

Relationship

Self-Empowerment

Restored Life

New Identity



ACET

EDUCATING AND CARING

Annual Report 2007

BOARD NEWS

I would like to start with a thank you to all those who have been involved with ACET over 2007: the board, the team (Terrie Colman-Black, Vivienne Murtagh, Richard Carson, Sheila Smyth, Nicholas Schofield and Michael Rossney), all of the volunteers and supporters who encourage us, pray for us, provide hampers or gifts for the clients or contribute towards ACET expenses. It is all appreciated and I look forward to being in touch through 2008 with more news.

Bill Lacy has decided to step down as Chair, and Peter Bryans was unanimously elected by the board to replace him. Thanks to Bill for many years of work as chair, and in particular for his role in securing the current office for ACET. We look forward to his continued input as a board member.

Clifford Sullivan has decided to step down from the board, and again we are very grateful for Clifford's advice and support over the years. Clifford's legal expertise has been very valuable and we are grateful that he is willing to continue his involvement with ACET as an advisor.

Board:

2008

Peter Bryans (Chair)
Bill Lacy
Ken Rue
Rev. Trevor Morrow
Prof. Samuel McConkey
Sarah Ryan
Tony MacCarthaigh
Moyra O'Neill
TBC

2007

Peter Bryans
Bill Lacy (Chair)
Ken Rue
Rev. Trevor Morrow
Prof. Samuel McConkey
Sarah Ryan
Tony MacCarthaigh
Moyra O'Neill
Clifford Sullivan

ACET

EDUCATING AND CARING

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ACET 2007 Annual Report

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Account # 60959790
Sort code: 90 00 33

2007 SUMMARY & HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a privilege to work for ACET since I joined as CEO in February 2007. We've been busy and have seen lots of changes throughout the year. In the process I believe we have built a strong basis for ensuring that ACET is healthy and relevant to the Irish response to HIV, both at home and elsewhere. I've included most of the headline news below!

- During March and April we spent some time looking at ACET's mission, and worked to build a **development plan** that focused on the areas where we believe ACET can have the greatest impact (more about this in a few pages!)
- We re-built the **Care team**: Sheila Smyth, Nicholas Schofield & Michael Rossney all joined ACET as care support workers in May & June. In November we ran volunteer training which brought in 6 new volunteers.
- Richard Carson re-built the **Education work**, training 4 new volunteer educators and equipping the existing team of volunteers to better deliver sexual health education in their own settings. More Education news is on page 4.
- We moved the **ACET office** from Gardiner Row to offices in O'Connell St. The new office has much more space, so we each have a desk, with a room for meetings or training. We have slowly kitted out the office with needed equipment, and are very grateful to Ballymore Properties who have made the premises available to us.
- The **ACET Summer Project**: ran for 6 weeks, organised by Michael with 2 full time volunteers from Taylor University as well as other volunteers coming for a day here and there. This put us back in contact with our youth and child clients and led directly to a significant family intervention.
- The **care team** ramped up to full capacity by the Summer and from July to December completed 420 care visits.
- **43 Christmas hampers** were delivered to some of our most disadvantaged clients in mid-December, donated kindly by many supporters of ACET. We also delivered donated **Christmas presents** to youth and child clients.
- The trip to meet **4 Matilda Project** partners in Zimbabwe in Jan 07 led to stronger relationships with them, and significant new plans—see page 5 for more details!
- Through the year we continued to build strong **network relationships** with many other HIV focused agencies, both at home, and elsewhere in the world. We provided training and education sessions for many of the agencies in Dublin, and hope to do more of this. We worked with Tearfund to hold a HIV conference for Tearfund and ACET partner agencies, held in London for 30 delegates.

Richard Phillips — richard.p@acet.ie

CARE REPORT

ACET has continued to support about 50 client families affected by HIV, most living in inner city areas of Dublin. Many of our clients have a background of injecting drug use, and continue to struggle with addictions and other issues as well as the effects of HIV on their families.

