



FIGHTING POVERTY

Recycle  for  
Change

Annual Report 2013

Change your clothes, Change the world

Each victory achieved during 2013 might be a small one in the fight against poverty. However, combined and over time, they have an impact.

The people who are part of the development work enrich themselves in the process as well and build their capacity to do more. So the good examples spread. Development can only be created through a collective effort.





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# About Us

Since 2000, Recycle for Change has been dedicated to helping those most affected by global climate change and poverty in the US and abroad. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes to protect the environment and support sustainable development work across the globe.

At this time our largest and most known program is the second-hand clothing collection in the Greater San Francisco Bay Area in California. Our green colored drop-off boxes have become the hallmark of textile recycling in our neighborhoods; in many cities they are the most readily available environmentally responsible option for people to dispose of their unwanted clothing and shoes.

Our clothing collection boxes help save resources and lessen environmental impacts by reducing waste. The benefit of our boxes goes beyond the environmental one, the proceeds generated by the sale of used clothing benefit three organizations that engage in sustainable development work in the US, Africa, Central and South America. These organizations run programs aimed at mobilizing and supporting communities to take up the fight against poverty.

*Recycle for Change's mission is to fight worldwide poverty, to empower ordinary people to do the same, to reduce carbon emissions and create a sustainable future for all. Recycle for Change recognizes that the earth's resources are finite and that preserving these resources is crucial to the well being of future generations.*







## Environmental impact

We have the power to change the world, just by reconsidering the way we discard of our textiles.

According to the EPA, Americans discard approximately 13.1 million tons of textiles a year, and only about 15 percent of that is reclaimed for recycling or reuse. This means that more than 11 million tons of textiles are dumped into landfills across the country each year. San Francisco, alone, sends 4,500 pounds of textiles to the landfill every hour.

Clothing production and disposal have a considerable impact on the environment. Cotton, the raw material for most of clothing produced today is one of the most water, nutrient, labor and pesticide intensive crops grown on industrial scale. It takes over 900 gallons of water just to grow a pound of cotton; the amount of pesticides and fertilizer needed to grow enough cotton to make one T-shirt is almost the same as the final weight of the T-shirt itself!

