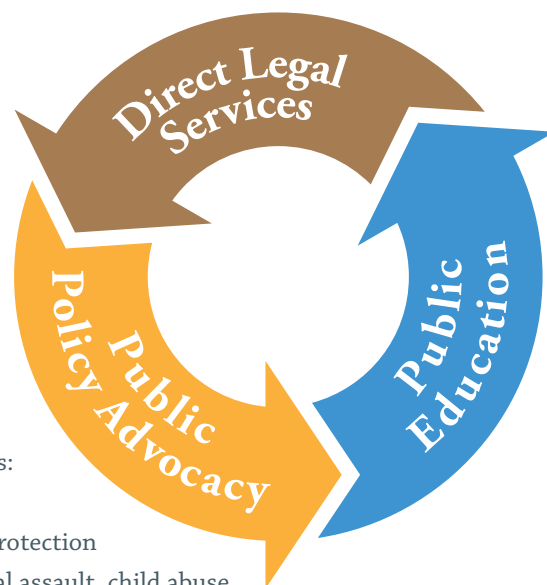
“ This Organization HELPS the helpless, VOICE to those who gives HOPE to the hopeless and gives VOICE don't have a voice ”

OUR INNOVATIVE MODEL

To address the acute and growing needs of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence, Tahirih has developed an innovative and comprehensive approach that leverages pro bono resources to deliver holistic legal services, client-inspired public policy advocacy, and extensive public education. Through this coordinated effort, Tahirih seeks to ensure the protection and safety of our clients, as well as the long-term protection of women and girls from violence.

DIRECT LEGAL SERVICES: Tahirih’s legal services are grounded in the commitment to provide free, high-quality, compassionate, and holistic legal services to vulnerable immigrant women and girls fleeing violence. We assist clients with the following services:

- *Immigration Law:* We provide legal representation to women and girls seeking protection under US law from gender-based violence such as domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, child abuse and incest, female genital mutilation, human trafficking, forced marriage, and other violence.
- *Family Law (Washington, DC area only):* We provide legal representation in family law matters, including temporary and permanent orders of protection, divorce, custody, child support, and visitation.
- *Holistic Case Management:* We provide services including safety planning, goal setting, and referrals for shelter, counseling, food, clothing, urgent medical care, and other resources.



PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY: Based on the keen insights we gain through our day-to-day work with our clients, Tahirih has become a national leader in public policy advocacy on a range of issues concerning violence against immigrant women and girls. Tahirih advocates to ensure access to asylum for women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution; prevent abuse and exploitation through international marriage brokers (also known as “mail-order bride” agencies); promote stronger protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other violent crimes; encourage US leadership to end violence against women worldwide; and—in a new policy initiative launched in 2010—galvanize a coordinated national response to the problem of forced marriages involving young women from immigrant communities in the United States.

PUBLIC EDUCATION: Tahirih actively engages in outreach and training activities to the general public as well as attorneys, police officers, judges, prosecutors, legislators, social and medical service providers, and others about the issues facing immigrant women and girls fleeing violence and the legal protections currently available to them. Tahirih also frequently engages with national and local media.

“The **TAHIRIH STAFF** were Like **ANGELS** in my Life”

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Since opening our doors in 1997, Tahirih has assisted over 12,000 women and children through direct services and referrals. In 2010 alone, we have made a significant impact on the lives of immigrant women and girls fleeing violence across the nation:

OUR IMPACT IN 2010

Through Direct Legal Services, Tahirih brought hope to the lives of women, girls, and their families as we:

- Responded to 1,022 pleas for help from women and girls in need.
- Enabled 852 women, girls, and family members to access justice and achieve equality by litigating 324 cases involving 733 unique immigration and family law matters—a record.
- Expanded our national impact by providing services for women and girls from Tahirih's three offices in the Washington, DC area; Houston, Texas; and our most recently opened office in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Continued to maintain a 99% litigation success rate despite the complexity of our cases.
- Empowered 99 women and girls to address urgent needs and achieve self-sufficiency through Tahirih's case management services, making 228 customized referrals for social and medical services such as shelter, counseling, food, clothing, urgent medical care, and other resources to help clients rebuild their lives.

