

Friends of Lesotho

#### President's Message

I'm going to take a little different approach to my message this time. You can find the news and Board activities on the web site or elsewhere in this newsletter. What I want to address is a question that occasionally comes up about just what we, as individuals, do to further the interests and activities of the organization. Just general concepts, but it seems like much of the membership is unsure of what Board members do. And I promise not to try to recruit you, at least for now.

We did not have a VLC or VAC when I was a volunteer in the early '80's, but in many ways I picture FOL similarly. We're all a little older now and an analogy to the VAC may or may not be a good thing, but the bottom line is that we have a lot of open discussions and do whatever it takes. That doesn't tell you much, but it's a starting point to set the tone. What happens after that depends on the skills and motivation of the each person. When I took over the presidency from Don Spicer, I was very worried that I couldn't do what he did. If nothing else, he lived near D.C., and I didn't. I couldn't drop in on the Embassy or the Peace Corps office. I still can't replicate what Don did, but I found other things I could do. Newer members may not remember what it was like before email and other technologies that we now use, but it was a whole different world. We adapt.

I'm hoping that in future newsletters other Board members can describe their roles; so I'll start by describing mine. The president chairs meetings, appoints committee members, facilitates communication and provides leadership. When I first took this role, someone told me that the presidency should be the easiest job because a president doesn't get mired in the details. That has proved to be true. My own personality drives me to grab onto detail, but I find myself constantly pulling back. The president uses judgment to make sure information is conveyed to the appropriate Board and Committee members, without swamping everyone with things that are not within their area of concern. The president also provides the framework to allow for decision

making; seeking input, asking questions, fostering discussion, and calling for votes. We have no Parliamentarian, so the president is as close as it gets. The president monitors the organization's finances and develops policy with the concurrence of other Board members. In the 20 years I've worked with FOL, we've rarely been at a loss for ideas. Our problem has been the availability of resources to carry out those ideas. In recent years we've been blessed with very generous donations (thank you again, donors!). With this increase, our need for "people" resources to manage and research how best to use those donations, has grown proportionately. The president seeks to guide the use of our limited human resources in much the same way as the Donations Committee seeks to guide the allocation of financial resources.

Several newsletters ago, I mentioned that all of the current Board officers (President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer) will be facing term limits this fall. Richard Rowan (VP) and I have started a discussion to see what needs to be done, but even if I were going to try to recruit you, I certainly wouldn't expect someone new to the Board to step into an officer's position. Working through all that will be our task for the summer. Our next newsletter will be the September Annual Report. It's hard to think of the end of the summer when it's hardly begun, but the time goes by so quickly. And that's why I'm thinking ahead: not to ask to recruit you ... yet.



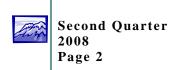
Best wishes,

Board teleconferences are open to all members and occur on the 3rd Sunday of odd numbered months at 8pm Eastern. Please contact any Board member for the telephone number and pass code. Members are encouraged to drop in, whether you have something to say, or just want to listen.

Second Quarter 2008 Newsletter



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# Litaba tsa Lesotho (News of Lesotho)

David Ambrose, Professor National University of Lesotho

Excerpted from:
Summary of Events in Lesotho
Volume 15, Number 1
(First Quarter 2008)

Summary of Events in Lesotho is a quarterly publication, published by House 9 Publications at the National University of Lesotho, P.O. Roma 180, Lesotho and usually available at www.trc.org.ls.

#### Gold Booms but Power Crisis Results in Retrenchment

While the price of gold rose from about US\$750 (Oct 2007) to US\$1000 per ounce (March 2008), the energy crisis in South Africa resulted in mines utilizing only 90% of normal power supplies. Gold Fields (the world's fourth largest gold producer) announced that 7,000 workers would be retrenched due to the electricity shortage. Other mining firms were expected to follow suit.

#### Storms Wreak Havoc on 4 January 2008

Strong winds and heavy rains and in places, hail, caused damage to several hundred houses at Motsekuoa on the MaseruMafeteng border. In addition, storm damage occurred in the Mphaki area of Quthing District. The Disaster Management Authority promised assistance with roofing houses and the police provided tents.

#### **Taxi Fares Rise**

Taxi fares throughout Lesotho will be raised on 1 March 2008. Examples of new fares: Maseru-Roma goes from M10 to M12 and Maseru-Maputsoa will be M29.