Most of the care work involves regular visits to provide emotional and practical support, including bringing clients to the clinics. In addition to this regular level of support, during 2007 we have been able to facilitate the following:

- 5 clients' houses were redecorated (& 2 had significant repairs)
- 2 clients have been fitted for needed prosthetic limbs
- 5 clients were brought to an understanding dentist and were given dentures
- 11 clients received advocacy support (court proceedings, potential eviction, serious debt, job opportunities denied)
- 2 clients have agreed to go to counselling for the first time after years of struggling with grief
- ACET were involved in 5 major family breakdown situations
- Most clients benefitted from support setting up medical appointments
- Finished supporting 1 client who died and 5 clients who no longer need ACET support

That gives you some numbers, but I would like to also fill out the impact on the person that these actions have:

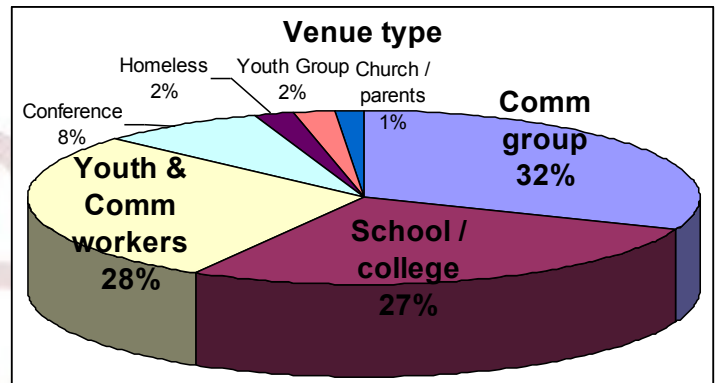
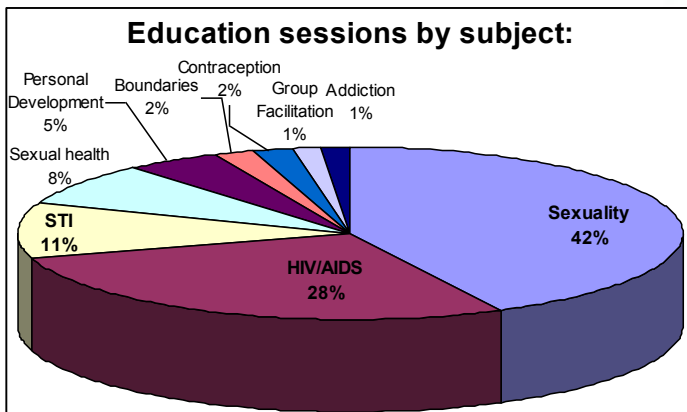
- One of our clients has needed support with leg rehabilitation after a shooting. ACET also spoke on this client's behalf in court, which led to the client getting a suspended sentence on condition that the client continues their link with ACET. The client has difficulty maintaining a healthy weight and adhering to HIV therapy due to dietary problems & an adverse reaction to the HIV therapy. ACET encouraged and coached client to eat regularly & to adhere to HIV therapy. As a result this client's health & quality of life has greatly improved. The client is now on a Community Employment scheme, has improved confidence & a better attitude to life, which has led to improvements in the family home situation.
- Another client has needed a prosthetic limb for years. ACET has enabled the client to follow this up through many meetings with doctors. Client has finally received a new prosthetic limb. This is not merely a replacement but the kind the client has been asking for many years. Client is delighted!
- An ACET volunteer works with a child client with severe speech complications. The client's poor speech creates many problems in school as teachers & children can't understand them. This coaching is helping the client's speech improve rapidly.

These are just a few of the many stories we have of the difference the intervention of ACET makes in the lives of our clients. The work is emotionally demanding, and can be very stressful at times, but seeing the impact on client lives is extremely rewarding.

2007 EDUCATION REPORT

2007 saw a record year for delivery of education and training sessions by ACET. In total **3492** people attended **151** sessions. For the first time the most popular subject was not HIV & AIDS (28%) but Sexuality Education (42%). This reflects ACET's ongoing commitment to provide broad, holistic education to empower individuals to make healthier choices. In addition a greater amount of our work is now delivered to community groups and to community workers. For example in 2007 we delivered, for the first time in many years, sessions in the Homeless sector, in partnership with Focus Ireland and the Simon Community.

facilitating a local personal development group in West Dublin. Vivienne continued her development as a counsellor and educator by receiving training in Brief Therapy and Grief Therapy. Meanwhile I kept up to speed with clinical developments in HIV and Sexual Health by partnering with the Infectious Disease Unit of Beaumont Hospital. Consultant Prof. Sam McConkey provided the expertise to ensure that I