Through Public Policy Advocacy, Tahirih promoted better protections for women and girls as we:

- Provided leadership on two asylum reform bills introduced in Congress in March 2010: a comprehensive Senate bill with key provisions to assist women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution, and a targeted House bill to eliminate a one-year filing deadline that can bar women asylum-seekers from receiving asylum protection.
- Engaged in extensive outreach around the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA), a federal law that Tahirih helped draft and pass in 2006 to protect so-called "mail-order brides" from abuse and exploitation.
- Helped draft a vital IMBRA-mandated information pamphlet that will apprise well over 30,000 foreign brides who come to the United States each year, as well as other categories of marriage-based immigrants, of their legal rights and resources available to them if they are abused; secured the pamphlet's long-awaited release by the US government.
- Developed, in close consultation with sociologists and community-based/advocacy organizations with relevant expertise, a groundbreaking survey to assess the nature and scope of an emerging problem—forced marriages involving young women from immigrant families residing in the United States (launched nationwide in Spring 2011).

Through Public Education and Outreach, Tahirih built community and government capacity to protect women and girls as we:

- Educated over 1,500 attorneys, law enforcement officers, government agency staff, victim advocates, court personnel, mental health professionals, students, and members of religious congregations and communities with information about the needs and legal protections available to immigrant victims of violence, by presenting over 100 speeches, trainings, and other outreach events.
- Raised public awareness of gender-based violence and the unique challenges facing immigrant women through Tahirih's own publications and by articles and interviews appearing in 20 news outlets, including the *Houston Chronicle*, the *Washington Post*, and *Stanford's Social Innovation Review*.

SCALING OUR MODEL FOR NATIONAL REPLICATION

Our strategic vision is to provide legal protection to a substantially increased number of immigrant women and girls in the United States who face gender-based violence. To realize this vision the board and staff have embarked on an ambitious plan to replicate Tahirih's model for providing services throughout the United States. New Tahirih offices employ key aspects of Tahirih's award-winning, efficient, and effective service model, including our leverage of pro bono services and our holistic case management services. Tahirih's unique model is currently hard at work in the following locations:

WASHINGTON, DC AREA: Tahirih's main office was established in 1997 and includes a legal services department that provides direct legal and social services to immigrant women and girls throughout the greater Washington, DC metro area, including immigration law, family law, and holistic case management services. This office also serves as Tahirih's national headquarters, housing our administrative and fundraising departments, national communications and outreach staff, and our public policy division.

HOUSTON, TEXAS: Tahirih successfully opened an office in Houston in 2009 with significant local support. Leveraging our award-winning pro bono service model and collaborating with a large local network of social service agencies, Tahirih's Houston office serves a large and diverse community of immigrants. In 2010, 82 women and children received legal representation in our Houston office. Tahirih utilized office space generously donated by the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and by St. Joseph Medical Center through the first fifteen months of operations.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND: Tahirih's satellite office in Baltimore, Maryland opened in May 2010 in office space generously donated by the law firm of DLA Piper. The office currently uses space donated by DLA Piper and by the firm of Miles & Stockbridge. While Tahirih's Washington, DC office has historically represented Maryland residents, all of these cases are under the jurisdiction of the Baltimore immigration court. This satellite office enabled us to provide more accessible services to 91 Maryland women and girls throughout 2010, particularly those residing in Baltimore and northern Maryland.

Dear Friends:

The past year has brought rewards and challenges for our Houston office. Our staff of two did much to help the overwhelming number of women who came to us for assistance, but unfortunately, we could not help them all. However, as word of our efforts and successes circulated, our community rallied incredible support to strengthen local partnerships and to help us protect more immigrant women and girls. Now, we have a staff of five and our Pro Bono Attorney Network has expanded to over 200 members. Our organizational successes have translated into inspirational stories of hope and transformation among the courageous women and girls whom we serve.