#### **Antiretroviral Rollout Slow**

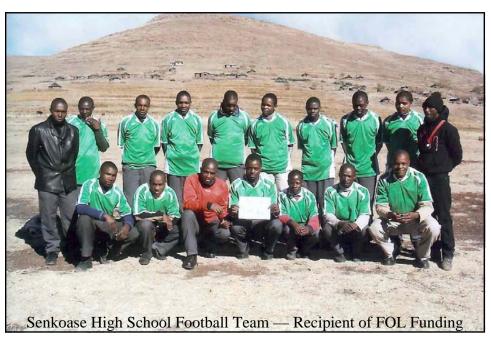
It is estimated that 45,230 people in Lesotho were in need of antiretroviral therapy, but only

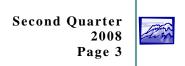
9,823 people were taking them. These included 6,127 women and 3,696 men and children under the age of 14.

#### New Book on Lesotho Ferns Published

The pioneer book on Lesotho ferns was published in 1982 by Ray Zepp. A new book, "Searching for Ferns in Lesotho," will be published early in 2008 by Gillian Cooper-Driver, Taelo J. Letsela, and Moretloa J. Polaki of the National University of Lesotho's Department of Biology . The Sesotho name used for many fern species, lehorometso, literally means a promoter of diarrhea. Other names are more picturesque,

(Continued on page 3)





## Litaba tsa Lesotho (News of Lesotho)

(Continued from page 2)

such as lepatamaoa, which means "the one which conceals caves".



## Lesotho Television Available on DSTV Channel 141

Lesotho Television on Digital Satellite Television was launched on 25 March 2008. The world can tune into DSTV 141 and for a few hours (usually in the evening) can watch Lesotho Television.



#### Colonel Gaddafi Sends Camels as a Gift to the Prime Minister; Algeria Sends Snow Plows

A cargo plane arrived at Moshoeshoe I International Airport on 10 January 2008 and delivered 5 camels as a gift from Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya to Pakalitha Mosisili, Lesotho Prime Minister. As government livestock

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MEMBERSHIP DUES
ANNUALLY

officers did not have any experience with camel care, a delegation traveled to Botswana, where camels have been used in the southwestern Kalahari for police patrols, to learn about camel care. One of the camels contracted pneumonia and died while the delegation was away. Algeria, which shares a border with Lybia, presented four tractor driven snowplows to His Majesty King Letsie III.



#### King and Prime Minister at Funeral of Bus Accident Victims

A vehicle carrying members and supporters of the football team Highlands Robbers left the road and overturned near Ha Theko in Thaba-Tseka on 26 December 2007. Twenty six people were killed. Most of the victims were from the villages of Ha Nkokana and Khohlontso. The King and Prime Minister attended the mass funeral which was held at Katse Village on 11 January 2008.





#### In Memoriam

Chief Thaabe Tumane Matela, 67, passed away on 1 January 2008. He was the former Principal Chief of Makhoakhoeng in Buthe-Buthe District.

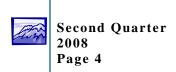
Charles Dabende Mofeli, 80, passed away on 19 January 2008. Mofeli was educated in Lesotho and South Africa, worked as a primary school teacher and manager of a store. He entered politics and served in several capacities from 1965 to the 2002 general election.

John Mamphane Nthongoa, 83, passed away on 15 February 2008. A well-known businessman, he was born at Lekokoaneng ha Souru and trained in agriculture. He owned or co-owned a number of companies including Epic Printers and Fedics Food Services, as well as a member of several Boards of Directors.

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, news, articles, websites, photos, or other items to contribute to this newsletter, please contact:

Fay Farmer at f\_e\_@hotmail.com or 2612 E. Geneva Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282.

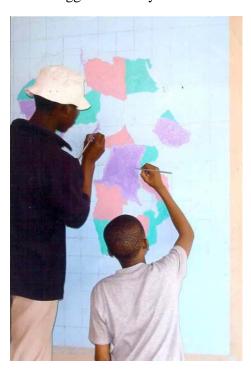
We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.



