

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2008

Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

Vol. 9, No. 1

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**"ASTT is a light for me, a guide for me now."**

*ASTT client*

All of us at ASTT share the privilege of being a part of an other productive year. Our dedicated staff have reached over 170 torture survivors in the Baltimore-Washington, DC area. New linkages were established with 20 governmental and nonprofit organizations in the DC/Baltimore area while partnerships were strengthened with 28 other organizations and individual service providers who provide medical, legal, housing and other immediate needs. Sixteen workshops were developed and presented to professionals and significant stakeholders in the fields of health, social work and education. In addition, 23 public awareness presentations were given to a variety of community organizations, congregations and schools.

All of this success is made possible by the generous support from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, United Nations, local foundations, individual donors and our committed group volunteers.

The torture victims that come to ASTT have survived unspeakable acts of violence. They left not only their homes but their family, their community and their home country as well. ASTT offers them a sense of hope, the tools to rebuild their lives and to empower their spirit. We advocate on their behalf on a local and national level on the prevention of torture.

We are proud to be their light and guide.

Marie Anne Sliwinski  
President, ASTT Board of Directors

Karen Hanscom  
ASTT Executive Director

## Audited Financial Information

### FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

#### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,651
Prepaid expenses	\$7,260
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$80,281
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$264,055</b>

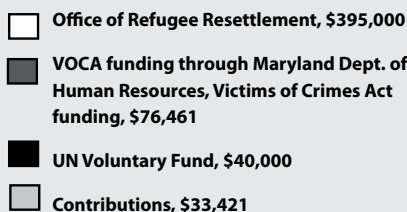
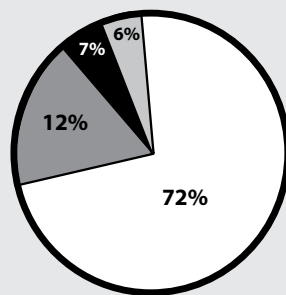
#### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$612
Mortgage note payable	\$65,503
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$66,115</b>

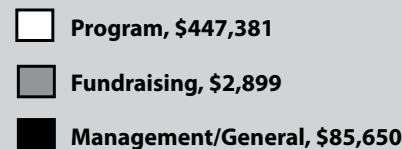
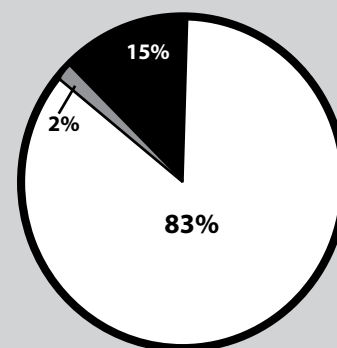
#### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$107,936
Temporary Restricted	\$90,004
Total net assets	\$197,940
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$264,055</b>

#### FY 06-07 Sources of Funds



#### FY 06-07 Expenses



## Staff

**Karen Hanscom, PhD**  
**Executive Director**

**Mary Cogar, PhD**  
**Clinical Director**

**Estela Abosch, LCSW-C, BCD**  
**Social Worker**

**Joachim Nthawie, Ph.D**  
**Clinician**

**Amy Rakuskin**  
**Clinician**

**Suzanne Leaman**  
**Clinician**

**Essence Pierce**  
**Case Manager**

**Eylem Mudd**  
**Case Manager**

**Maria Brown**  
**Center Coordinator**

**Harriet Moran-Dodge**  
**Financial Director**

**Molly Corbett**  
**Development Director**

**Joan Hodges**  
**Development Assistant**

**Andrea Rockwski**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

**Rachel Avery**  
**Executive Assistant,**  
**VISTA/AMERICORP Volunteer**

**Miriam Gerber**  
**Intern**

**Whitney Brown**  
**Intern**

## ASTT's Mission

*The mission of Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma is to alleviate the suffering of those who have experienced the trauma of torture, to educate the local, national, and world community about the needs of torture survivors, and to advocate on their behalf.*

## Program Activities

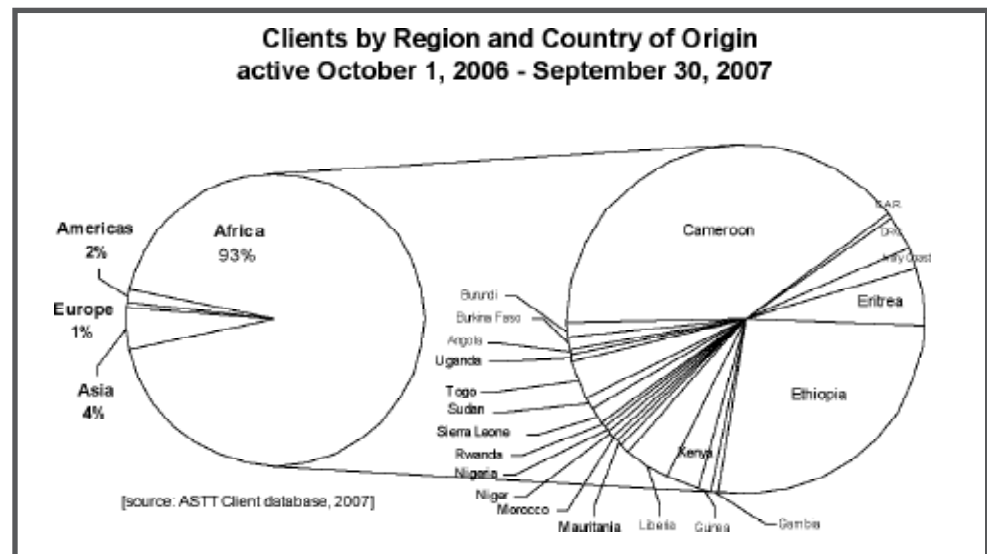
At our two offices in Baltimore and the Washington, D.C. area, ASTT

- offers counseling and specialized treatment in a safe, caring, and confidential environment;
- provides psychological assessments and expert testimony for asylum cases; and
- facilitates access to social services and resources, including medical and legal aid, housing, language training, and employment opportunities.

In addition to these direct services for survivors, ASTT also

- provides specialized training for legal and health professionals so as to increase their ability to respond to the needs of torture survivors;
- raises community awareness about torture, its consequences, and the needs of survivors; and
- advocates for the abolition of torture worldwide through publications, the media, conferences, and other forums.

Through our advocacy and public education work, ASTT promotes consciousness of torture as a global concern, provides insight into the situation of survivors here in the greater Baltimore area, and speaks to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers worldwide.



## HEALING IMAGES AND LIFE SKILLS GROUPS

One of the most innovative activities offered by ASTT is an interactive photography workshop entitled "Healing Images." Initiated in 2003 through a grant from the Open Society Institute's Community Fellows program, the project enables clients to explore the nurturing power of self-expression. Participants are provided with digital cameras and basic instruction in a supportive, therapeutic setting and encouraged to use the medium of photography to explore their physical environments and inner thoughts.

Additionally, weekly Life Skills Groups are held. These open therapeutic groups include weekly community members who give brief presentations and follow with an open discussion. Federal asylum officers, banking specialists, social service providers, and health screeners, among others, have all participated as speakers at ASTT's Life Skills Groups.