

Funding News

Between September 16, 2009 and November 24, 2009, StatAid received \$5,788.54 in donations. However, the vast majority of those donations—all but \$450—were from current StatAid staff members! Our current balance is \$3,643.29.

Our first large contract is signed and delivered! StatAid just received the purchase order for the project, *Understanding Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*, overseen by the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The contract will provide \$18,000 for StatAid to coordinate data entry and analysis for the project.

Michael Kisielewski currently is developing a grant proposal to be submitted to the American Statistical Association Committee on Law and Justice Statistics/Bureau of Justice Statistics' Small Grants Research program. Mike's proposed research will use a human rights framework to develop a holistic assessment of conditions in U.S. state and federal prisons, as well as a predictive model of future prison conditions given current prison policy. Please contact Mike at mkisielewski@stataid.org if you are willing to review the proposal prior to submission.

Jana Asher currently is completing a contract with the U.S. Census Bureau to produce a feasibility study on the use of administrative records in census coverage measurement for the 2020 decennial census. That contract is with Jana as an individual researcher, but we hope that this work will lead to future contracting opportunities with the Census Bureau for StatAid.

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Publications, Presentations, and Events

We've been busy this quarter!

In September and October of 2009, **Jana Asher** made three presentations to audiences in California, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The first two presentations were to the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences and its Washington DC Chapter, and discussed the use of statistical analysis to inform the findings of Truth and Reconciliation commissions. Avid interest in StatAid's mission and activities was expressed at both venues.

The third presentation—"Developing and Using Surveys to Estimate Casualties Post-Conflict: Developments for the Developing World"—was for the Casualty Recording and Estimation Conference at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. StatAid Board of Directors chair **David Banks** also attended the conference and served as a discussant.

The October 2009 issue of *Amstat News*, the newsletter of the American Statistical Association (ASA), included a sidebar written by **Jana Asher** titled "Statistics Cited." The sidebar describes a side trip to the Library of Congress during a day of Congressional visits by statisticians representing the ASA. **Jana Asher** also is the author of an article titled "Developing a Science for Recording and Estimating Casualties," which will appear in the December 2009 issue of *Amstat News*.

An article titled "Collecting Data in Challenging Settings" written by **Jana Asher** has been conditionally accepted for publication in *Chance*. The expected publication date is spring of 2010.

StatAid Board of Directors' member **Mary Gray** organized a well-attended and tasty Washington, DC-area dinner for the Caucus for Women in Statistics. The November 5th event was held at Bambulé, a DC tapas bar. 🍷

Funding News, continued

Earlier, we mentioned that StatAid just committed to its first large contract. We also have completed our first small contract this quarter! Dr. Beth Daponte of Social Sciences Associates hired us to review her evaluation plan for the "Books for Babies" program of Read to Grow, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Connecticut.

Finally, StatAid continues to develop grant proposals and letters of inquiry to submit to philanthropic foundations and other grantmaking institutions. Current proposals are focused on seed funding and general operating support.

Although we have had some success in attracting contract work this quarter, in the context of a recession and our continued wait for the IRS to approve our 501(c)(3) status, StatAid's financial stability is tenuous. Finding foundation support is extremely challenging for nonprofit organizations that have not yet received their determination letter from the IRS, and our small staff size means that by necessity the number of hours available each week for contract work is limited.

As the holiday season nears, please consider making a donation to StatAid. IRS regulations state that all donations made to StatAid will be tax-deductible from our date of incorporation as long as our 501(c)(3) status eventually is approved. Although we cannot absolutely guarantee that the donation will be tax-deductible until we receive our determination letter from the IRS, now is the time that we need your support the most.

Donations to StatAid by credit card can be made via our PayPal link (see www.stataid.org), and donations by check should be made out to StatAid and sent to us at 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 420, Takoma Park, MD 20912. We thank you in advance. 🙏

Board of Directors Meeting

The second meeting of the Board of Directors of StatAid was held via conference call on October 27, 2009. In attendance were Jana Asher, David Banks, Mary Gray, Hormuzd Katki, Michael Kisielewski, and David Shapiro. Absent was Fritz Scheuren.

During the meeting, StatAid's registration as a Federal contractor was discussed, and the Board was updated as to StatAid's search for an employee benefits provider. Staff also discussed StatAid's search for *pro bono* administrative and/or financial management assistance.

Staff also updated the Board as to StatAid's progress with submitting letters of inquiry for general operating support to private foundations.

StatAid's Board Directors' assistance with preparing and reviewing draft grant proposals and inquiries for general operating support also was discussed, as well as staff and board ideas for future project-driven proposals.