### Lesotho Lessons, Ten Years Later

Julie Lancaster Flagstaff, AZ Lesotho 1997-1999 lancasterjm@msn.com

Honestly, I think I miss being called "whitey" from the hilltops. Or waking to the drips from my tin roof. I miss consulting "Where There is No Doctor" for unusual bodily functions and living in a land where people sweep their dirt. I miss oilcan guitar music, and cramming into pickup truck beds. I vaguely recall how much I cherished cheese & chocolate, and I look back nostalgically on the day that I ate an entire box of dry brownie mix that a friend had sent from the states. 10 years since that quaint Ha Ntlale, is there some little bit, of that Lesotho living in me now? Today, I bought plastic Easter Eggs and bunny ears. I ate



food from a refrigerator and took a hot bath (in more than 3 inches of water!). Moroho and papa and neighbors laughing at my laundry skills seem to be worlds away from me now. How did I end up in the life I have today? How did I get from there to here?

I thought that the next most natural step after leaving my work at Ha Ntlale was to travel. The need to travel seems to be in the life-blood of every Peace Corps volunteer, so off I went. The man that is now my husband and I set off with full backpacks and no reservations or itinerary. (Okay, we did have an itinerary: spend 6 months traveling, ½ of that in Africa, and keep heading east.)

Easing ourselves back into western culture seemed like a good idea, so six months later and after spending time with our respective families, we spent a summer working with a community service program for high school students on a Montana reservation. This still seemed rather Peace Corps-esce. Then onto California to run an outdoor environmental school in a remote mountain community above 4000 feet (this one looked eerily like Lesotho – it even snowed in the winter! No one ever believes me about the fact that parts of Africa and Southern CA get snow!). Then it seemed time to return to further my education (what are you suppose to do with a BA in International Studies anyway, besides be a PC volun-

teer?), which also seems to be a common thing that people do once they leave the Corps. It was off to Northern CA for a few years. Then we got pregnant (a marriage preceding the fetus) and decided that we needed to decide where to 'settle down,' so we headed off to the mountains of Arizona (and again, people don't believe us that it snows here either, but we are at 7000 feet!). Now to present. Life is filled with play dates, play dough, and missing tiny socks. Even though I have been thinking that my life is pretty different from life in the village, I am realizing that Lesotho still has its hand in the life I have created since leaving it.

There are a few things that I know are still alive in my life from that time, even though cat hats and speaking special English aren't. Oh, and nor are pee-buckets (I remember when 2 other volunteers and I filled one completely!), hearing 'fat' as a complimentary adjective, or saying 'd' for 'l' when followed by 'u.' Here goes:

1. The memories, the adventures, the stories are an integral part of me. Lately, my son has taken to asking me daily if we can go to Africa tomorrow. He really likes the story about how his dad and I rode ostriches. One day we'll take him. I guess that I would not be who I am today without those experiences. And I guess that I would not have my family, as Mark and I be

 $(Continued\ on\ page\ 5)$ 

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(Continued from page 4)

gan our matrimonial journey together on the dance floor of a swearing-in ceremony (for another group – we were just there for the food, of course)!

2. I do have dear and lasting friendships with people who know me very differently than my only-in-the -US friends do. These friends have morphed also and have created their own paths since the days of makuenya (oh, do I miss those 'fat balls') and a country where chicken feet can be found in the freezer section of a grocery story. Now they are a psychologist, naturopathic doctor, international initiatives director, public health advisor, international B & B owner, technical science writer, baker, physician's assistant, behavior analyst, choir director, and international defense liaison. There are also a handful of teachers and a handful of fulltime moms and dads. Amazing that I use to drink too much milk stout with these folks and travel for many many miles (kilometers) in very



unsafe vehicles (I do remember even riding on the tops of some busses...) just to be with them because they understood me. Now we still understand each other even though the conversations are fewer and farther between. The difference is that now we just seem so. well, adult.

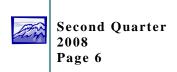
- 3. The ability to create fun in arenas that may not seem so entertaining at first became a developed talent. At first glance, one might wonder what you do in a 12'x8' hut with no TV, computer, phone or native English speaker. The choices are going stir crazy with utter boredom or making your own fun. You do things like time how long you can hold your breath, do experiments like trying to dissolve a nail with soda (I had always heard it worked – not for me!), see how many words you know in Sesotho that start with S and make up private aerobics routines to your wind-up radio.
- 4. I now have awe for what can be grown from tiny seeds. Gardening became a passion of mine while in Lesotho, and I now no longer feel like I have to stretch the truth (like I did on my PC application) about my gardening knowledge.
- 5. About food: I developed a taste for edible weeds (not that I eat them all that often these days). To this day, I am still amazed by the old woman who would pick countless stinging nettles with her bare hands. I learned that you can eat pumpkins (they are not just for jack -o-lanterns). I learned that a party is not truly a party without some



sort of meat. I learned that I do not like the taste nor texture of cow stomach. I developed a special appreciation for field corn and the jaw strength necessary to enjoy it.