As we turn to the coming year, we will continue to build relationships and key partnerships to meet the needs of immigrant women in Houston fleeing violence. Thank you for investing in expansion of Tahirih's unique service model to serve the needs of women and girls in Houston.

Warm regards,



Anne Chandler / Houston Director



Anne Chandler, Houston Director and Parvin McVey, Founding Member of the Advisory Council of Houston and member of the Board of Advisors

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HOUSTON: The advice and support of community leaders throughout Greater Houston is vital to the success of our Houston office. Our Advisory Council is made up of individuals and corporations who not only provide financial support and leverage resources to support our work, but also act as our Ambassadors throughout the region. We are privileged to enjoy the support of Advisory Council members who have an informed understanding of issues facing Tahirih's clients and are eager to join the growing movement of advocates who have come together to provide much-needed assistance to women and girls fleeing gender-based violence in Greater Houston.



FOUNDING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Nicole Ezer	Karen Otazo Hofmeister	Dr. & Mrs. David Morgan Shin
Tofiq Gabsani	Marty and Parvin McVey	

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Amy Ashby	Jessica Crutcher	Christi Guerrini	Jennifer Nelsen
Lynne S. Averett	Elizabeth A. Dennis	Joanne King Herring	Lydia Protopapas
Sonia Azad	Maureen Donovan	Mauricio Hussmann	Anuj Shah
Heather Beliveaux	Michelle Gibbons	Bill Kaparich	Sisters of Divine Providence
Georgianna Braden	Shiva and Gus Gill	Heather Khassian	Elizabeth Sweigart
Magali S. Candler	Greenberg Traurig LLP	Christine LaFollette	Kathleen Weir

TAHIRIH'S COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Tahirih's unique service model is regularly recognized for a track record of excellence and innovation. In 2010, Tahirih received numerous awards and recognitions, including:

- **The Meyer Foundation's Exponent Award for Excellence in Non-Profit Management**
- **Stanford Social Innovation Review** printed Layli Miller-Muro's article "The Power of Many" featuring Tahirih's pro bono attorney model as a best practice
- **TEDx Conference**, Grand Rapids, MI
(recognizing Tahirih's Executive Director Layli Miller-Muro as one of the keynote speakers)
- **The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance** (honoree at Annual Gala)
- The Feminist Press's list of **40 Feminists Under 40**
(recognizing Tahirih's Executive Director Layli Miller-Muro as a top female leader nationwide)
- **Washington SmartCEO BRAVA! Women Business Achievement Award**
(recognizing Tahirih's Executive Director Layli Miller-Muro among Washington's top CEOs)
- **The NPower Greater DC Region Technology Innovation Award** (finalist)

TAHIRIH Continues to **Maintain a 99%** Litigation Success Rate Despite the Complexity of Our Clients' Cases



Lanying's Story

When I was 42 years old, I met Peter, a Texan working abroad in China. He took me out for romantic evenings and I loved the way he could make me laugh. After several months of dating, we were married in Shanxi Province. As his new bride, Peter took me home with him to southwest Houston.

Unfortunately, once we came to the United States, everything changed. Peter started demanding that I act "like an American girl." He used physical force to make me perform repugnant sexual acts that made me feel dirty. When I protested, he laughed and insisted on videotaping the humiliating abuse. When I refused his demands, he threatened to send the recordings to my parents and their close family members. One morning over breakfast, I tried to explain to him how humiliated I felt during our evenings together. He responded with laughter and said, "Get the hell back to China."

I tried to make the relationship work through patience and love, but my efforts failed. Peter often reminded me that he was a Texan and in Texas, real men know how to use their gun. His physical and verbal abuse became worse and came more often.

The tipping point came when Peter discovered that I had, without seeking his permission, enrolled in driving lessons and English as a second language classes so that I could become more independent. In a fit of rage, Peter chased me and threatened, "I'll kill you!" I ran out of our apartment and to a neighbor's where she called the police.

