Planet Aid is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes and supports international development projects. It is registered with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a private voluntary organization (PVO).

Planet Aid began recycling in 1997 in the Boston area. Today our clothes collection boxes can be found across many major metropolitan areas of the United States, helping to save resources and reduce environmental impacts. Planet Aid sells the clothing it collects, with the net proceeds donated to help people in developing nations meet basic needs. Planet Aid supports community-based development projects that improve health, increase income, aid vulnerable children, train teachers, and enhance the overall quality of life for people across the globe.
A Climate of Injustice

In 2012, Planet Aid celebrated its 15th year of operation. When we started back in 1997 we had just a few dozen or so drop-off boxes in the Boston area, collecting several thousand pounds of clothes a week. Today, our operations reach across 22 states. In 2012 alone we collected 110 million pounds of clothing from 18,000 collection bins that we own and operate. Our growth is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the help received from our many supporters. Every day, more businesses, schools and community groups choose to host Planet Aid bins, helping to make recycling more convenient for all and saving valuable resources.

It has become clear that the work we have been doing is increasingly necessary. The threat of climate change has grown more menacing. When I wrote this message, headlines announced that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere reached 400 parts per million. Climate scientists are alarmed by this sudden spike, which had previously hovered at 300 parts per million. Never before in the Earth’s history had these concentrations risen so rapidly.

At the same time that carbon dioxide levels have been rising, extreme weather events caused by global warming are causing huge social disruptions and dislocations. The most dramatic weather event in the United States was the infamous Superstorm Sandy, which devastated the eastern seaboard. Then, a few weeks later Sandy was surpassed by super-typhoon Bopha, which drove across the Philippines leaving hundreds of thousands displaced and at least 900 dead. Parts of Africa, Russia, Pakistan, Colombia, Australia and China also dealt with deadly flooding. Brazil witnessed the worst drought in 50 years. Many parts of western Africa suffered serious flooding between July and September because of a monsoon.

The impact of climate change is affecting the poor in developing nations the most. According to the International Displacement Monitoring Group, more than 30 million people were forced to flee their homes as a result of extreme weather during 2012. Much of this problem has been brought on by years of unsustainable consumption in so-called developed countries along with a disregard for environmental consequences. We can no longer stand idly by while the suffering and injustice of climate change grows worse every day.

Through our collection and recycling of used clothing, Planet Aid is doing its part to help save valuable resources that would otherwise end up in the trash. Clothing that decays in a landfill releases methane, a greenhouse gas several times more potent in affecting climate change than carbon dioxide. Moreover, by reusing rather than manufacturing new clothing, less fossil fuel gets burned in growing the textile fibers (such as cotton) or in operating the factories to make the new garments.

We continue to support programs that help the poorest of the poor. In 2012, we donated nearly $10.5 million in support of agricultural, health, education, and community development programs that are empowering communities in developing nations, helping them cope with the myriad changes they face and provide a needed boost in bettering their lives. You can read about these programs in the pages of this report and by visiting our website Planetaid.org.

We look forward to the next 15 years and beyond and invite you to join us in making the world a more stable, healthier, and more equitable place for all. Your generous donations will contribute to a cleaner environment and a better quality of life for those who have had the least.

Ester Neltrup
President
Mission

Planet Aid’s mission is to inform, mobilize, and inspire individuals and communities to work together to bring about worldwide environmental and social progress. Planet Aid recognizes that the Earth’s resources are finite and that good stewardship is essential for the well-being of current and future generations. The projects we support thus aim to protect the environment, reduce waste, and increase the efficient use of vital resources.

We work to strengthen and organize communities, reduce poverty, promote small enterprise development, support sustainable local food production, improve access to training and quality education, increase health awareness and encourage healthy lifestyles. We embrace the principles of equality and self-determination in all that we do and foster cooperation and understanding among peoples across the planet. Disadvantaged populations are our priority, and we seek to empower them to create lasting positive change.

