

The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

THE
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Strengthening Torture Rehabilitation Centers Around the World

Nearly four years ago, a group of torture rehabilitation centers joined the newly launched Partners in Trauma Healing (PATH) project. Developed by the Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT), PATH set out to support and strengthen the individual centers and staff members.

Throughout the project, the partners set goals to build their individual skills, as well as grow their organizations. Then, through phone consultations, an embedded psychotherapist trainer, in-person visits, online learning and week-long conferences, the PATH staff helped the partners accomplish their goals.

As expected, the organizations faced various challenges, from public health crises and natural disasters, to influxes of refugees, staff turnover and funding challenges. Yet all of the partners made progress in their goals of deepening their clinical skills, developing monitoring and evaluation systems and strengthening their organizations.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Without proper monitoring, evaluation and data tracking systems in place, clinicians find it difficult to objectively assess whether survivors are healing. When Vive Žene in Bosnia started with the PATH project, the organization had limited data tracking systems. Yet the staff knew that measuring their clients' progress would be beneficial to the individual healing process, as well as clinical development.

To support the organization in

developing sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems, CVT Research Associate Jennifer Esala worked with Mima Dahic, monitoring and evaluation officer, to develop assessment forms. Identifying the key information to collect and measure, setting an evaluation schedule and collaborating with the therapists were essential to creating a sustainable process. The forms and process were implemented and clinicians now complete the assessments regularly. Mima records

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The PATH project launched friendships between all partners, including staff from TPO Cambodia, the Community Association for Psychosocial Services (Sierra Leone) and the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (South Africa).

PHOTO © EDIE LEWISON

Restoring
the Dignity of
the Human Spirit

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Letter from the Executive Director

Earlier this summer, the Center for Victims of Torture was honored with a Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. The award commemorated the life and legacy of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, and recipients were recognized for their work and progress on access to justice, civil and human rights and government accountability.

Walter Mondale has supported CVT since our inception 30 years ago. He has helped raise the visibility of the torture survivor rehabilitation movement and served as host for two important visits to CVT: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in 1993 and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1998. In his speech at the ceremony, he talked about “the remarkable Center for Victims of Torture, the best of its kind in the world and located right here.”

It was leaders like Walter Mondale who guided us in developing our policy advocacy work, including working to pass the Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) in 1998. Through TVRA, the U.S. government funds both U.S.-based and international torture rehabilitation programs that bring healing to survivors.

Our work engaging policy makers focuses on building the torture rehabilitation movement by expanding resources and building capacity. Earlier this year, we hosted two conferences to support the work of our colleague organizations around the world.

The Partners in Trauma Healing (PATH) project (highlighted in this newsletter) brought together staff from our nine partner organizations in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The partners met in Tblisi, Georgia, to design their strategies for sustaining the changes they’ve implemented the past four years.

And just a few weeks ago, our National Capacity Building Project hosted its annual institute at CVT headquarters in Minnesota for some 35 domestic torture treatment programs. The focus was on taking a holistic approach to complex issues of organizational and financial sustainability. The group discussed the challenges and areas of growth for torture rehabilitation programs in the United States.

Through conferences like these and leaders like Walter Mondale, we’re strengthening the torture rehabilitation movement. Together, we can address the scourge of torture and abuse by governments and militant groups that raise the demand for care. We rely on you for your support and thank you for your continued generosity, commitment and partnership.

Sincerely,



Curt Goering
Executive Director



Curt Goering and Eric Schwartz, CVT Board Member and Professor and Dean of the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, at the Public Leadership Award ceremony.

Photo courtesy of the
Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Strengthening Torture Rehabilitation Centers

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the data in an Excel spreadsheet and creates charts showing each survivor's progress. "With the graphs, the clinicians are able to more objectively look at the data to determine if clients are improving," said Jennifer.

Clinical Services

Four years ago, the staff at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) in South Africa realized they needed to adapt their clinical model of counseling. They had already begun researching clinical models and systems when Veronica Laveta joined CSVR as a psychotherapist/trainer for a year. Part of Veronica's role was to provide an outside perspective in evaluating and implementing the new model so that they could bring clarity and consistency to their work.

As refugees or asylum seekers from elsewhere in Africa, CSVR clients have frequently fled torture only to experience ongoing trauma such as robbery or assaults in South Africa. With the new model, the

staff can help clients work through the initial torture experience and allow other organizations to focus on housing, health care or legal services. In the process, CSVR also helps the survivors develop resiliency to help them cope with other traumatic situations.

"One woman was having problems finding ongoing shelter," said Veronica. "She kept getting kicked out of shelters because she was so angry. Once we shifted to a more therapeutic approach, she worked through that anger and found a better, sustainable living situation."

Organizational Development

For 20 years, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) Cambodia has been alleviating psychological and mental health problems of Cambodians in the wake of decades of the Khmer Rouge regime. The organization has grown significantly, and was looking for an outside perspective on their organizational development.