I found shelter and counseling at the Houston Area Women's Center. They called the Tahirih Justice Center, and worked together to make sure I received the services I needed to regain my dignity and live in safety. Tahirih helped me become financially and legally independent by helping me with a referral for a divorce and by helping me maintain my legal status in the United States by submitting immigration paperwork under the Violence Against Women Act.

Recently, my immigration petition was approved and my divorce was finalized. I am now working to support myself, renting a small apartment, and have re-enrolled in driving lessons and English classes. I am so grateful to the Tahirih Justice Center for their help in rebuilding my life.

Around the World, at Least 1 Woman in Every 3 has Been Beaten, Coerced into Sex, or Otherwise ABUSED in Her Lifetime

Most Often, the Abuser is a Member of Her Own Family

PROMOTING JUSTICE

Most organizations focus on either direct services or public policy advocacy. Tahirih is unusual in our commitment to engage in both, providing a critical bridge between local direct services providers with frontlines perspectives on problems, and national advocacy organizations seeking solutions. In 2010, we prioritized our advocacy on strengthening existing protections for immigrant women and girls fleeing violence, closing gaps in existing protections, and mobilizing to respond to unmet needs emerging among the vulnerable women and girls who turned to Tahirih seeking safety.

ASYLUM: Many of Tahirih’s clients have fled gender-based persecution in their home countries and seek safe haven in the United States under our asylum laws. However, “gender-based asylum” remains an emerging and often unsettled legal area. Tahirih advocates to secure availability of asylum protection to women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution, to clarify the scope of that protection (either in law or by regulation), and to reduce the steep hurdles to receiving protection that asylum-seekers must often overcome.

In 2010, to ensure that women and girls fleeing gender-based persecution receive the protection they need and deserve in the United States, Tahirih:

- Co-chaired a national expert working group to address systemic failures to protect women and girls fleeing persecution;
- Led efforts to develop corrective legislation recognizing asylum claims by parents who fear that their daughters will face gender related persecution (for example, female genital mutilation) upon the family’s return to their home country; and
- Provided instrumental input and support with respect to two pieces of asylum reform legislation introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives: *The Refugee Protection Act of 2010* and *The Restoring Protection for Victims of Persecution Act*.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARRIAGE BROKER REGULATION ACT (IMBRA): After observing an alarming trend of domestic violence cases involving foreign women who met brutally abusive American men through international marriage brokers (IMBs, or so-called “mail-order bride” agencies), Tahirih helped draft and pass the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA), enacted in 2006 as part of the reauthorized Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). IMBRA is designed to prevent abuse and exploitation by ensuring that foreign women receive information about the violent criminal histories of their prospective American husbands, and about the rights and resources available to them in the United States if they are abused. Since IMBRA’s enactment, Tahirih has continued to press for the law’s full implementation and enforcement; and, in anticipation of VAWA’s reauthorization once more in 2011, has developed amendments to strengthen IMBRA’s protections.

In 2010, to ramp up public education and outreach activities regarding IMBRA and press for IMBRA to fulfill its promise of protection for the tens of thousands of vulnerable foreign brides who immigrate to the United States each year, Tahirih has:

- Distributed advisories and other outreach materials to international marriage brokers, to foreign women considering using international marriage brokers, and to victim-advocates, attorneys, prosecutors, and others who might encounter women abused by men met through an international marriage broker;
- Worked with high level Administration officials and Congressional offices to press for IMBRA’s implementation and enforcement;
- Secured the release by the federal government of a long-overdue pamphlet to advise immigrating foreign brides about their legal rights and resources available to domestic violence victims in the United States.