A key focus for 2007 was providing training for agencies which are directly involved in the communities in which our Care Clients live and work. So during the year we provided training for the staff and volunteers of Open Heart House, for the clients of Addiction Response Crumlin, for the staff of the Rialto Community Drug Team, for the staff of Jobcare and for the volunteers of Grandma's Ireland. The skills these groups received will all be of benefit to our Care Clients with whom they come into regular contact. Also, 2007 was a year of transition for ACET and particularly for the Care Team. So it was a great delight to be able to provide training, throughout the year, for our new Care staff and their new volunteers.

can provide the highest quality training to the community. The second year of the Certificate in Sexual Health Education (OCN) is nearing completion and a further 3 Community and Youth workers will graduate. One new feature of the course was the inaugural Sexual Health Walking Tour. This creative and interactive form of learning involved visits to the GUIDE Clinic St. James Hospital, MEAS, Liberty Community Church and Gay HIV Strategies.

A highlight of the year was my involvement on the Steering Committee of Stamp Out Stigma, a national campaign to challenge stigma and discrimination of people affected by

Service Users	Sessions 2007	Sessions 2006	Increase	Attendance 2007	Attendance 2006	Increase
Community groups	47	13	260%	486	87	458%
School / college	41	37	11%	1730	1314	32%
Youth / Community workers	43	4	>1000%	212	48	340%
Conference	12	2	600%	940	770	22%
Homeless	3	0	New!	24	0	New!
Youth group	3	0	New!	37	0	New!
Church / Parents	2	0	New!	63	0	New!

A significant part (27%) of our work is in delivering health education in secondary schools and with college groups. We continue to seek to compliment the health promoting environment being generated by the whole school community by supporting the staff in the implementation of Relationships & Sexuality Education. A new feature of this work was in our partnership with Dublin AIDS Alliance in delivering sessions to the students in the Separated Children's Unit of the City of Dublin VEC.

HIV & AIDS. This campaign, the first of its kind in the world, involved a media promotion around World AIDS Day (1st December) and featured well known Irish celebrities. People living with HIV played a central part in the campaign. Besides delivering Education and Training sessions ACET also plays a role in supporting people who want to learn more about HIV related issues. From our office we provided advice and support to many individuals for school projects, college theses and HIV testing.

Vivienne Morrow Murtagh (the founder of ACET Ireland's Education Service) continued her role as a part time Educator. Vivienne's main focus is in speaking at conferences and

Richard Carson
ACET Education Director
Richard.c@acet.ie

MATILDA PROJECT

2007 was a good year for the project with growth both in funding (to €110,400 within Ireland) and in the key area of school breakfasts. Zimbabwe's economic woes worsened by the day and food became unavailable, except on the black market at exorbitant prices, due to government policy decisions to set prices of commodities so far below cost as to put traders out of business. As funds came in we decided to keep on extending the breakfast scheme to try to counteract malnutrition in as many children as possible, increasing from 1,040 to 2,800 by October.

The year began with a short visit to Zimbabwe by Richard and Wendy with Peter Fabian of ACET UK. Made with Tearfund funding, one of the reasons for the trip was to assess the possibilities for setting up ACET Zimbabwe. Peter worked away with contacts there during the year and ACET Zimbabwe began operating on 1st December 2007. We stayed at Masiye Camp and at Tshelanyemba Hospital, and saw the community based care work at first hand again. Our last visit was mid-2005, and the sharp increase in poverty was obvious everywhere. There was no change in the welcome, cheerfulness and appreciation of the people though!

For the first time we were able to fund some income generating activities. A grant of €5000 to the Howard Hospital was used to establish a sewing co-operative for a group of HIV positive women, by the purchase of 5 machines and raw materials. The Nehemiah Project also used a small grant to help establish a vegetable garden for support group members in a high density suburb of Bulawayo. When Zimbabwe's economy stabilizes, this is an area that we would be very keen to support.

An Irish couple, Dave and Fiona Hoey, spent 10 days in July at Masiye Camp and saw the work being done in the communities there. They were thrilled with the volunteers they met and their extraordinary dedication. Fiona put together a short presentation to African music, showing the school breakfasts and HBC work. Everyone she's shown it to has wanted to help!