The staff and Board agreed to schedule the next Board of Directors meeting for some time in late January 2010.

Activity of the Board of Directors after the meeting included the following:

- 1) The minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting were approved and posted on the StatAid web site.
- 2) The StatAid Policy on Fees, Funding Sources, Partnerships, and Collaborations was finalized, approved by the Board of Directors, and posted on the StatAid web site. The text of the Policy is also included on the next page of this newsletter. 🙏

StatAid's Policy on Fees, Funding Sources, Partnerships, and Collaborations

1. BenStat, Incorporated (StatAid) is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization recognized by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. StatAid's mission is:

- I. to provide affordable statistical consulting services to nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and international and national governments and institutions, with a specific focus on organizations that promote, defend and/or monitor human rights and humanitarian causes;
- II. to participate in and initiate research that improves survey methodology and statistical methods for collecting and analyzing data related to human rights and humanitarian concerns; and
- III. to offer statistical and survey methodological training to the types of organizations listed above that wish to expand their knowledge of and ability to use statistical and survey methodology, and, in so doing, serve as a capacity-building resource for those organizations.

2. StatAid accepts programmatic funding, general operating support, and contract awards from multiple sources, including private foundations and philanthropic organizations; the U.S. federal government and state governments; foreign governments and international governmental organizations; national and international nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions; other nonprofit charitable organizations; and international government agencies. StatAid also accepts financial and in-kind donations from individual contributors.

3. In keeping with its mission statement—and to preserve the integrity of its programmatic work—StatAid has established an institutional policy with respect to a. the sources from which it will accept funding for any and all aspects of its operations, and b. the clients and partners with or for whom it will work or collaborate. The staff and Board of Directors will make a good-faith effort to ensure that StatAid does not accept funding or other support from

entities that encourage or facilitate human rights violations, and that StatAid does not collaborate or work in direct partnership with such entities.

4. Insofar as the staff and Board of Directors of StatAid are able to make a determination, StatAid will **not** accept funding or other support from, collaborate with, or work in direct partnership with the following:

- A. For-profit organizations, such as private corporations or entities, unless those entities are private, nonpartisan organizations that conduct research and/or analysis relevant to the mission or activities of StatAid and funded by government grants or contracts. StatAid will consult for or collaborate with for-profit organizations that conduct contract work for nonprofit entities.
- B. U.S. or non-U.S. organizations whose sole purpose is to influence the legislative process through registered lobbying or to influence the outcome of political campaigns at any level of government.
- C. U.S. or non-U.S. organizations or entities that currently are attempting to effect regime change in their own country or another country through acts of violence or against existing international legal conventions or principles.
- D. U.S. or non-U.S. organizations or government agencies with an explicitly discriminatory position or policy against any population group(s) or sub-group(s), or which explicitly state a discriminatory preference in favor of any population group(s) or sub-group(s)
- E. U.S. or non-U.S. organizations or entities known to be currently contributing financially or materially to any political or military faction engaged in violence against and/or suppression of any population group(s) or subgroup(s).

5. In keeping with its mission statement to provide affordable consultation services, StatAid has established maximum per-hour consultation fees for contract work. Such fees will not exceed 2.6 multiplied by the base hourly salary of each employee, or 2 multiplied by the hourly salary plus overhead for each employee, per hour that the employee engages in the contract work. Contracts may include provisions for additional expenses over those rates, including but not limited to travel and/or equipment expenses. 📌

StatAid Board of Directors

David Banks, Chairperson

Fritz Scheuren, Vice-chairperson

Gary Shapiro, Treasurer

Homuzd Katki, Secretary

Mary Gray, Wise Elder

StatAid Staff

Jana Asher, Executive Director

Michael Kisielewski, Senior Research Specialist

StatAid Digest is published by the staff of StatAid to inform the statistics, human rights, nonprofit, and governmental communities of our work and the services that we provide. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily express the personal opinions of any member of the Staff or Board of Directors of StatAid.

How You Can Support StatAid

StatAid has applied for status as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service of the United States. Donations to public charities are tax deductible from the date of the creation of the charity/organization; for more details please see pages 11-12 of IRS Publication 4220. While verification of our status is under review, we are confident that StatAid qualifies as a 501(c)(3) organization, and we will gratefully accept donations at this time. Donations can be made by check (payable to StatAid, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 420, Takoma Park, MD 20912) or by credit card via Paypal (a Paypal account is not required; to donate via PayPal, please visit www.stataid.org). All individuals who donate to StatAid will receive an initial thank-you letter for tax purposes, as well as confirmation of our 501(c)(3) status once it is available.



A Nonprofit Statistical Consultation and Research Organization