6. And the piece of Lesotho that I see every day: the once-so-coveted woven tapestry with a lovely typical-Lesotho scene that adorns the wall in our living room. Now it seems a bit out of fashion, and perhaps, a bit tacky. And, mind you, it's huge.

I guess that Lesotho still sneaks it's way into my daily living, even in the tiniest ways. Now, to mark the decade anniversary since my feet touched the land of distant cowbells and ululations and to honor my time in the mountain kingdom, I will pause, give thanks and just might even eat a peach before it ripens.



## Village Hope Project

Helping Orphaned and Abandoned Children in Lesotho

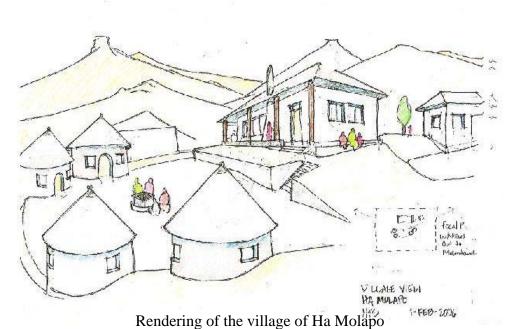
#### Georgann Gall Lesotho 2003-2006

Matsela is 12 years old and has been the head of his household for three years, caring for his 10-year-old twin siblings as well as his 5-year-old brother. This is just one example of orphaned and abandoned children—a problem which has reached crisis proportions in Lesotho because of the AIDS pandemic.

Village Hope is the project I started while a Peace Corps volunteer in Ha Molapo, Butha Buthe District, 2003-2006. It is a non-profit, registered with the Lesotho government, to raise money to care for the orphans in my area. To date, the funds I have collected were used, during my subse-



Georgann Gall with some of the orphans of the Village Hope Project.



quent vacations there, to buy school uniforms, shoes, blankets and food. I now want to build a place where the orphans can live, be cared for, be safe and learn new skills. I have a resource for donated computers from South Africa and am in the process of raising money for the building for a community center offering skills training. I was lucky to meet a Peace Corps volunteer who was an architect and provided a rendering of what the final project will look like. Once I have the funds, I will be returning to Ha Molapo to live and do what I was meant to do in this lifetime—the first 60 years have just been leading up to

A wonderful result of these efforts is that one of the village families has now taken in 6 orphans that had no one else to care for them. Their basic needs have been provided for by the donations to Village Hope. If you would like to donate, you may send your contribution to Friends of Lesotho, for Village Hope.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL-ONLY DELIVERY OF YOUR FOL NEWSLETTER AND YOU'LL HELP FOL SEND MORE MONEY TO LESOTHO. SIGN UP AT THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE AT WWW.FRIENDSOFLESOTHO.ORG.



## Funded Projects





TEYA - TEYANENG 200



Dear friends of lesitho

we as the volley ball team, we thank you for recieving the adorable gifts that we got from you

They are really execting and making all of our delighted. They are also important and going to make a big disperence to oil game indeed. We promise to take and use them poperty.

tive are very glad to realise that you are toucking and taking a great care of our school and wish to see it developing

we thank you a lot.

dows pathpully dollay ball town

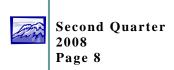




Friends of Lesotho, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for awarding Halooa Nose Mosal Minimusoo or for the diginal Camera. The Conners will help us to take the photos of our products so that we can expend send them to potential castomers, to finally for our products.

Sincerly

Matanki Lintsi



### Donations/Chelete

#### Sandy Puckett Taipei American School

Every year Sandy Puckett (a Lesotho RPCV) organizes a Lesotho Walkathon at the Taipei American School where he teaches 7th graders. Two of the goals of the Walkathon are to raise funds for Lesotho and to teach the students something about Lesotho and Sesotho culture. This year Sandy and his students sent another extraordinarily generous donation of \$16,000 to Friends

of Lesotho. Some of this gift will be used to support the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and some will be used to support other projects in Lesotho. Much of TAP funding over the last several years has come through Sandy's efforts. Literally hundreds of students in Lesotho have been able to complete their education because of the hard work and generosity of Sandy and the students of the Taipei American School, and Friends of Lesotho is deeply grateful for their support.

