



What a difference  
a day makes.

 Landmine  
**Survivors Network**

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

**MISSION** Created by and for survivors, LSN empowers individuals, families and communities affected by landmines to recover from trauma, reclaim their lives, and fulfill their rights.

**VISION** A victim-free world where all people can fulfill their potential and contribute to a just and secure future.

**STRATEGIC GOALS** LSN's survivor-centric integrated programs address the whole person on the journey from injury to recovery.

**Health:** Deliver peer counseling and trauma recovery services to improve the health of survivors.

**Opportunity:** Build economic independence for survivors and their communities.

**Rights:** Empower survivors to promote the fundamental rights of all people with disabilities.



LSN builds peer relationships among survivors to promote health, eradicate poverty, and foster civil society in ways that transform conflict and ensure human security. Since 1997, LSN has developed Peer Support Networks and Partnerships in seven mine-affected countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mozambique, and Vietnam.

A leader in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Campaign to Ban Landmines, LSN employs nearly 130 staff around the world — most of whom are survivors. LSN has helped thousands of families affected by landmines, war and civil strife; provided more than 60,000 home and hospital peer visits; and helped launch hundreds of survivor-owned businesses.

**We are survivors. We work together. Week after week, year after year, we see what a difference a day makes.**

## Message from Jerry White

CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Every survivor can recollect in detail the date of his or her injury.**

"It was September..." "I was going out to find food..."

"I showed up for demining work as I had on other days..."

April 12 marks the date of my landmine injury. But the day my post-injury life really began was when another survivor came to see me in the hospital. He looked at my amputated leg and shrugged,



# The difference between a date and a day

"Please, you have a nose cold." He pointed out that I was still able to do all the things I had planned to do with my life, only now, on one leg instead of two. Then I knew this "leg thing" was going to be okay.

For many survivors, it is a struggle to find the day when life begins again, to find the day when they recognize their true human value and potential. LSN peer-to-peer workers play a key role in this journey of recovery. While each survivor's experience is deeply individual, LSN is often the catalyst that makes so many life-changing days possible.

Consider your own life. You probably remember a date that cleaved your personal history into "before" and "after." Survivors aren't the only ones who have devastating experiences. All of us have "explosive" events — illnesses, deaths, accidents — that create an urgent need for resiliency and resolve. And each of us, if we're fortunate, may also have a day when we start to conquer those events.

As you look back over the past 365 days, remember the common bond you share with survivors. Remember that human will can triumph over suffering and hardship, and that we are all, in one way or another, survivors.

Health

“In the midst of winter,  
I found there was,  
**within me**  
an invincible summer.”

ALBERT CAMUS





Brought together by LSN, survivors in Quelimane, Mozambique, dance and make music. Many of the dancers had lived in isolation, ostracized because of their injuries; joining the group helped end this segregation. The day the President of Mozambique visited the city and came to a performance was a great day for validation and hope.





# Healing dawns

**Someone steps on a landmine every hour. And every day, another survivor faces the choice: stay in the dark of suffering, or move into the light of healing.**

LSN works around the clock, around the world, to help survivors make positive choices that benefit themselves, their families, and their communities.

Health is the first step, but even that is often difficult to obtain for most survivors. Only about 10% have access to rehabilitation. For those who need sophisticated post-trauma care, the odds are even lower. For instance, in Ethiopia, there are only two orthopedic surgeons for 71 million people.

Even for those who make it to a hospital after an injury and receive effective quality care on that crucial day, the journey is not over. Many have a lifetime of healthcare needs ahead.

Pg. 4: Anne Capelle and LSN-Jordan Director Adnan Al-Aboudi dance to celebrate the Mine Ban Treaty in Nairobi, December 2004.

Pg. 5: Top: Nguyen Huu Phuc lights up when he talks about the day that LSN helped him build a sturdy pigpen. Now he sells the animals and is able to provide for his family.

Bottom: Sabine Wagner, Germany, competes in the long jump in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, and offers peer support to fellow amputees at local hospitals.