“ Finding the **TAHIRIH** Justice Center **OASIS** in the Desert was like Finding an ”



FORCED MARRIAGE: Tahirih has received increasing requests for assistance on cases of women and girls as young as 13 from traditional immigrant communities in the United States who are facing imminent “forced marriages.” By force, fraud, or coercion, the young woman may be sent abroad for the wedding, or may be compelled to sponsor a fiancé or spouse visa to enable the groom to come to the United States; the family’s reasons may include gaining economic security, advancing social status, protecting family honor, or preventing a daughter from becoming too “Americanized.” Unfortunately, the United States has yet to develop a coordinated national response to the problem, leaving women and girls in crisis with few resources or options. Government authorities and service-providers alike are grappling with how to handle these potentially high-stakes cases.

To address this emerging problem, Tahirih launched a new research and policy initiative. In close consultation with research experts and community-based/advocacy organizations with relevant expertise, Tahirih developed and refined a national survey for wide distribution in 2011 to service providers, advocates, community and religious leaders, educators, law enforcement officers, and others. We see this survey and supporting outreach as the first step towards better understanding the nature and scope of the problem and identifying key stakeholders. Overall, Tahirih’s Forced Marriage Initiative seeks to raise awareness about the problem of forced marriage in the United States; encourage and empower women and girls at risk to seek help; and build a collaborative network of service providers and government agencies with the necessary tools and expertise to help them.

One morning, Tahirih received a call from a family attorney in another state who was struggling to help a girl in acute crisis. This teenage girl—a US citizen whose South Asian-born parents threatened to **beat her into submitting to a forced marriage**—had taken the courageous step of running away to a domestic violence shelter. The shelter gave her temporary refuge, but was unsure how long they could keep her there—particularly as her parents were threatening to sue the shelter, her attorney, and anyone else who tried to help her. In the end, the girl was returned to her parents after Child Protective Services declined to get involved in such “cultural issues,” and **Tahirih does not know what ultimately happened to her.**

Situations like these—involving a young woman who is scared, threatened, and unsure of where to go for help, and local service providers who are struggling to assist her—have become all too familiar to Tahirih. It was after hearing about the above case (and many similar stories) that Tahirih launched the Forced Marriage Initiative.

FORCED MARRIAGE

A forced marriage is one that takes place without the full and free consent of one or both parties. A forced marriage is not the same as an arranged marriage; in the latter, the families of both parties may take the lead, but ultimately, the choice remains with the individual.



“ You all saved my life. I did not know I could be strong, but you said I was **STRONG** You said I had to **FIGHT** and I did ”

LEVERAGING RESOURCES, MAXIMIZING IMPACT

Tahirih is proud to turn every donated dollar we receive into more than four dollars' worth of valued service. Approximately 92 percent of revenue and support go directly to our programs, a feat which Tahirih is able to accomplish primarily due to our networks of volunteer attorneys and medical professionals, as well as the dozens of other professional pro bono contributors who partner with us to serve Tahirih's clients. As a result of these partnerships, we are able to represent hundreds more women and girls than we would be capable of representing alone.

PRO BONO ATTORNEY NETWORK: Tahirih has a critically important network of professional attorneys who donate their time, energy, and expertise to serve our clients. Over 850 attorneys from over 120 of the nation's top law firms partner with us in the representation of 60-75% of our incoming cases. In 2010, our cash budget was approximately \$2 million while donated services amounted to \$6 million, significantly increasing the impact of our work. Tahirih works closely with our pro bono attorneys through formal co-counsel relationships and mentorship, ongoing trainings, an online e-forum, and monthly newsletters. Additionally, our holistic case management approach ensures that clients' non-legal needs are met so that pro bono attorneys can focus on clients' legal representation.

PRO BONO MEDICAL NETWORK: While their legal cases are being prepared and pursued, most of our clients lack health insurance or access to public benefits otherwise available to low-income patients, and are therefore unable to afford medical care. Additionally, they often require expert medical testimony to corroborate the violence and abuse they have suffered. To address these needs, Tahirih's Pro Bono Medical Network, which includes individual providers and MedStar physician partners, provides services free of charge to Tahirih's clients.