ACET UK continued to be a major funder (GBP 7,790) of the care of orphans through our partners, funding school fees for 147 school children at Masiye and Gulati, and 250 at Tshelanyemba, and also food packs for families with orphans at Tshelanyemba. The last distribution of the year reached 350 families.

On the downside we heard at the end of October that Captains Willard and Modester Ndlovu were being transferred at the year end to the Howard. Over the 7 years of working with Willard and Modester they grew the HBC work into a major community based development programme for which we were delighted to provide the funding.

First quarter of 2008

Willard's transfer proved to be fairly catastrophic, sadly. His replacement gives the impression of being more interested in what he can get out of available funding, than what he can do to help the communities. He did not manage to

restart the school breakfast programme in January, despite everything being left ready. After some communication we decided to finish our partnership with Masiye Camp in early February, and transfer the administration of the Masiye and Gulati HBC teams to ACET Zimbabwe.

Another of the many advantages in having ACET Zimbabwe up and running is that ACET UK can send the funds for school fees direct to ACET Zimbabwe who look after the payment of each school. Last term's fees were paid this way. Another is the monitoring, evaluation and reporting skills now available in the person of Godfrey Mhlanga, who leads ACET Zimbabwe.

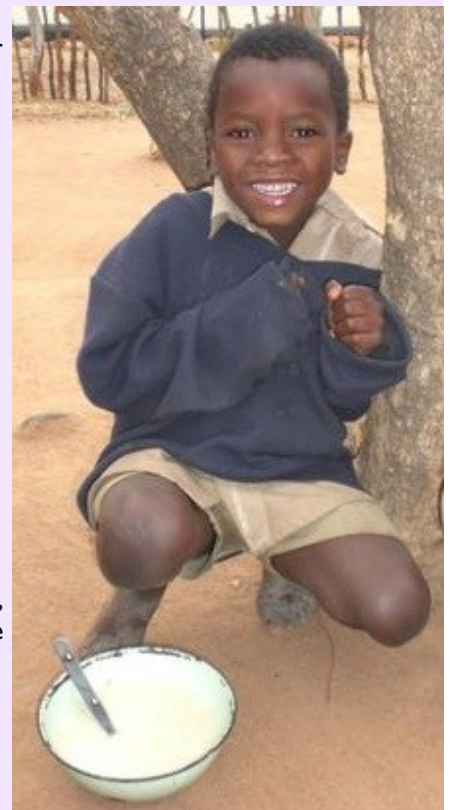
Godfrey advised waiting until after the elections to restart the breakfasts. In the meantime, we've been connected with a mission in Francistown, Botswana, who will accept funds into their account for ACET Zimbabwe. This means Godfrey and his team can buy food supplies in Botswana without us needing to send any money into Zimbabwe. A real blessing (if it works well!) as getting large sums into Zimbabwe was becoming more and more difficult. Sent off US\$9000 last week for breakfast supplies. Bringing the food into Zimbabwe is potentially subject to duty, and/or is officially illegal, so it would be great if folk would pray for this to go smoothly! We don't know yet how quickly Godfrey and his team can get back to the 2007 levels of 2,800 breakfasts a day, or how much opposition Willard's replacement might stir up. Our guess is not much, as people are in such great need.

Gift Moyo and his team at Tshelanyemba, have begun school breakfasts too, serving 900 a day for now. The area has been subject to droughts and crop failures for almost 10 years now, and many children are malnourished and painfully thin, so this is a lovely initiative to be involved with. If this trial works well, and we can find more funding in Ireland, this is an obvious area to expand the work.

If you would like to receive newsmails, please contact me at matildaproject@gmail.com (no break!). (About 10 mails a year.)

To all who already support the project, "Thank you!" Please keep praying for Zimbabwe.

Wendy Phillips



FINANCIAL REPORT

ACET has been carrying a financial deficit for a couple of years, so one of the main goals of the year was to sort this out.

A group of advisors met with Richard twice during the year to advise on financial and marketing issues, and Richard sought new sources of funding, while ensuring we kept a tight control of our expenses. By the end of 2007, we are happy to report that ACET no longer has a deficit.