### **The Power to Reach Out**

Innovative LSN partnerships help fill the healthcare gaps. Last year we worked with the Ministry of Health in El Salvador to train 75 nurses and physical therapists for post-amputation care, then organized a “train the trainer” program so they could share their skills with colleagues at local clinics.

LSN also partners with Colombia’s premier rehabilitation center, CIREC, to help survivors in remote areas receive health

services. Over the past 28 years, this private, nonprofit organization has provided rehabilitation to more than 30,000 Colombians.

Because you never know which day is going to mark the turning point for a survivor, LSN Outreach Workers offer support not only after an injury, but throughout all phases of the recovery process.







**Edgar Moreno** could never have imagined he would enjoy better health with one leg than with two. Even before he stepped on a mine as a teenager working on a cattle farm in Colombia, his health had been poor. Afterward, his struggle against pain intensified, physically and psychologically, as he also lost his brother to a landmine.

He spent two years isolated at home, drinking heavily. His only respite was to ride his bicycle, furiously pedaling away the frustrations of each day. Then CIREC, an LSN partner, noted his cycling habit and offered to make cycling part of his rehabilitation and job training. His riding became a source of strength as he won national contests. In time, he found work repairing bicycles in a Bogotá shop.

"The day I started working in the bicycle shop, I discovered a new life after my accident," said Moreno.

Moreno is now a prosthetist who conducts vocational retraining for others with disabilities, and is a proud father to two children.

## *Cycling from depths to heights*

A graduate of LSN's *Raising The Voices* leadership and advocacy training program, Moreno reached a pinnacle when he won the bicycle competition at the Nairobi Summit on the Mine Ban Treaty in December 2004. This victory fulfilled his desire to show the world what survivors can achieve.



## Winning Every Day

Sports and recreation can play a robust role in the healing process. LSN programs help turn victims into champions. At gyms, tracks, and pools, survivors move from

isolation and depression to camaraderie, confidence, and improved physical health.

In addition to earning accolades and visibility at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece, survivors

scored numerous personal bests. LSN-Jordan has developed a partnership with the Jordan Sports Federation. Together, we will provide landmine survivors and other amputees with a training facility and create national amputee swimming and volleyball teams. Our ultimate goal: qualifying the Jordanian survivor-athletes for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

LSN has also lobbied for integration of people with disabilities into international sports tournaments, as well as legal guarantees for physical education for children with disabilities.

LSN's work not only helps heal the body, but is building bridges to help heal the spirit by promoting post-war reconciliation.

Bosnia's annual Princess Diana Memorial Sitting Volleyball Tournament in September was a remarkable triumph. Bridging ethnic divides marked by years of civil strife and war, Croats, Muslims, and Serbs played side by side and competed for the first time.

On the day survivor Murat Asoli played in the Tournament, he realized the achievement brought more than sport to the region: former enemies were playing together as athletes and equals. "I began to feel it was a new day in my country, and felt great pride in the spirit of sportsmanship during the games," he said.



Above, left: Jordanian para-athlete Tharwat Hajaj practices her discus throw in preparation for the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