Some excerpts from Sandy's email:

"I am very happy to announce that the 7th grade students of Taipei American School...have finished their Lesotho Walkathon. The Students really worked hard this year and are very proud of themselves and the amount of money they were able to raise. It was wonderful listening to students who usually speak Chinese going around the halls greeting everyone in Sesotho."



## HOW HAS PEACE CORPS LESOTHO CHANGED YOUR LIFE?



Many RPCVs report that their Peace Corps experience in Lesotho has had a lasting impact on their lives in unexpected ways that seem to continue even decades later. We'd like to publish articles from FOL members who would like to share their life stories. Please send your articles, along with pictures if you like, to:

Faye Farmer at f\_e\_@hotmail.com

# You can now <u>PAY</u> your dues and make donations with a CREDIT CARD 1234 5678 9012 3456

Visit www.JustGive.org and search for Friends of Lesotho. Remember, JustGive is a third party vendor, so once on their web site, you'll need to provide information about who you are and the fact that you're paying dues, as opposed to making a contribution. Please also note whether your dues are for FOL alone or for FOL+NPCA. FOL dues are \$15 and NPCA dues are \$35. Extra contributions will be applied where ever the need is greatest unless specified otherwise.

## **Annual Meeting Announcement**

The 2008 Annual Meeting will be held on Lesotho's Independence Day – October 4<sup>th</sup>! Please plan to celebrate with FOL. The time is yet to be decided depending on the location of regional gatherings. There will be a Florida regional gathering again this year and we hope to coordinate a Washington DC gathering together with the Lesotho Embassy and Phoenix, AZ as well to celebrate Independence Day. Anyone interested in hosting a gathering in DC or another area, contact Martha Munson via e-mail at khotsocy@hotmail.com.

#### Websites of Interest



http://allafrica.com/lesotho/ http://www.lesotho.gov.ls/home/ http://www.culturecrossing.net http://www.peacecorpswiki.org





#### Complete the 2008 Membership Survey and Win Cafepress \$\$

Complete the 2008 Annual Membership Survey between **July 1 – 10** to enter to win \$50 in Cafepress dollars! The link to the on-line zoomerang.com site will be posted on our website. The link to the on-line zoomerang.com site will be posted on the FOL web site from July 1 through July 10th.

If you need a paper copy, please contact Kevin Freer (1372 Dutch Elm Dr., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407-767-2625; kfreer@alcatel-lucent.com).

Results of our survey will be included in our Annual Report.

Friends of Lesotho - Treasurer's Summary for Board Meet	ting of: May 18	3, 2008 ~~ Village Hop	e updated – 5/24/08
	3/16/2008	4/29/2008	<u>Difference</u>
Current Bank Balance (checking):	\$25,310.70	\$30,285.90	\$7,653.20
Current Bank Balance (savings):	\$6,449.76	\$6,484.55	\$34.79
Paid Membership (Incl. Advance Dues):	45	78	33
New members this Year to date:	4	9	5
Non-member cash donors Year to date:	2	15	13
2007 Extra Donation Fund Status:			
	Amount in	Amount sent	Amount remaining
Donation Fund	<u>Fund</u>	to Lesotho (*)	to be sent
Undesignated Fund (\$250 min balance)	\$7,819.89	\$2,823.50	\$4,996.39
Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) Fund	\$28,640.67	\$9,020.00	\$19,620.67
HIV/AIDS Fund	\$1,105.00	\$600.00	\$505.00
Morija Museum Fund	\$113.00	\$0.00	\$113.00
Orphanages Fund	\$756.50	\$756.50	\$0.00
Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$1,185.00	\$0.00	\$1,185.00
Save the Children - Lesotho (Wilkens)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
new project 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Village Hope Project (PCV)	\$3,669.44	\$2,678.00	\$991.44
LCCU (Lesotho Child Counseling Unit)	\$2,898.91	\$2,898.91	\$0.00
new project 2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
new project 3	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$46,188.41	\$18,776.91	\$27,411.50
Note (*) - These include donation collection fees from Just Giv	e and transfer fees	in sending funds.	
2007 Operating Expense Status:		*0.4.770.4F	
Current Cash in Accounts (as above):		\$36,770.45	
Subtract out:		<b>407 411 F0</b>	
Project Expenditure Obligations (per above, incl. interest)		-\$27,411.50	
Future Dues for Carryover		-\$75.00	7
Life Membership Fund (incl. interest)		-\$1,790.28	7 = total life members to date
Cash Available for FOL Expenses =		\$7,493.67	
Unused Expenses in 2007 Budget -		-\$4,044.98	
Current Cash Reserve =		\$3,448.69	
(Total operating cash expenses, incl. NPCA pass thru):		\$628.02	
(Total operating inkind expenses to date):		\$127.72	