Fardin Akrami	Stacy Dehal	Girja Jalla	Marion MacLean	Thomas Rhee
Azam Baig	Remedios L. Deleon	Dante N. Jocson	Nicole Annette	Christine Saba
Girish Banaji	Michael Dimattina	John M. Katz	Mcclendon	Haideh Sabet
Maria Bella Natividad	Fairfax Radiology	Marta Kendall	Azita Moalemi	Marie Schum-Brady
John Bouldin	Farhoumand Family	Susan Khandelwal	Radman Mostaghim	Karen Smith
Bull Run Family	Dental	Duke Kim	Fred Pishdad	Nahid Sobhani
Practice	Mary Garrett	Inna Kost	Prince William	Michael D. Tracys
Siphath Chrea	Sarita Gopal	Stephen Krenytzky	Family Center	Kim Young
Clinic Hispana	Erik Granados	Abhijit Kulkarni	J. R. Protaria	Edward Zinn
Elizabeth Cobbs	Arun K. Gupta	Lisa Lilienfield	Louis Puppo	

2010 PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS

Sara Glenn, *Shell Oil Company*
 Randa Hudome, *Fahmy Hudome International*
 Fern O'Brian, *Thompson Hine LLP*
 Marti Thomas, *The Duberstein Group*

2010 PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brenda Abdelall
 Martha Cochran, *Arnold & Porter LLP*
 Elena Glas, *Ropes & Gray LLP*
 Stephanie Hales, *Sidley Austin LLP*
 Jim Joseph, *Arnold & Porter LLP*
 Betsy Karel, *Trellis Fund*

Theresa Loar, *CH2M HILL*
 Montserrat Miller, *Arnall Golden Gregory LLP*
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“ I Express **GRATITUDE** I consider this to be very little for the **GREAT** Service you have done for **US** ,”

DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS: The Tahirih Justice Center held our Thirteenth Annual Fundraising Benefit on September 22, 2010, at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, DC, featuring remarks by Congresswoman Donna Edwards (D-MD). The evening was a wonderful and moving celebration of thirteen years of service dedicated to courageous women and girls seeking justice from gender-based violence. It was not only Tahirih's largest fundraising event of the year, raising a net revenue of



\$234,509, but also the most efficient, with only 12 cents spent for each dollar raised. This efficiency was made possible by leveraging a wide range of donated goods and services, including invitation and program design, videography and editing, floral arrangements, security, and performance, as well as the donation of silent auction, raffle, and gift bag items from 21 individuals and companies. Fourteen volunteers also gave their time to staff the event itself. Such an impactful event would not have been possible without the generosity of Tahirih's supporters.




In addition to professionals donating their services to ensure the success of our Annual Benefit, a number continue to offer their assistance throughout the year. These contributors have designed our Annual Report, donated meals for retreats and large meetings with external stakeholders, created marketing collateral, translated public education materials, and provided counsel on a wide range of fundraising issues.

PUBLIC POLICY COUNCIL AND POLICY VOLUNTEERS: Tahirih has long worked closely with volunteer government relations professionals, public and media relations specialists, and other seasoned advisors to enhance our public policy advocacy capacity and expertise. In 2009, we formalized these pro bono relationships through the creation of a Public Policy Council, a group of committed Tahirih supporters who provide financial support and leverage resources to sustain and strengthen our pioneering advocacy initiatives.

Public Policy Council Briefings are held across the year to share Tahirih's advocacy efforts with supporters, and in 2010, Tahirih was fortunate to have these luncheon briefings generously hosted for us by Shell Oil Company; Sidley Austin LLP; and McDermott Will & Emery.

Tahirih also drew on public policy advice and assistance provided pro bono by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Arnold & Porter LLP; Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy, LLP; McDermott Will & Emery; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo PC; Patton Boggs; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates; and Quinn Gillespie & Associates.