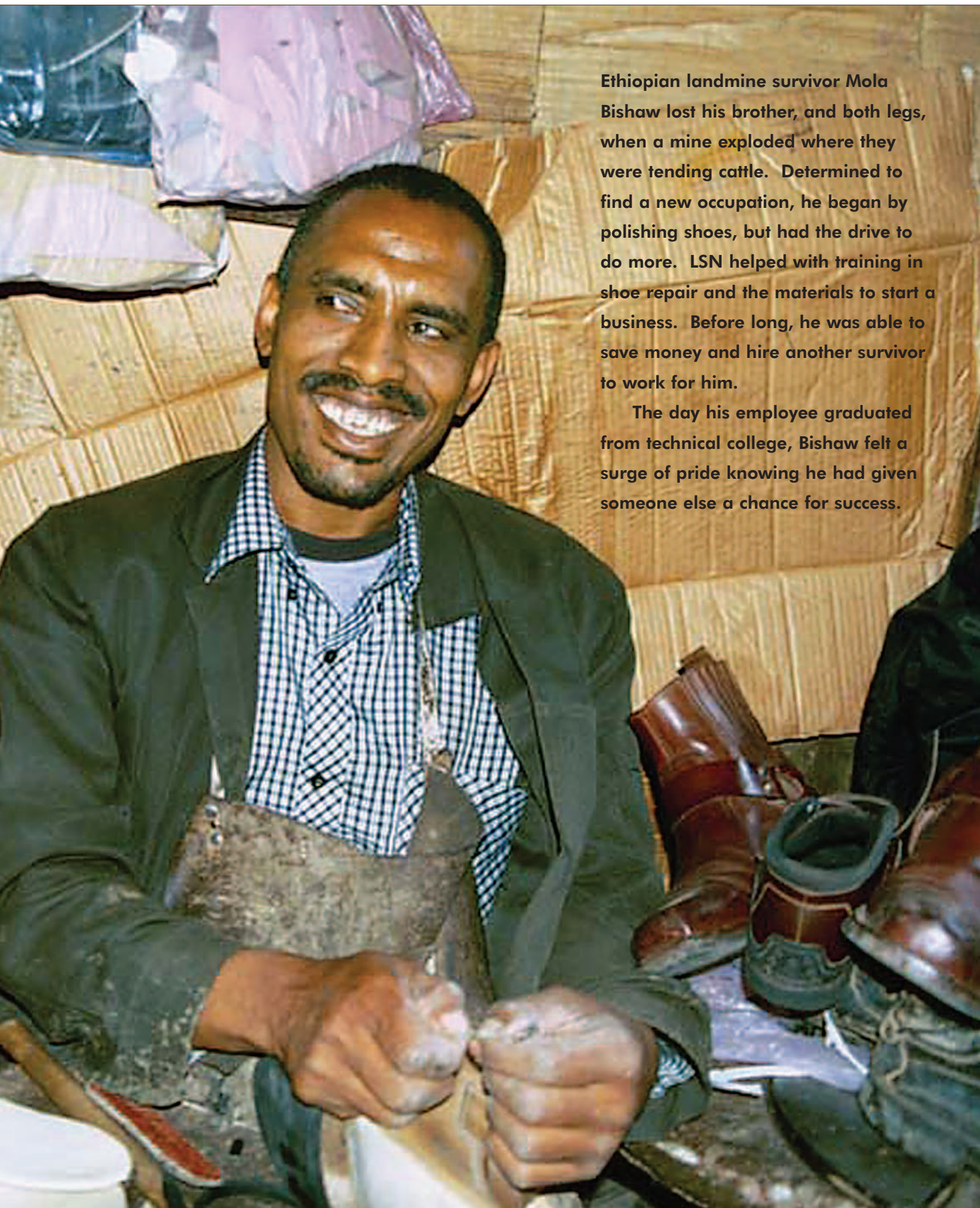
Right: Teams compete at the Sixth Annual Princess Diana Memorial Volleyball Tournament in Bosnia. The Bosnian National Team, which is supported by LSN, won the Gold Medal at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

Opportunity

“Beauty is also to be found in  
a day’s work.”

MAMIE SYPERT BURNS





Ethiopian landmine survivor Mola Bishaw lost his brother, and both legs, when a mine exploded where they were tending cattle. Determined to find a new occupation, he began by polishing shoes, but had the drive to do more. LSN helped with training in shoe repair and the materials to start a business. Before long, he was able to save money and hire another survivor to work for him.

The day his employee graduated from technical college, Bishaw felt a surge of pride knowing he had given someone else a chance for success.





LIEVE SABBE

# All in a day's work

**The day comes when survivors realize they need meaningful work and a job. They tell us that, aside from peer-to-peer networking, economic opportunity is the greatest benefit LSN offers.**

LSN's economic opportunity programs bring the tools — from a cow to a hammer to a business plan — that help survivors provide for their families, assist other survivors, and strengthen local economies.

Work also aids health — without it, one day can melt into the next, creating a downward spiral of hopelessness. Using their own experience and LSN training, Outreach Workers help survivors obtain assistance offered by governments and organizations to make productive work a daily part of survivors' lives.