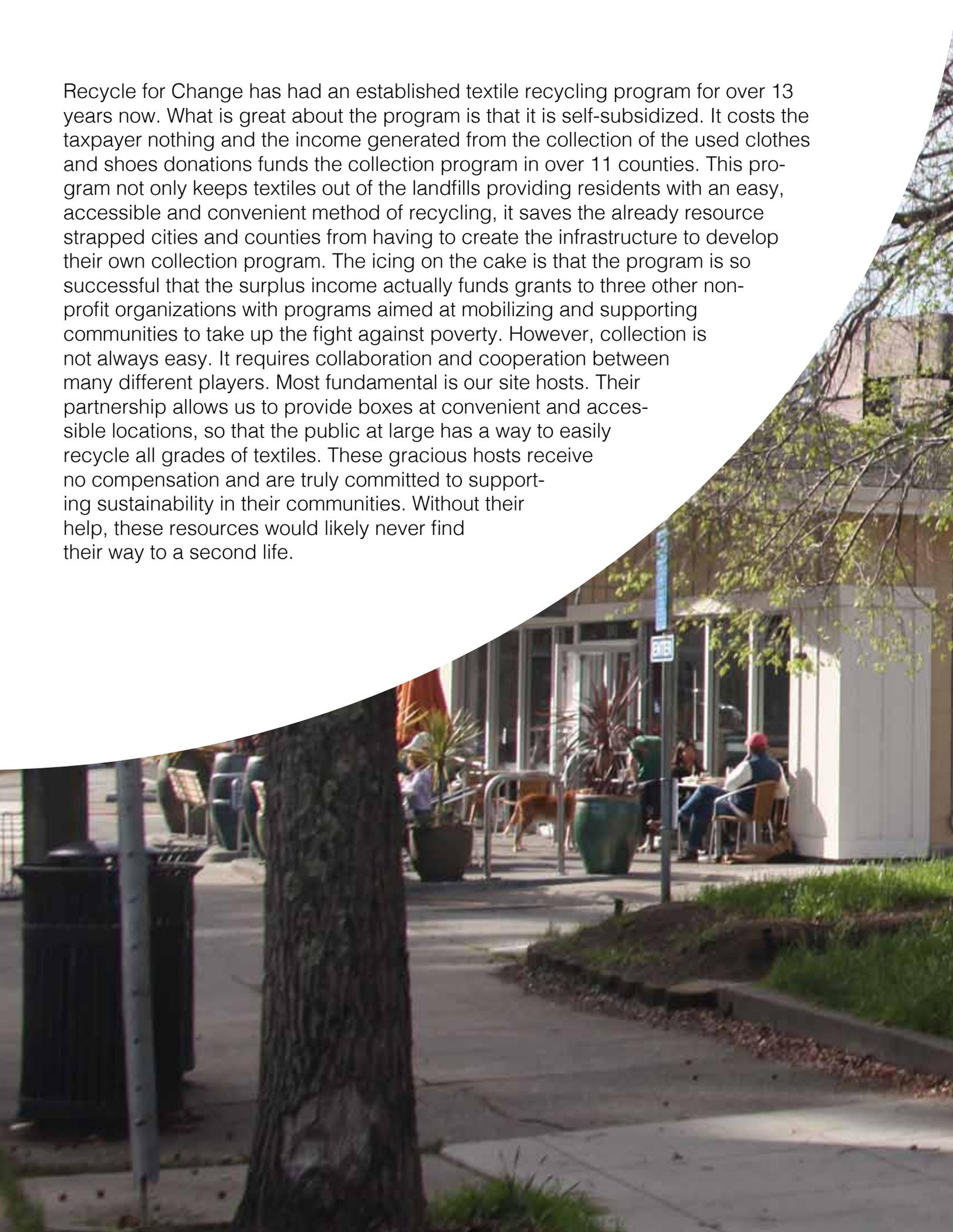
We have the power to preserve a significant amount of resources by reusing and recycling textiles and our collection boxes are a very simple way to do just that.

All items deposited into our donation box are collected and separated (clothing from non-clothing items) by hand, then hand-packed or made into bales while keeping the clothing in the best shape possible for the people who will wear it in the future.

*Our efforts have, in 2013, diverted over 8,000,000 pounds of textiles from California's waste stream.*

They have been collected for reuse and recycling, saving a great deal of valuable resources, while reducing CO2 and other emissions caused by landfills, and providing much needed inventory for the second-hand textile industry.

Recycle for Change has had an established textile recycling program for over 13 years now. What is great about the program is that it is self-subsidized. It costs the taxpayer nothing and the income generated from the collection of the used clothes and shoes donations funds the collection program in over 11 counties. This program not only keeps textiles out of the landfills providing residents with an easy, accessible and convenient method of recycling, it saves the already resource strapped cities and counties from having to create the infrastructure to develop their own collection program. The icing on the cake is that the program is so successful that the surplus income actually funds grants to three other non-profit organizations with programs aimed at mobilizing and supporting communities to take up the fight against poverty. However, collection is not always easy. It requires collaboration and cooperation between many different players. Most fundamental is our site hosts. Their partnership allows us to provide boxes at convenient and accessible locations, so that the public at large has a way to easily recycle all grades of textiles. These gracious hosts receive no compensation and are truly committed to supporting sustainability in their communities. Without their help, these resources would likely never find their way to a second life.





Clothes & Shoes

Clothes  
&  
Shoes



Clothes  
&  
Shoes



No Stamping!

# Supported Programs

Long term sustainable development in Africa and South America is still of crucial importance; Recycle for Change uses proceeds from the sale of used clothing to support three other non-profit organizations running programs that enable young people to take part in sustainable development work and take up the fight against poverty.

Our partners offer different programs for people who want to actively take part in the fight against poverty. These programs are making a real difference in the lives of people living in poverty worldwide. They are aimed at building cooperation across cultures, languages and borders and are constantly challenging its volunteers to think and act outside the box in an effort to create a more just and sustainable world for all.