Mada's Story

I come from Northern Darfur, a region devastated by armed conflict along the border between Sudan and Chad. This was not an easy place to be a woman. At the age of six, I underwent a painful and scarring female genital mutilation (FGM). As a young teacher, I was violently raped by the Janjaweed, an armed militia that has terrorized my region, while on a school trip. Five years later I was kidnapped, imprisoned, and tortured by the Sudanese government, in part because I had worked to educate other women about the risks of FGM. I fled from Sudan to Chad in search of safety, but there an abusive man attempted to force me to marry him, and he assaulted me when I refused.

I did not feel safe anywhere. In desperation, I fled to the United States, where I found the Tahirih Justice Center. Tahirih's in-house social worker worked with me to access food assistance, clothing, psychological counseling, medical and dental care, and English classes.

To tackle my legal case, Tahirih reached out to their Pro Bono Attorney Network and enlisted the support of a team of attorneys, including David Tallman, Collins Clark, and Amy Eldridge at the law firm of K&L Gates. These amazing lawyers spent many hours with me. They worked through the complex legal issues to pull together the strongest case possible to convince the United States government that I deserved safety and asylum in this country.



"The biggest hurdle of Mada's case was just wrapping our arms around the enormity of her story. So much had happened to her. She is exactly the sort of person asylum is supposed to benefit, but to construct her case and tell her story effectively was incredibly difficult." - David A. Tallman, K&L Gates, one of Mada's pro bono attorneys

I was lucky to have an amazing team who advocated on my behalf. Even with their support, it was almost a year before my asylum case was granted! I am now allowed to stay and build a life in this country. I am allowed to work, and remain in a safe place.

When I first arrived in the United States, I could no longer taste the flavor of life. Thanks to Tahirih, David, Collins, and Amy, I have my voice again. Their hard work and support allowed me to become self-sufficient and safe in my new home, and to finally achieve justice.

Every Year, in 65 Countries Combined OVER 250,000 Cases of Rape or Attempted RAPE are Recorded by Police

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If this is the case, please accept our apology and notify us immediately.

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Her Royal Highness Princess Dana Firas		

2010 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,093,560
Receivables:	
Grants Receivables	309,349
Other Receivables	44,899
Total Receivables	354,248
Prepaid Expenses	31,307
Inventory	2,402
Total Current Assets	1,481,517

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Furniture and Equipment	90,067
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(56,366)
Net Property and Equipment	33,701

OTHER ASSETS

Rent Deposit	17,844
Total Assets	1,533,062

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	59,231
Accrued Expenses	58,417
Total Current Liabilities	117,648
Deferred Rent	121,797
Total Liabilities	239,445

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	570,229
Board Designated Reserve	480,326
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	1,050,555
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	243,062
Total Net Assets	1,293,617
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,533,062

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in Net Assets	201,243
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities:	
Depreciation	12,536
Loss on disposal of Property and Equipment	0
Change in Assets and Liabilities:	
Grants Receivables	(76,245)
Other Receivables	(6,557)
Prepaid Expenses	(18,534)
Inventory	591
Other Assets	0
Accounts Payable	32,096
Accrued Payroll	(6,208)
Deferred Rent	18,614
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	157,536

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTIGATING ACTIVITIES

Purchases of Property and Equipment	(2,536)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(2,536)

NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 155,000

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR 938,560

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR 1,093,560

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Donated Materials and Equipment	3,521
Donated Services	6,813,094

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Donated Professional Services	6,813,094		6,813,094
Grants	1,042,867	292,102	1,334,969
Contributions	655,858		655,858
Interest Income	5,886		5,886
Fundraising Sales, Net of Expense	40,917		40,917
Miscellaneous Income	18,799		18,799
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	214,486	(214,486)	
Total Revenue	8,791,907	77,616	8,869,523

EXPENSES

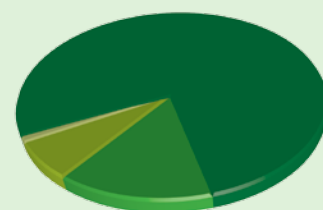
Program Services	7,942,527		7,942,527
Supporting Services:			
Management and General	391,995		391,995
Fundraising	333,758		333,758
Total Supporting Services	725,753		725,753
Total Expenses	8,668,280		8,668,280