Pg. 10: Ha Van Tien with one of the ducks from his flock.

Pg. 11: Top: Taxi driver Guillermo Antonio Mérchez worked with LSN to gain a prosthesis and a new, specially designed cab in El Salvador.

Bottom: The day that four survivors in Quelimane, Mozambique met at an LSN-sponsored small business seminar, they decided to open a bakery together. Business is thriving and they are supporting their families. Pictured L to R: Bastina Semente, Rodrigues Juliasse Chofinar, and Isac Juliasse Chofinar.



### Expanding Economic Opportunity

Our survivor-centric programs work because they emerge from survivors' own ideas, experiences, and knowledge of their communities. A delegation of 18 LSN donors and friends saw this firsthand when they visited Vietnam in March to celebrate the Network's first anniversary, and to witness the strides in agribusiness and entrepreneurship.

One striking success is Ha Van Tien, whose determination has yielded both economic and personal rewards. The day he was released from the hospital after

losing an arm to a landmine, his wife handed him divorce papers.

Undaunted, Tien spent the next two years with tools tucked under his residual limb, farming and raising pigs.

LSN helped him formulate a business plan, and funded his purchase of ducks and cows. As his business thrived, so did his confidence. Soon Tien met a woman, and married. Today, he oversees an expanding enterprise — and raises two children.







## *Claiming a place in the community*

For some survivors, work helps them gain identity as well as a livelihood. **Macari Coreia** found that out the day he received, with LSN's assistance, tools and materials for his new carpentry shop, in Quelimane, Mozambique.

Coreia lost his leg to a landmine when he was a soldier. His accident sharply changed the shape of his future, but Coreia refused to let his amputation define him as disabled. As a gifted carpenter, he had his own design in mind and the strength of character to achieve it.

"On the day I had new tools in hand, I found I could recapture who I was before my accident. I found my place," said Coreia.

Coreia is now widely known for excellent work. People go out of their way to buy from him because he is honest and dependable. He mentors his apprentices for as long as they wish to stay with him, and does not mind if they leave to start their own businesses.

Fully accepted by his workers, some of whom are also amputees, and his community, Coreia is just one example of how much survivors can contribute when someone gives them a chance.



### A Time to Give Back

Supporting one's family is only the beginning of reintegration for survivors. Once they gain economic stability, many realize their relationship with the community changes as well. One woman in El Salvador who received LSN's help to open a small market says the business has lifted her out of despair and isolation; she now has daily contact with customers and neighbors.

Likewise, Mesanovic Ramiz of Bosnia talks about the day that changed him



forever. After his accident, he not only lost his leg, but he lost his job. He could not support his family and was deeply depressed.

Then LSN helped him build a greenhouse and a thriving tomato business. "The day I donated 200 kilograms of fresh tomatoes to the local orphanage was an incredible moment," Ramiz says. "After so many years, I felt I could help others in need. I was no longer the beneficiary, but the benefactor.

### Partners for Success

LSN is developing innovative partnerships with universities and corporations to expand economic opportunity. For instance, students and professors from the top-ranked University of Michigan Business School in Ann Arbor are helping LSN create a multi-year assessment of Network countries to aid in formulating business development strategies. Several MBA teams have already visited LSN's offices in Vietnam, El Salvador, and Bosnia to assess market opportunities for survivor employment.



Above, left: Mesanovic Ramiz in his greenhouse.

Above, right: With support from LSN and a lot of hard work, survivor Radwan Wawi of Jordan now owns a small grocery store in his neighborhood.

## Rights

“Survival is the second law of life.

The first is that

**we are all one.”**

JOSEPH CAMPBELL





Yemeni landmine survivors Saleh Al-Dahyani (far right), Sabaa Al-Jarady (seated), and activist Tzvetanka Rayntcheva demonstrate the lack of wheelchair accessibility in every day life during an LSN-sponsored *Raising the Voices* training session in Geneva.