As ACET continues to develop, we are achieving far more results than ever before. This is great news, but means we need to seek more funding to support these activities.

Matilda project income has also grown, and has been used to fund more activities in Zimbabwe. This is encouraging, as the situation in Zimbabwe just got more and more difficult through the year, and we were delighted to be able to help.

Balance Sheet As at 31st December 2007	2007		2006	
	€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets		2,149		1,720
Current Assets				
Debtors	1,805		500	
Cash at bank and in hand	54,120		74,849	
	<u>55,925</u>		<u>75,349</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>-1,924</u>		<u>-73,008</u>	
Net current liabilities		<u>54,001</u>		<u>2,341</u>
Total assets less net liabilities		<u>56,150</u>		<u>4,061</u>
Reserves				
Income and Expenditure amount	56,150		4,061	
Reserves	<u>56,150</u>		<u>4,061</u>	

Income & Expenditure sheet Year ending 31st December 2007		Continuing Operations	
		2007	2006
		€	€
Income			
	ACET	278,051	197,524
	Matilda Project	120,840	104,230
	Total	<u>398,891</u>	<u>301,754</u>
Expenditure			
	ACET	-228,970	-174,157
	Matilda Project	-117,832	-80,120
	Total	<u>-346,802</u>	<u>-254,277</u>
Surplus for the year			
	ACET	49,081	23,367
	Matilda Project	3,008	24,110
	Total	<u>52,089</u>	<u>47,477</u>
Accumulated surplus brought forward		<u>4,061</u>	<u>-43,416</u>
Accumulated surplus carried forward			
	ACET	29,032	-20,049
	Matilda Project	27,118	24,110
	Total	<u>56,150</u>	<u>4,061</u>

As well as statutory and grant donors, ACET benefitted from the support of many people who found creative ways to raise funds and build a greater awareness of ACET and our work:

- The 6th Summer Alpine hike was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who went.
- The ACET quilt group put on an exhibition of their quilts for World AIDS day.
- One brave volunteer completed the Women's Mini Marathon for ACET.
- Fundraising activities for Matilda Project included a garden in the Wicklow garden festival, a retirement party, a playschool raising support, a sale of work and the Christmas gift cards, soap dishes and porridge bowls.

2008 PLANS

It looks like we will have another busy year for ACET.

- As the care and education work has been rebuilding, we have seen increased need for our services, We are getting referrals faster than we can provide care. We are looking for more volunteers to become involved in both the care and education work. If you are interested in becoming involved, please get in touch.
- In January, Richard Phillips & Richard Carson attended the ACET International Alliance conference in January in Entebbe, Uganda. During this conference the Alliance was formally established, and Richard Phillips was elected to an executive team to lead the alliance. This has the potential to add a whole new dimension to the work is ACET in Dublin.

We hope to build strong relationships with ACET agencies in other countries. This will allow us to help strengthen each other through skill and ideas sharing, through joint projects across countries where we are dealing with similar situations, and potentially through joint funding bids to donors that we could not access alone. There will be updates in the newsletters as things develop, but I am excited about the opportunities this may lead to.