Mission elements:

• Protect the environment, reduce waste, and increase the efficient use of vital resources.
• Strengthen and organize communities.
• Reduce poverty and promote small enterprise development.
• Support sustainable local food production.
• Improve access to training and quality education.
• Increase health awareness and encourage healthy lifestyles.
• Foster direct cooperation and understanding among peoples across the planet.
• Help disadvantaged populations of the world create lasting positive change.
For the Environment

By donating clothing and shoes to Planet Aid, you avoid them from going straight to what is known as the “solid waste stream.” This is the universal dumping ground for items we don’t recycle. Our solid waste usually winds up in one of two places. It gets buried in a landfill, which can contaminate soil and groundwater and consume valuable land. Alternatively, your old clothes may be torched in a huge incinerator that gives off microscopic particles that we breathe, and spews out clouds of greenhouse gases that heat and clog the atmosphere.

Neither option is good for us or our planet. By recycling, two good things happen: we eliminate the need to produce a new item, and we remove an item from the solid waste stream. What do we save? Consider this: it takes 250 gallons of water to grow cotton for one shirt!

Along with saving water, you also help stop global warming. When textiles are buried in landfills they naturally release greenhouse gases (such as methane) as they decompose. Similarly, at the other end of the spectrum, the production of textile fibers and the manufacture of cloth burns considerable quantities of fuel that releases carbon in the form of carbon dioxide. (another contributor to global warming). How much carbon dioxide (or CO₂) is saved through clothing reuse? Approximately 7 pounds of CO₂ are saved for every 1 pound of clothing that is spared from disposal. This means that Planet Aid effectively saved 770 million pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere last year.

How does this relate to you? Let’s say you fill a plastic bag with 10 pounds of unwanted clothes to help a needy person. By donating this single bag you would have prevented 35 pounds of CO₂ gases from polluting the atmosphere. You also would have saved 7,000 gallons of water, and avoided the dispersal of a significant quantity of pesticides. Read more about the environmental savings of textile recycling at Planetaid.org
The amount of resources needed to produce our clothing is not widely appreciated. For example, approximately 1,000 gallons of water and more than a half-pound of pesticides are required to grow enough cotton to produce just one pair of blue jeans, depending on the type.
Planet Aid supports development projects that help individuals and communities improve the condition of their lives. The programs—designed by Humana People to People and implemented by local member organizations—create the energy and momentum needed to bring about lasting long-term development. The programs focus on spurring action in the areas of microfinancing, sustainable agriculture, health and disease prevention, education, and community development. These programs are described briefly on the following pages. For more information visit our website: Planetaid.org.
Empowering Women — Microfinancing

In rural India, Planet Aid supports microfinance projects to empower women, providing the leverage they need to find a way out of poverty. Delivering increased awareness on household financial management, the project helps lead to improved nutrition and education opportunities for the participating families.

As of 2012, the microfinance program engaged 7,500 women in income generating activities. Women who are involved in these projects have brought about remarkable changes in their livelihood, with household income increasing substantially, along with access to food and education. The women have also gained decision-making power within the family, and thus are able to more effectively contribute to raising their children. For example, more than 1,500 women participating in the program have been able to acquire health insurance for their families.
In 2012—in the South African provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga—the HOPE program reached more than 100,000 people in targeted communities, offering HIV counseling and testing, and caregiving and support for people living with HIV and AIDS. The program also provided education for the participants’ family caregivers, and helped establish vegetable gardens to improve nutrition. This initiative has proven to be vital in boosting healthy nutrition for all community members. In 2012, the program also reached about 3,700 orphaned and vulnerable children with support as well as relief services, which include supplementary meals offered at the project’s drop-in centers.

**Fighting Epidemics — TCE and HOPE**

Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE), is a community-based door-to-door behavior change program that educates, counsels, and mobilizes individuals and communities in fighting the spread of disease. TCE raises awareness, confronts and reduces stigma, and encourages people to take advantage of health services such as HIV testing, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and participation in maternal and child health programs.

Planet Aid supports TCE in Africa and Asia in the following countries: India, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

Planet Aid also supports the HOPE project, which creates community centers that conduct outreach programs for those living with or affected by HIV. Included in the program activities are organizing volunteers to carry out home-based care, lessons in nutrition and creating nutrition gardens; supporting orphans and their caregivers; and forming positive living clubs, which empower people living with HIV.

Planet Aid supports HOPE in Botswana, India, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
Mobilizing Communities — Child Aid

Child Aid is a community development model that seeks to improve the conditions under which children live. Every community has its own unique set of needs, and examining and addressing those needs from the perspective of how children may benefit is vital to the long-term health of a community.