# Seize the day

**LSN Outreach Workers begin human rights education as soon after an injury as possible — often the first time they meet a survivor — because this learning process is critical to building confidence and a vocabulary of hope.**

For many survivors, the depression that follows a landmine injury seems timeless, infinite, all-encompassing. The idea of a great day, a hopeful day can become a faint and receding memory. But a visit from an Outreach Worker often reassures survivors that they are still a whole person, deserving full citizens' rights. LSN outreach prepares them to become self-advocates for basic rights such as healthcare, education, voting, and employment.

For some, the definition of survival becomes walking again; for others it is returning to work. But for some it extends further. They come to view rights advocacy as an integral part of their daily life — a vital calling to improve their community, their country, their world.

Pg. 16: Adnan Al Aboudi, Director, LSN-Jordan, and Plamenko Prigjanica, Director, LSN-Bosnia and Herzegovina at the U.N. in New York in May.

Pg. 17: Top: Bekele Gonfa, Director, LSN-Ethiopia, at the U.N. New York in May;

Bottom: LSN-El Salvador led marches during a celebration for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, December 3, San Salvador, El Salvador.



## Shaping an Empowered Future

In 2004, more than ever, LSN played a prominent role on the world advocacy stage, supporting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This landmark treaty, affecting 600 million people with disabilities worldwide, will build a global framework of international law — a foundation to create, change, and enforce laws that promote human rights for all.

LSN-Jordan Director Adnan Al Aboudi was a leader in drafting language for this treaty. This year was the first time the U.N. formally included nongovernmental organizations such as LSN in the process. This historic action reinforced the

disability community's principle of “nothing about us without us.”

LSN has been an active participant in drafting the treaty since 2002.

In May, LSN-Ethiopia Network Director Bekele Gonfa delivered his first public address at the U.N. in New York. His message reached the world that day: “I would like to see all survivors become self-sustaining individuals, to be integrated into society, live their lives, and enjoy their families.” LSN-Ethiopia's efforts in fighting indifference to survivors' rights paid off as Ethiopia ratified the Mine Ban Treaty this year.



**"A barrier-free world, a victim-free world, a mine-free world."** Survivors rallied behind these goals at the first ever Survivor Summit, held during the Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World, which marked the five-year review conference for the Mine Ban Treaty.



ANNE CAPELLE

Over forty survivors, including Network Directors and LSN co-founder Ken Rutherford, emphasized the connections between eliminating landmines and improving human rights for people with disabilities as they lobbied for support from over 150 governments.

The Summit concluded on December 3 with a celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. LSN organized a party and hosted Austrian Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch, the President of the Nairobi Summit. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan gave a closing speech by video link, stating: "We must do more to help the victims of landmines to rebuild their lives and support themselves... In this context, let me commend the organizers of and participants in the Survivor Summit. You have reminded us all that the fight against landmines is ultimately about people."

## *View from the summit*

Since the Treaty was developed in 1997, more than 37 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed. In October, survivors in Colombia were allowed to witness the destruction of the country's final stockpile of landmines, marking an historic moment in Colombia's history.

But there is more work to do. Although approximately three-quarters of the world's countries have signed the Mine Ban Treaty, nearly 50 have not — including the United States, China, Russia, India, Pakistan and Vietnam.

Above: LSN-El Salvador Director Jesús Martínez with the President of Kenya at the opening ceremony in Nairobi.





DANA BEICHER

### 365 Chances to Change the World

Building on the year's momentum, LSN has used disability rights to launch discussions on human rights throughout the Arab world. We have also embarked on a new initiative to improve economic opportunity for people with disabilities in the Middle East. Funded by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) at the the U.S. Department of State, this is a unique public-private partnership between LSN and ResCare Inc. The project serves at-risk and underserved populations in Amman, Jordan. This pilot program is expected to become a model for other regions as LSN expands its outreach.

The goals are to improve vocational training and remove societal barriers to increased participation of people with disabilities. LSN is working with a coalition of disability advocates and organizations to promote civic participation, ensure economic opportunity, and advance human rights.



Above, top: The Blind Boys of Alabama had people clapping and dancing in the aisles as they lent their artistry to the case of human rights for all during an LSN concert in the U.N. General Assembly Hall, May 26, 2004.