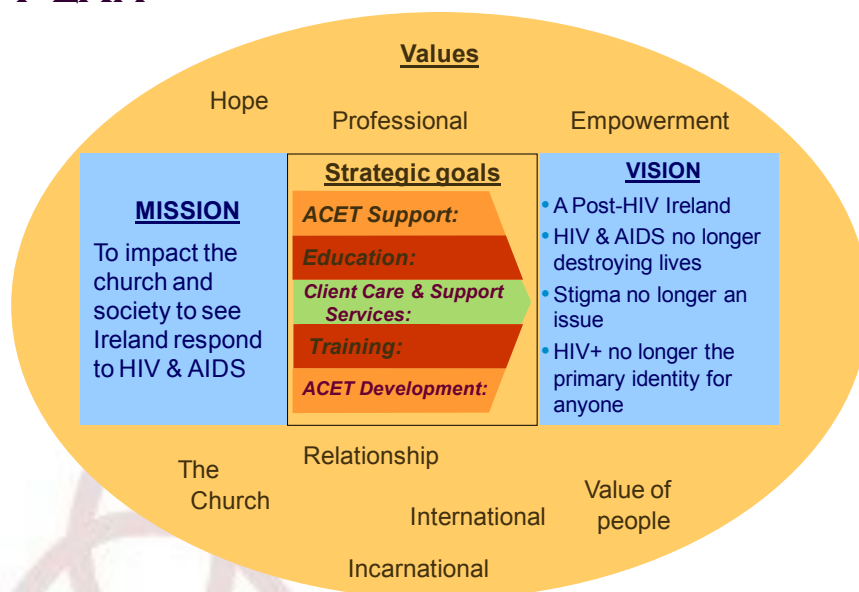
- Another area with much potential is our project to the churches in Ireland. The goal of this project is to enable churches to become the safest place for people living with HIV in Ireland. This means a few specific things:
 - For many churches, encouragement to reflect on their attitudes to people living with HIV, and to change their language where possible to avoid contributing to stigma and discrimination.
 - It also means building awareness of HIV in Ireland and around the world, and the need for Christians to be involved.
 - For churches that are likely to have contact with people living with HIV or affected by HIV, we would like to help them to set up and facilitate support groups for people affected by HIV.

Again, I look forward to giving you updates on this through the year.

ACET DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Over 2007, we have taken time at various stages to reflect on the mission of ACET, and measure our activities up against the goals we are trying to achieve.

This started in March with an away day, during which we looked at the values that we hold as an organisation, the vision we are trying to see become reality. We used this to focus the ACET mission. This was an exciting and motivating exercise which brought a clarity to our work. You can see some of the results in the diagram to the right. In particular, as a Christian agency, we realise that we can impact the church in Ireland, which other HIV agencies may not have the opportunity to do. As Kay Warren, leader of Saddleback Church's HIV initiative, pointed out at a recent conference organised by ACET and Tearfund, the church has the capacity to be the lead in tackling HIV.



Obviously part of the vision is that HIV is no longer a threat, but eliminating HIV altogether involves a medical solution that at the moment ACET will not be part of. Our education work can help prevent the spread of HIV, and it can also help tackle the stigma associated with HIV, which helps to eliminate the effects of HIV. Meanwhile our care work can help clients to move past the point where their main identity is as a HIV+ person. As the care team works with clients, it has been exciting to see them decide their own goals and to reawaken dreams for their own lives. As they move away from addictions, and manage the effects of HIV, we have seen clients take on new activities and gain a new enthusiasm for life.

We filled out this vision into a series of goals for the care and education work which we hope to achieve over the next few years. We had further away days in June and September to review these goals, and to plan the months ahead based on the goals we had set. I'm delighted that we have achieved most of the goals for 2007 and made progress on many of the 2008 plans too!

Richard Phillips

THANKS / ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are very grateful to all of those who support the work we do in ACET.

A dedicated team of volunteers supports both the care work and the education work, and a wider group of supporters prays regularly for the work we do and for our clients. Many more individuals have sent us gifts, set up standing orders, run fundraising events, prepared and donated Christmas hampers, or gifts for our clients. All of this support enables us to better provide the care and education work.

Many thanks to all our 2007 donors:

Statutory funding:

North Inner City D.T.F.
Canal Communities D.T.F.
Health Service Executive, S.W.A.
Catholic Youth Care
City of Dublin Youth Services Board
Dublin City Council

Grant agencies:

Tearfund
PA Foundation
St. Stephen's Green Trust
Cork street fund
Scot's Education Endowment

Corporate sponsors:

Max Insurance Europe
Philip Lee Solicitors

Churches:

Trinity Church Network
Lucan Presbyterian
Abbey Presbyterian
Dundrum Methodist

Thanks too, to the agencies who have used our education service, and the other agencies we work alongside, both in Dublin and elsewhere, engaged in HIV work and other activities that our clients need support in, as well as the network agencies that bring us in contact with other, similar agencies, or professional support that helps us do our job better!

Stamp out Stigma campaign	Tearfund
Open Heart House	Faithworks
St. Andrew's resource centre	Inside Out
Dublin AIDS Alliance	Your Move
Grandma's (Ireland)	N.I.C. Drug Task Force network
ACET International Alliance	Evangelical Alliance Ireland
Fundraising Ireland	The Wheel