Programs like “Fighting With The Poor” – an 18 months long activist program focused on gaining a thorough first hand understanding of the causes and effects of poverty and taking concrete actions in the USA and abroad in a developing nation. Through our donations



to One World Center and Richmond Vale Academy, Recycle for Change is standing by its commitment to provide support to the important work being done together with many other government agencies and international NGO's like Humana People to People. We recognize the importance of continuing the efforts to create development in some of the poorest regions of the world.

One World Center and Richmond Vale Academy have both trained and placed hundreds of volunteers in a number of development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa and South America. Projects focused on HIV/AIDS Education, food and water security, sanitation, teacher training and health education where the volunteers work together with the community in an effort to empower them to create sustainable solutions for their lives.

During 2013, 18 of these volunteers have worked in Teacher Training colleges in Malawi and Mozambique. These Teacher Training colleges are one area where continued support



has proven to have lasting effects. Since 2003 a number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have implemented a system of teacher training colleges to prepare primary school teachers for the rural areas. According to the agency overseeing these projects, in 2013 80% of the 11.000 graduates to date were still working in the rural schools, with over 2.700 new teachers being trained each year in 24 colleges in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique and India. To increase the number of teachers in rural areas and therefore to increase literacy rates is universally seen as one of the necessary steps towards empowering the population to create lasting development.

*During 2013 we were able to raise and donate funds to support the training of 128 volunteers, who benefited an estimated 234,150 people in the United States and abroad.*

Each victory achieved during 2013 might be a small one in the fight against poverty. However, combined and over time, they have an impact. The people who are part of the development work enrich themselves in the process as well and build their capacity to do more. So the good examples spread. Development can only be created through a collective effort.

We depend on the millions of people that support us, year after year, through hosting a collection box, donating clothing or simply getting involved.





# Where did the Volunteers work during 2013?

## Child Aid:

The project, among other activities, includes building preschools, organizing youth clubs, offering adult literacy classes, water and food security or initiatives that help reduce maternal and infant deaths.

## Teacher Training:

The project focuses on the training of primary school teachers for the rural areas.

## Climate compliance:

The projects focus on energy, water, food and disaster security.

## Children's Town:

Primary and secondary school providing education for orphans and other children whose situation has caused them to stop attending school and in many cases live on the street.

## TCE:

A community mobilization program focused on preventing HIV transmission.

## Farmer's Club:

The project trains small-scale farmers in sustainable agriculture practices such as conservation farming, and equips them with knowledge they can use to adjust to the changing conditions.



Belize:  
3 Volunteers from Richmond Vale Academy worked at child aid projects impacting 4,500 people in 2013.

Ecuador:  
8 volunteers from Richmond Vale Academy worked at Child Aid projects impacting 6,000 people in 2013.

St. Vincent:  
32 participants from Richmond Vale Academy worked at climate compliance projects impacting 32,000 people in 2013.

Brazil:  
33 Volunteers from OWC Massachusetts worked at child aid projects in Bahia impacting 49,500 people in 2013.



Malawi:  
9 volunteers from OWC Michigan worked at Teacher training colleges and Farmers clubs impacting a total of 4,050 people in 2013.

Mozambique:  
23 Volunteers from OWC Michigan and Massachusetts worked at Teacher training colleges and HIV/AIDS education impacting 115,450 people in 2013.