Above, right: Graduates of *Raising the Voices*, LSN's human rights and leadership training program, Om Prakash Badrecha, left, and Santa Singh traveled on a motorbike along the India-Pakistan border to identify landmine survivors. Using their newly-acquired advocacy skills, they were able to successfully lobby for compensation for civilian victims and their families in remote areas of India. This was quite exceptional as reparation is most often offered only to those who serve in the military.

## Message from Jane Olson

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**A landmine explosion brings sudden, violent devastation.** For the 15,000 to 20,000 new victims each year, the mine shatters not just a limb, but a world. These survivors face despair.

# Making a difference everyday

LSN's peer support offers hope, resources, connections, options, and, perhaps most important, living proof that things can get better. With your help, LSN is there.

It is not easy to rebuild lives in postwar societies. LSN faces razed healthcare systems, ruined economies, and decimated social programs. The mine-injured are often rendered invisible, shunned. With your help, LSN will be there.

We look toward the future. We aim to start more survivor businesses, acquire better artificial limbs and rehabilitation for survivors, and promote universal ratification of the U.N.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. With your help, LSN will be there.

Survivors ask us over and over to thank you. They have asked me to let you know that while they cannot thank you in person, they channel your generosity by giving back to their communities. Some give livestock or food. Some help build ramps to make a new amputee's home accessible. Some hire other survivors in their businesses.

Survivors know you are there for them.

We believe tomorrow brings new challenges, choices, and opportunities. Your support makes it possible to help each survivor find a new day.

Please accept my deep appreciation for your investment in LSN, and your willingness to be a partner for hope.



# Financial Summary 2004

Each year, LSN reaches more survivors and builds greater network capacity to promote health, opportunity and rights for the victims of landmines, warfare and civil strife. The need is enormous. LSN's ability to grow and meet the challenges ahead is due to our community of supporters and dedicated staff.

LSN's overall revenue in 2004 totaled nearly \$8.0 million, a 36% increase, reflecting support from individuals, foundations, corporations and governments. Particularly noteworthy was the nearly \$1.3 million LSN received from generous individuals, more than doubling the level of support received in 2003. The Challenge Grant offered by a generous anonymous donor, which matched new individual contributions, had a very positive impact on the end-of-year revenue performance.

Expenditures totaled \$7.9 million, an increase of 24% over the previous year. Program activities represented 83% of total expenses for 2004. Major program activities in 2004 included:

- a) Deepening Outreach Workers' capacity to provide peer support to landmine victims.
- b) Expansion of economic opportunity initiatives to help survivors secure employment and provide a livelihood for themselves and their families while strengthening local communities.
- c) Empowerment of survivors to advocate for their own rights and for the rights of others through leadership training programs and promotion of new laws and policies, including the draft United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under negotiation.

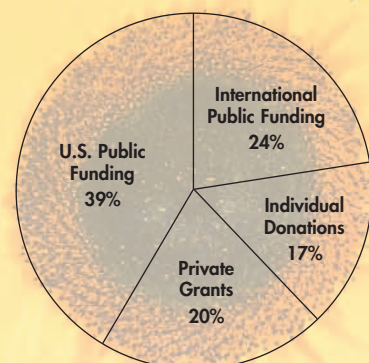
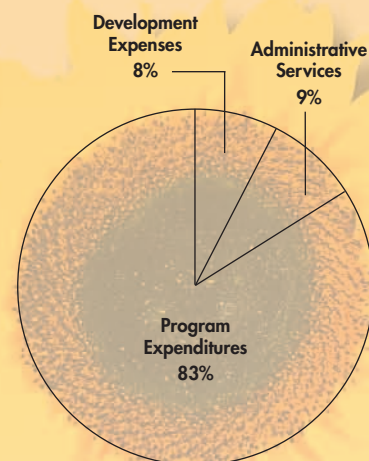
d) Building a Monitoring and Evaluation System which included a global Program Review conducted by Abt Associates, an external consulting firm with strong expertise in international programs and public health.