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 123,627 77,616 201,243

NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR 926,928 165,446 1,092,374

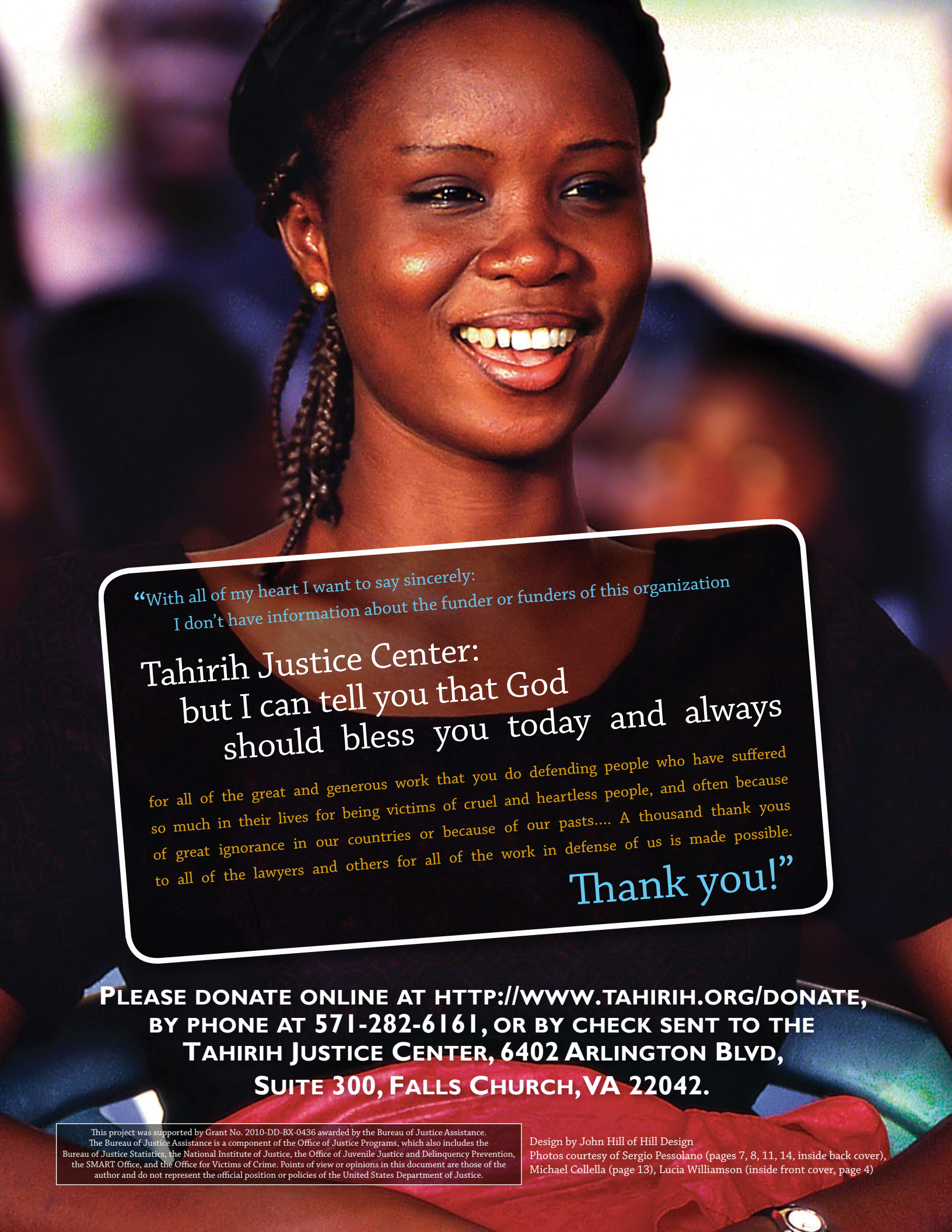
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR 1,050,555 243,062 1,293,617

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENSES





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