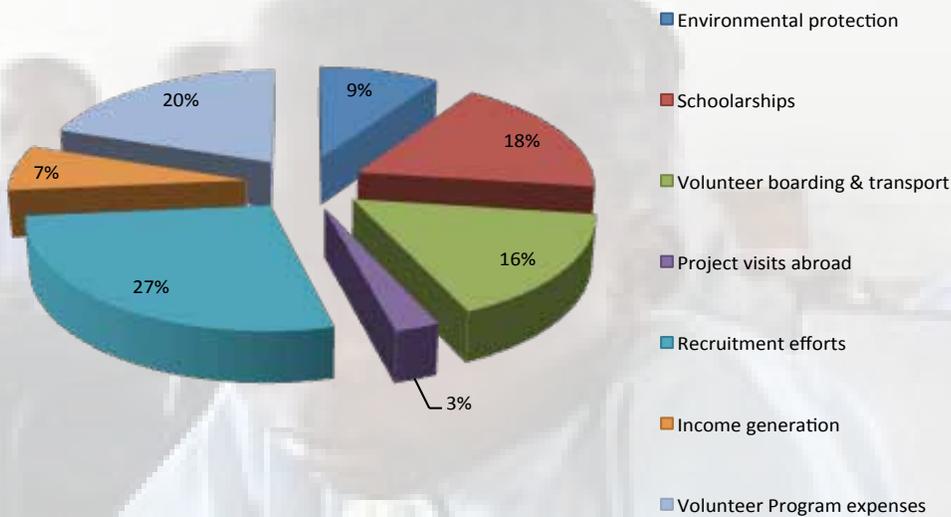
Botswana:  
2 Volunteers from OWC Massachusetts worked at Child Aid projects impacting 3,000 people in 2013.

Zambia:  
18 volunteers from OWC Massachusetts worked at Child Aid projects and Children's town impacting 19,650 people in 2013.

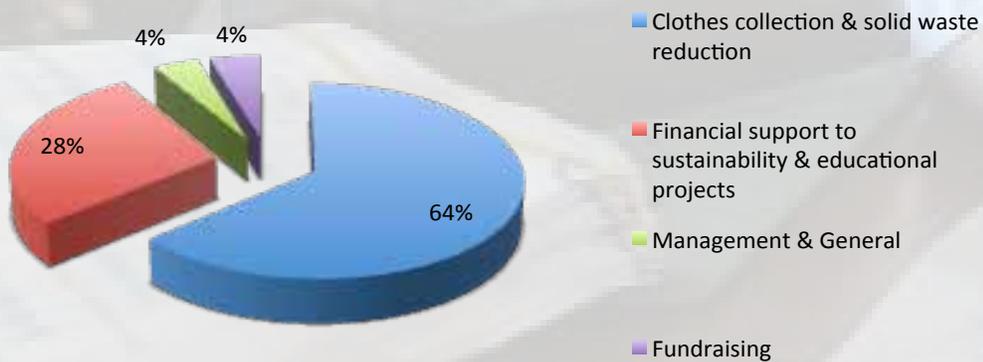
## Distribution of support by category:

Environmental protection	\$79,250
Scholarships	\$152,400
Volunteer boarding & transport	\$138,118
Project visits abroad	\$22,800
Recruitment efforts	\$235,400
Income generation	\$57,600
Volunteer Program expenses	\$168,532
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$854,100</b>

### Distribution of support by category



### Allocation of Funds





# Financial Statements 2013

<b>Statement of Activities</b>	
<b>December 31, 2013</b>	
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>	
Sales of donated clothing & other goods	3,274,829
Other revenue	7,383
Total operating revenue	3,282,212
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Program services	2,799,691
Management & general	121,378
Fundraising	136,261
Total operating expenses	3,057,330
Change in unrestricted assets	224,882

<b>Statement of Financial Position</b>	
<b>December 31, 2013</b>	
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash & Current assets	649,013
Property, equipment & other assets	487,448
Total assets	1,136,461
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	
Current Liabilities	88,717
Long term debt	168,176
Total liabilities	256,893
Unrestricted net assets	879,568
Total Liabilities and net assets	1,136,461

<b>Statement of Functional Expenses</b>	
<b>December 31, 2013</b>	
<b>Program Services</b>	
Clothes collection & solid waste reduction	1,945,591
Financial support to sustainability & educational projects	854,100
Total program services	2,799,691
<b>MANAGEMENT &amp; GENERAL</b>	121,378
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	136,261
Total expenses	3,057,330



# es & Shoes



owned & operated by a  
Organization

thes  
es





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To find a box near you go to [www.recycleforchange.org](http://www.recycleforchange.org) and click on 'find a box'