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# Check out FOL's Online Store WWW.Cafepress.com/lesotho

Mugs ... Everybody loves 'em! Choose from a variety of sizes and designs. Add to your own collection and give them as gifts.













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Go to the FOL Donations Page on our website www.friendsoflesotho.org/fundraising/stuff.html And use the link there to Amazon.com. Whenever you shop at Amazon.com, start at FOL first.

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Friends of Lesotho 4110 Denfield Ave. Kensington MD 20895, USA Please include your name, address, and phone number.



MEMBERSH	IIP FORM
•Name:	Friends of L
Address:	Please mail your
Phone: home or cell:	completed form to Friends of Less Kensington Mi
Email:	If you prefer to pay y online, go to  • http://friendsofl. and follow the i
List your email on FOL website? Yes No  —— Information for FOL Directory  ———————————————————————————————————	
Current Occupation/Employer:  Family Members:	FOL Annual Membership
	T National Posses
Years in Lesotho: from: to:  District:	National Peace Annual Membership  TOTAL E
Village:	∜ If you wish, you n
Check to receive the newsletter via email only.  (This saves postage costs and results in more money being available to be sent to Lesotho!)  I would like more information on other ways to give, such as wills, estate planning, IRAs, or listing FOL as an insurance policy beneficiary.  I would like to receive information on Lifetime Membership in FOL	contribution goes; Greatest need HIV/AIDS Orphanages Tuition Assist Volunteer Ad Morija Muset Memorial Sch
Privacy Policy: FOL will not release member information to any implied request when a member joins both FOL and NPCA. FOI prospective PCVs seeking information about Lesotho.	

# Please mail your

completed form to:

Friends of Lesotho, 4110 Denfeld Avenue Kensington MD 20895, USA

If you prefer to pay your dues or make donations online, go to

• http://friendsoflesotho.org/dues.html and follow the instructions there.

	\$			
FOL Annual Membership (\$15/person)	•			
	+\$			
Total to FOL	\$			
National Peace Corps Assn Annual Membership (\$35/person)	+\$			
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$			
∀ If you wish, you may designate where your additional contribution goes; however, this is not necessary.				
Greatest need (default)				
111 1 / 1 112 5	HIV/AIDS			
Orphanages Tuition Assistance Program				
Volunteer Advisory Committee				
Morija Museum				
Memorial Scholarship Fund – in honor of:				

- organization, except to the National Peace Corps Association, upon will share membership information with other FOL members and
- Matching gifts can enable you to double or even triple the value of your contribution. Many companies match their employees' personal donations. If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer and send it, completed and signed, with your gift. We'll do the rest.
- Friends of Lesotho is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
- Friends of Lesotho (FOL) is affiliated with the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA). If you have included NPCA dues in your payment, we will forward them to NPCA. If, however, you choose to send your FOL dues directly to NPCA in response to their membership solicitation, you must specify FOL as your choice of affiliated group to receive the credit for dues. NPCA membership is optional. NPCA multi-year discount available, see www.rpcv.org.

A copy of the current financial statement of Friends of Lesotho is available by writing 4110 Denfeld Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895, or by emailing treas@friendsoflesotho.org Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis MD 21401, (410) 974-5534.

For FOL use only. Please do not complete the information below.			ve	r. 05/08		
Check #	Amount \$	Member Since	New	Source	_Renew Date	
Expires	No. of Member	s NPCA				



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#### Metsoalle ea Lesotho

Second Quarter 2008



Friends of Lesotho

This newsletter was printed courtesy of **The Alternative Copy Shop**, in Tempe, Arizona.

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