In 2012, Child Aid in the DR Congo actively participated in the nation’s health, hygiene and sanitation program, which involved community members establishing water and hygiene facilities locally and in schools. Child Aid organized 11,425 families into 380 family groups to join forces to improve community and family hygiene. Through the national program, regular lessons, campaigns and individual visits, Child Aid facilitated the construction of 7,000 latrines, and mobilized families to install more than 18,000 hand-washing facilities. Rainwater capturing systems and more than 110 school latrine buildings were built in 11 rural schools, along with four newly drilled wells for water.
Educating a New Generation — Teacher Training and Vocational Training

Children in developing countries who are able to obtain an education grow up to earn higher wages, support thriving families, and have a chance at breaking the cycle of poverty. Unfortunately, there is an acute shortage of well-trained primary school teachers in countries across Africa and Asia.

DNS Teacher Training is a program developed by Humana People to People that is helping meet the need for qualified teachers. Through classroom study, teaching practice, and development projects, student teachers obtain the skills needed to make a difference in the lives of their students and the community.

Planet Aid supports DNS teacher-training colleges in Angola, Guinea-Bissau, India, Malawi, Mozambique, and the DR Congo.

Planet Aid also supports vocational training in countries such as Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, and Zimbabwe. The training curriculum combines theoretical and practical elements, including traditional school subjects and general knowledge, with an emphasis on skills training. During training, students also gain work experience by interning at a business. Upon graduating they are able to be employed with a marketable skill or start an enterprise of their own.
In Oio, Guinea-Bissau, Farmers’ Clubs have been focused on providing solar power to local community centers. Members are also learning about the importance of renewable energy and about climate change and its effects. The solar panels will power 39 water pumps to provide water for irrigation and for human consumption.

**Combating Hunger and Poverty — Farmers’ Clubs**

The Farmers’ Clubs program is a three- to five-year agricultural development initiative that provides subsistence-level farmers with a boost, encouraging them to become small-scale commercial farmers. The program provides training in sustainable farming methods and cash crop production, and introduces new ways of value-chain processing and marketing. Farmers’ Clubs participants learn to cope with the impacts of climate change and work together to overcome challenges and solve problems. Planet Aid has been supporting the implementation of Farmers’ Clubs in Mozambique, Malawi, China, DR Congo, and Guinea-Bissau.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>US $</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>Teacher Training</td>
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<td>Community Health</td>
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<td>Belize</td>
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<td>Pre-Schools</td>
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<td>Malaria Project</td>
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<td>DR Congo</td>
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<td>Murgwi Community Center</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TCE - HIV/AIDS education and prevention</td>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>Misc. charities and schools</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td></td>
<td>For 2013 project initiatives</td>
<td>823,132</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Worldwide Projects Supported by Planet Aid in 2012
Community Development
Training and Education
Agriculture and Rural Development
Health: The Big Epidemics
Food Assistance
In-kind and other programs

Distribution of Support by Sector

- Community Development: 23%
- Training and Education: 19%
- Agriculture and Rural Development: 11%
- Health: The Big Epidemics: 25%
- Food Assistance: 11%
- In-kind and other programs: 7%

Worldwide ProjectsSupported
International Training and Capacity Building

Planet Aid provides training and capacity building assistance to development organizations around the globe. The assistance can take various forms, from support in meeting the requirements of U.S. development agencies to technical training for program staff.

In July 2012, Planet Aid staff participated in the International AIDS Conference in Washington, DC. Prior to and during the conference, Planet Aid assisted representatives of Humana People to People from Zimbabwe and Spain in developing and promoting a presentation at the conference.

The press release developed and distributed by Planet Aid that announced the Humana People to People TCE presentation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TCE
Total Control of the Epidemic

Twelve Years, Eleven Million People

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) Humana People to People (HPP), an international federation of local development organizations, will present the results of its Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) model at the International AIDS Conference presentation, in Washington, D.C., on July 24 and 25, 2012.

