

Fundraising News

A number of BET supporters have been fundraising for the Trust during 2007. We have two people who make and sell greetings cards which produce a regular income and one of whom also paints water colours that are sold at exhibitions in aid of BET. Another newly retired supporter who has become a City of London Guide ran a guided walk in the city with fees going to the trust. Several supporters have had significant birthdays and have asked friends and family to make donations to the Trust rather than spend on presents. Liz Williams and Sally Rivlin raised almost £3,000 this way! Many thanks to all these supporters for their fantastic contributions and for introducing more people to the Trust.



The Trustees

Rev. Preb. J. Fox (*Chair*)

Rev. Sister Monica, Convent of the Holy Name (*Secretary*)

Mrs. Philippa Bird (*Treasurer*)

Sister Jean Mary, Convent of the Holy Name

Mr. Graeme Shaw

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Charity Number: 285451

www.basotho-educational-trust.org.uk

2007 Annual Report

It is so good to hear from many of you. To know that you are remembering Lesotho and those caught up in the spiral of poverty/HIV/Aids.

If you have been supporting us for a while you will have heard stories of those who found a way out through education and training. With your help we have developed a healthy situation where we know that there is sufficient money to see all current students through their courses to completion. It is still our vision to increase the spread of skills training to those who cannot find the resources elsewhere, over the last twenty plus years the situation has changed. Government now offers 'Manpower loans, but not everyone qualifies or would be able to repay them. Areas of skills training are continually being discovered, often small workshops with an expertise and willingness to train others, but students needing financial assistance to take advantage of the offers. Perhaps a reminder of our policy continually under review in the light of these changes could be helpful to us all:

'OUR POLICY:

To support students, in either full or part-time training who have no Cambridge Overseas School Certificate, to further skills training. We also offer support to students with COSC who are not supported by 'Manpower'.

After 3 years secondary education students may gain the Junior Certificate, after successful completion they then proceed to take the COSC which gives access to University or Trade School

'Manpower' is a Government system of loans for students who have achieved the COSC who seek to further their education. If students gain employment in Lesotho they must repay 50% of the loan, if in South Africa 2/3s.

Many young people drop out of school without gaining the COSC. This is to a large extent due to family pressure: many are orphaned through HIV/AIDS, others are under pressure to look after the animals or have to gain what money they can to support siblings.

We would ask that you to continue to hold us in your thoughts and prayers.

Basotho Educational Trust

Financial Accounts

Notes:

Policy on Reserves:

It is the policy of the Trustees to hold in reserves sufficient funds to support all sponsored students to the end of their course in the event that the Trust's annual income from donors ceased. Additional provision has been made to fund a trip by Trustee Sister Jean Mary CHN to Lesotho to examine the current activities of the Trust and their context in depth. The results of that visit from May 2006 - April 2007 is likely to lead to an increase in expenditure of surplus funds within the reserves.

Restricted Funds:

All covenants and one off donations from individuals were received for the purpose of sponsoring selected students.

The figures represent the audited accounts of the Basotho Educational Trust for the year ending March 31st 2007. They were approved at a meeting of the Trustees held at the Community of the Holy Name, Lambeth on Saturday 5th May 2006.

Income

Fund Raising	0.00
Covenants	3383.00
GYE	24.00
Legacy	0.00
Gift Aid	1587.00
CAF	836.80
Churches	2546.36
1 off Donations	760.00
Trusts	97.72
Interest	918.73
Inland Revenue	1146.82
Bank Refunds	0.00
	11300.43

Expenditure

Bank Charges	77.00
Admin (including Trustee fare to Lesotho)	661.00
Lesotho Costs	17360.17
	18098.17

Deficit	-6797.74
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Balance Sheet

Previous Balance, year ending 31/3/2006	59131.47
Surplus on year ending 31/3/2007	-6797.74
Balance	52333.73

Accounts

Current Account	2639.73
Capital Reserve	49694.00
Total	52333.73



Students

At the moment BET has sponsored 48 students, and with registration still underway at BEDCO Mafeteng and BEDCO Leribe, we expect that number to increase. Many of this year's students are studying at new community-based projects focusing on dressmaking and tailoring, catering and computing. The full details are as follows:

School / College	Number of Students
Loiki	14
TSL	2
Computer College	6
St Mary's Home Economics School	18
Mosh Catering School	2
Classic Dressmaking	3
Makhahliso Dressmaking	3
Lerotholi Institute	1
	49

We hear that most of last year's students are employed undertaking piece work with the skills that they have learned on their courses.

News from Lesotho

LESOTHO APRIL 2007

It is Saturday morning. Two or three of the sisters are preparing to spend the day with “their families”. As trained volunteers with the charity Help Lesotho each sister spends time with her allocated “family”. The families have HIV/ AIDS and welcome both practical and emotional help. I joined Sr. Thandeka as she started her day. We carried a few clothes and various necessities as we got into the taxi. (No, it's not luxury travel but rather like an over crowded mini-bus.) After half an hour or so when the transport could take us no further we started off on our feet up the mountain path. In another forty-five minutes we arrived at a cluster of houses. Outside one of them sat a beautiful young girl. We'll call her Lineo. She struggled to get up to greet us supported by a home made crutch. Her parents are HIV positive and she at 18 has evidently full-blown AIDS. We sat for a long time quietly with all the family. Then we chatted and laughed together. Thandeka suggested that it was time to bath Lineo so we moved into another spotlessly clean part of the small rondavel type house. For the bath we used a small metal bowl half filled with hot water. We undressed Lineo and washed her. Each touch seemed to hurt her so much. We followed this bath with a massage that Thandeka had been taught to help alleviate the pain and muscle weakness.

We dressed Lineo ready for bed to save further pain later in the day. And we all moved to the best part of the rondavel. Lineo's father had built the house when he had worked in the South African mines but there were few jobs. He and his wife had furnished it when their hopes were high and there was a little money. He had even bought a T.V. “How lovely” I said, “now you can watch television for a while.” Thandeka gave me a nudge and I quickly realised why. There was no possibility of watching T.V. There was no electricity. The family had had so much hope a few years ago and had worked for a better life. The children were being educated. Then H.I.V./AIDS arrived and so the poverty increased. Yes the family is on retro viral drugs but without the right nutrition and accessibility to further medical care their chances are few. Indeed a month after my visit Lineo died...maybe staring at the TV with no electricity.

Sister Monica



King Letsie III

Focus on Aids

Official says HIV and AIDS could “wipe out” Lesotho

HIV and Aids has the "potential to wipe out" Lesotho because of its impact on the country's population and economy, Keketso Sefeane, chief executive of the National Aids Commission, said at a workshop on Monday, Xinhua News Agency reports.

According to Sefeane, the disease's impact on Lesotho's work force, including the loss of skills and experience, decreases economic productivity and hinders the sustainable delivery of goods and services to the country's population.

"Absence, illness, deaths and early retirements due to HIV and Aids have profound implications for economic development and social welfare," Sefeane said.

Representatives from Lesotho's ministries of defense, trade, public service, finance, cabinet and health attended the five-day workshop.

Attendees were scheduled to create prevention programs, as well as care and support initiatives, to alleviate the impact of HIV and Aids-related staff losses in the public sector.

According to Sefeane, Lesotho's entire population should become involved in the fight against HIV and Aids because the disease threatens the livelihoods of millions of workers and their dependents.

About one in four adults in Lesotho is living with HIV, according to 2006 statistics from the United Nations

Xinhua News Agency - 23 August 2007)



AIDS Victims