The remaining 17% of expenditures covered administrative and development costs, 9% and 8% respectively. During 2004, LSN continued to invest in the safety and well-being of its employees, increasing insurance coverage to provide enhanced protection for all staff, including trainers and consultants who travel worldwide in support of our mission.

In addition to generous individual and foundation support, current funding comes from ongoing partnerships and support from public donors such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the governments of Canada and Norway, and the International Trust Fund in Slovenia, a core funder for our Bosnia-Herzegovina Network. New public funding was secured from the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) of the U.S. Department of State.

LSN is seeking to diversify funding across all sectors. Regionally-based Network offices are taking the initiative to secure regional and local funding to support program outreach. LSN is committed to a board-mandated reserve fund and future endowment to build a sustainable foundation from which future programs will be developed and launched.

The DC-based accounting firm Raffa & Associates, P.C., audits LSN annually. Since its inception, LSN has received audits without findings or qualifications. Copies of audited financial statements and LSN's 2004 Federal Form 990 are available upon request.



**LSN directs 83 cents of every donated dollar toward programs designed to assist people recovering from landmine injuries.**

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**LSN receives in-kind contributions and pro bono services from friends and counsel, including Arnold & Porter, LLP, Burson-Marsteller, Munger Tolles & Olson, LLP, and Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, LLP.**

LSN wishes to thank its supporters and friends who rallied to meet a 2004 Challenge Grant from an anonymous donor. In a few short weeks before year-end, LSN met the \$200,000 Challenge, doubling the value of these generous gifts. We are most grateful for your support!

Page 22: Top: Her Majesty Queen Noor; Bottom: The Honourable Hilary Weston

Page 23: Top: A benefit performance of the play "Raising Our Voices" in Los Angeles on May 3, 2004 featured cast members from NBC's hit drama, "The West Wing." Award-winning actors, including Martin Sheen and Stockard Channing, portrayed landmine survivors and their families.

Bottom: Hani Naser, Ricky McKinnie (Blind Boys of Alabama), Rubén Blades, Lou Reed, and Edín Solís at an LSN concert underwritten by Reebok International and JPMorgan Chase at the U.N. General Assembly Hall, May 26, 2004.

## WORLD WAR II HERO



In December 2004, LSN lost a great friend and advocate. World War II veteran and landmine survivor Jack Wack died. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate his legacy.

LSN Executive Director Jerry White visited injured soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Jerry recalls: "Here were all these young guys, missing limbs and going through rehab, and there I was, telling them it was going to be okay, that their lives could be anything they wanted them to be: 'See, I have a fake leg, too,' I said. And I felt like Jack was sitting on my shoulder saying, 'You'll do, Jerry. You'll do fine.'"

## *A day of honor*

Jack Wack lost both legs to a landmine in Italy in 1944. After being shipped home, he spent many months in rehabilitation hospitals around the country. As he healed, he visited other soldiers in the hospital who were recovering. He would walk in on his two artificial legs to show the amputees that they would also be able to get up and walk out on their own.

Now we call it peer support, but they did not have a name for it then. Wack instinctively practiced what many years of psychological study would prove to be the most effective tool in recovery from trauma. At LSN, we call Jack the "Godfather of Peer Support."

Wack went on to forge a long career as a professor and engineer. He and his wife, Judy, raised eight children.

Whenever LSN called on Jack, he answered. Throughout his life, he was a powerhouse advocate, traveling to meetings in the United States and abroad. He helped lobby Congress and was always a positive role model and voice for survivors. We will miss him, but he remains with us in spirit.



Top: Jack Wack; Bottom: LSN's Jerry White, Marine Corporal Pete Bagarella, who was injured in Iraq, and his mother at Walter Reed.



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The benefits LSN can bring to survivors in the world's most mine-affected regions now and in the future depend on widening LSN's circle of friends and supporters. Please join in supporting the work LSN does on behalf of survivors and people with disabilities worldwide. Send your donation to 1420 K Street NW, Suite 650, Washington, DC 20005, by logging onto [www.landminesurvivors.org](http://www.landminesurvivors.org), or by calling 202.250.3905.



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