Through TPO's engagement with PATH, the organization developed systems to build up the fundraising work. Organizational Development Advisor Kristi Rendahl worked with the staff to broaden engagement in the proposal writing process and launch a crowdfunding project so TPO can now raise funds online and has access to more prospective donors.

When the king of Cambodia donated \$5,000 to the organization to support unchaining mentally ill individuals in rural areas, the organization saw an opportunity to launch a matching gift campaign. With input from the PATH staff, they completed a successful fundraising campaign. "One of the major benefits of the PATH project for TPO



The staff of the Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims in Moldova discussed what they had learned through PATH.

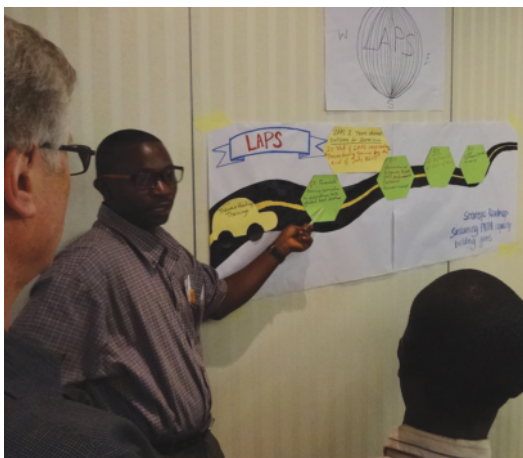
PHOTO © EDIE LEWISON

Cambodia and other organizations is bringing our partner organizations' staff and boards together to explore and plan projects," said Kristi.

At the final PATH workshop in Tbilisi, Georgia in June, the partners planned their strategies for sustaining one key success they achieved through PATH. As one participant said, "I learned about the road map, a very useful tool! When used to think about measures, obstacles, gains and so on, it made me [think about] the overall picture, what we did, what we still need to do."

"It's gratifying to see how all of the partners have developed the past few years," said PATH Project Manager Pam Kriege Santoso. "And it's encouraging to know that because of this process, torture survivors will have increased access to the high quality mental health care that they need."

Partners in Trauma Healing is made possible through the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development and the American peoples' support.



The Liberian Association of Psychosocial Services staff explained their roadmap to sustain their accomplishments.

PHOTO © EDIE LEWISON

Thelma Boeder: 30-Year Donor

Thirty years ago, Thelma and John Boeder stood in the rotunda of the St. Paul Capitol for the announcement of a new organization — the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT). At the time, the Boeders were raising their family in suburban St. Paul, and Thelma was working as the archivist for the United Methodist Church of Minnesota. Committed to human rights, John and Thelma were also active in Amnesty International Group 37. That's where they first learned about CVT.

Persuaded by CVT's mission, Thelma and John were among CVT's very first donors in 1985. They continued donating annually, Thelma on her own after John's

death in 1999. Thelma spoke of how impressed she was when she heard about CVT's start in Minnesota. "I thought, 'Wow!' because CVT would be only the third torture treatment center in the world," she recalled.

Thelma has continued supporting CVT for so many years because "it's doing well and is still needed — unfortunately." She follows CVT's work locally, as well as nationally and internationally because, as she said, "It's all compelling work — particularly the stories of healing."

Now retired, Thelma is active in local historic re-enactment circles, as well as hiking, singing in her church choir and several archival projects. While she's interested in



Thelma Boeder

historical, environmental, education, cultural and church endeavors, "CVT is special," she said, "one of several organizations I contribute to consistently."

Planning Your Legacy with CVT

For the past 30 years, the Center for Victims of Torture has brought hope and healing to thousands of torture survivors and their families around the world. Today, we care for survivors in Jordan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the United States. Your support allows us to help heal the lives of those who have undergone the inhumanities of torture.

Your generosity and commitment is vital in rebuilding the lives of these survivors, as well as advocating for an end to torture and expanding healing resources.

While monthly and annual gifts support our ongoing work, legacy gifts can build our capacity to care for even more survivors. Members

of the Douglas A. Johnson Circle are making a difference in the lives of torture survivors through planned gifts to CVT. Whether it's a specific, residuary, percentage or contingent bequest, these donors find it possible to be extraordinarily generous through their wills. Through legacy giving, you can continue supporting torture survivors for future years.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our work. You make a difference in the lives of survivors around the world.

For more information about the Douglas A. Johnson Circle and legacy giving, please contact Michelle Woster at 612-436-4859 or mwoster@cvt.org.

Make a Difference in the Life of a Survivor

Your generous support brings healing to torture survivors worldwide. CVT welcomes all types of donations.

- **Monthly Sustainers** allow for ongoing planning and delivery of healing services.
- **Planned Giving** continues your legacy of support.
- **Gifts of Stock** support survivors while offering tax benefits to donors.
- **In-Kind Donations** of specific items improve the lives of survivors.
- **Tribute Gifts** celebrate events or memorialize loved ones.

Donate online at www.cvt.org, send a check to 649 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, or call 1-877-265-8775 for other ways to give. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to healing the wounds of torture.



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