The TCE program combats the epidemic by mobilizing individuals and entire communities to take control of HIV/AIDS. With its use of home-based field HIV testing and customized prevention planning for every person in each household, TCE has been recognized as an effective combination prevention model and has received strong financial and technical support from the Global Fund, PEPFAR/USAID, CDC, USDA, Johnson & Johnson and many other private partners. TCE is implemented in Africa, India and China in partnership with respective national and local government agencies.

During the past twelve years TCE has reached individuals in 12 countries, spanning both rural and urban environments. Specific results include:

- 11.3 million people reached with HIV/AIDS information and counseling.
- 2 million people mobilized for HIV testing.
- More than 500,000 women educated and mobilized for PMTCT services.
- More than 600,000 activists trained and engaged in community mobilization efforts.

With an average cost of $2 per person per year, the TCE model represents a cost effective intervention that can be easily replicated across the most HIV-affected countries.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2012
Contact: Jane Toppp
Email: Press@planetaid.org
(410) 796-1510

Poster Presentation
WHERE: International AIDS Conference
Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC
Exhibition Hall Level 2
WHEN: July 24, 2012 13:00-14:00
PRESENTER: Ib Hansen TCE Program Director

Oral Presentation
“TCE: a Community Driven Response to the Fight Against AIDS”
WHERE: International AIDS Conference
Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC
Session Room 7
WHEN: July 25, 2012 14:30-16:00
PRESENTER: Maria Kizz-begovic Director of International Partnerships

Ib Hansen of Humana People to People (right) speaks with Benedict Xaba the Minister of Health of Swaziland. (left)

Conference attendees meet near the Humana People to People booth.

Sean Sinclair of Planet Aid (center right) discusses the Planet Aid Post.
Planet Aid at Home

Planet Aid takes great pride in being a responsible community member, participating in a multitude of activities from book donations and clothing drives, to partnering with organizations, universities and colleges and other businesses to increase local recycling. We also offer schools the opportunity to learn about recycling and international development through classroom presentations and by visiting a local Planet Aid operations center.

In 2012, Planet Aid’s 14 operations centers participated in or sponsored a multitude of community events. For example, our Kansas City team donated coats, shoes and blankets to Care of Poor People, a local organization that helps the homeless. In upstate New York our continued partnership with the University of Rochester is helping to increase recycling rates and reduce trash disposal costs from dormitories. In Pittsburgh, we partnered with seven area school districts to conduct environmental programs and tours. Our North Carolina team donated tennis shoes to a local church for kids to wear for play. In New Jersey, we delivered water and other supplies to those in need after Superstorm Sandy.

Special Issue of the Planet Aid Post Debuts at International AIDS Conference

In the summer of 2012, Planet Aid published a special edition of the Planet Aid Post, which focused on the effort to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The issue reported on progress made in combating the epidemic and how the disease has been affecting the poor disproportionately. The Post also highlighted work being done by the TCE program in Africa and Asia to stop the disease.

This special issue of the Post was distributed nationwide by Planet Aid staff across our 14 service areas. A special campaign was also launched to distribute the Post to participants at the Nineteenth International AIDS Conference held in Washington, D.C. In total, more than 4,000 copies of the Post were directly distributed by Planet Aid staff and volunteers to attendees at the conference.
### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
December 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>U. S. Clothing Collection and Habitat Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Training and Capacity Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Aid</td>
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<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
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<td>Fundraising and Development</td>
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<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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### Allocation of Funds

- **Program Service**: 84%
- **General and Administrative**: 8%
- **Fundraising and Development**: 8%
Board of Directors

Mikael Norling
Chairman

Ester Neltrup
President

Jytte Martinussen
Treasurer

Clifford Reeves
Director

Eva Nielsen
Director

Alfred Besa
Director

Fred Olsson
Secretary

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Rochester, NY 14606
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Hatboro, PA 19040
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410-796-1510

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Solon, OH 44139
614-626-4889

Planet Aid Michigan
7025 Metroplex Drive
Romulus, MI 48174
734-947-9699

Planet Aid West Coast
2100 Garfield Avenue
Commerce, CA 90040
323-727-7711

Planet Aid Kansas City
1512 Taney Street
North Kansas City, MO 64116
816-472-1518

Planetaid.org
info@planetaid.org
To find the bin nearest you go to www.planetaid.org and click on "find a bin."

Changing Lives by Recycling Clothes and Shoes

For the Environment, For People

PlanetAid.org