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Message from the Country Director



Becky Chown, Kathy and kids painting a school mural

Rich Carlson, will leaving on September 2nd to become the AO in Moldova. It goes without saying that he will be sorely missed. In his remaining 2 months, Rich has promised to regale us with the last of his Peace Corps/Micronesia stories.

In June, I had a great visit to Becky Chown's (CHED 08) site. Becky's been working with her counterparts on a mural project in several schools in her area so we spent a half a day painting HIV/AIDS and children's rights scenes and messages at a remote school way up in the mountains. The lead muralists (the students) were totally into it and made quite a work of art.

Today, we received a call from a Volunteer's supervisor who was upset about a posting on a Volunteer's blog, which they found insulting to their organization. This was embarrassing, to say the least. Please be reminded that the World Wide Web means that anyone can read your blog. Also, what you put on your blog reflects not only on you but on your fellow Volunteers and Peace Corps. Volunteers have caused serious damage to Peace Corps' reputation due to things they have written. Please password protect your blog.

Finally, on June 30th, many Peace Corps staff and a few Volunteers and trainees celebrated the 4th of July at the Ambassador's residence. In their speeches, the Ambassador and the Foreign Minister both acknowledged Peace Corps Volunteers' contribution to the development of Lesotho and reiterated that Volunteers are the "true ambassadors of the United States of America." This is an honor and a responsibility. Thank you all for your hard work and happy 4th!

Go Ghana!
Kathy

On June 4th, we welcomed the new CHED group. Twenty-eight trainees arrived and 2 days later headed out to the training villages and their host families. They seem to be doing really well after nearly a month. Thanks to all of the staff, trainers and resource Volunteers who are working hard to make PST a success. Sadly, one of the trainees decided to leave after about a week but has reported that she's happy to be back in California. We extend our condolences to another trainee Kate Rogers, whose father passed away last week.

In other news, Peace Corps/Lesotho received its first Peace Corps Response Volunteer. Travis Schultz, an RPCV from Bangladesh and the Philippines, will teach English at the National Health Training Center. Most recently, Travis was working for the US Soccer Federation and is therefore very excited to be in southern Africa during the World Cup. Welcome, Travis!

Karen Lindquist (ED 09) returned to Lesotho and immediately dove into TAP application reviews with a few other Volunteers. Welcome back, Karen!

Ulker, our temporary PCMO, left on the 24th wrapped in a Basotho blanket and fond memories of her time in Lesotho. One of the highlights of her stay in southern Africa was attending the Cameroon v Japan World Cup match. Shockingly, her family in Turkmenistan spotted her on TV!

Peace Corps/Lesotho's beloved Admin Officer,

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From the Editor's Desk

Articles must be received by the 4th Monday of the month to be included in the following month's edition of the Khotso. **When submitting articles, please provide the name of the person making the submission and a contact person for follow-up questions.** The Newsletter will be emailed and a hardcopy made available in the office on or about the 1st of each month. Please make sure that your email address is on file with Peace Corps.

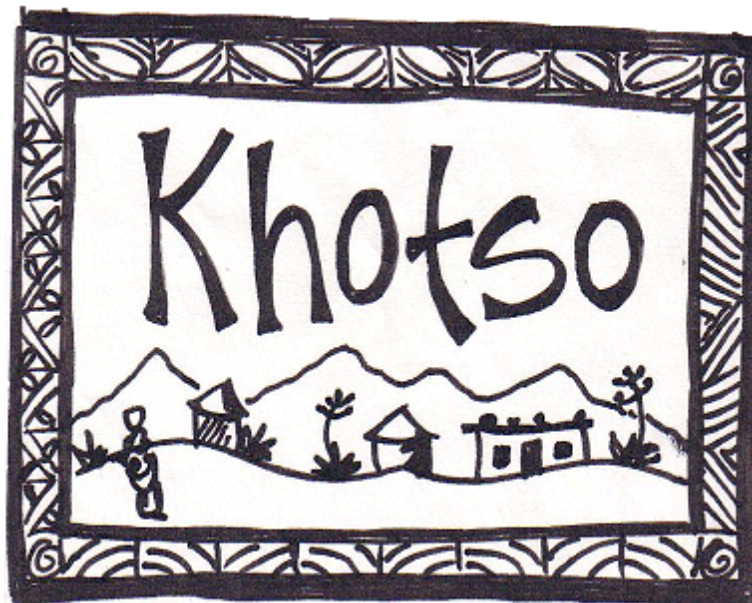
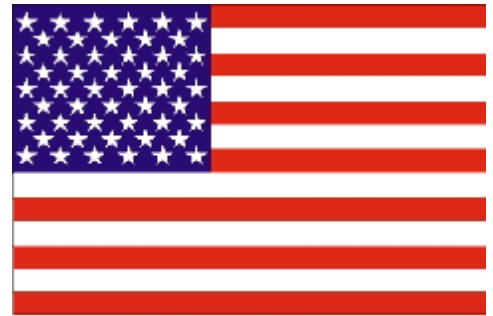
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you as to whether the information contained in this newsletter met your needs.

By submitting articles, you are providing Peace Corps Lesotho with the right to reprint your article in full or part in any publication.

Deepak Pullanikkatil
Editor



Editorial



PCV Birthdays

Birthday greetings go out to the following PCVs. The Peace Corps Lesotho staff sends you greeting and hope that you have a very prosperous year.

Happy Birthday PCVs

July

Gluck, David	July 5
Hill, Melissa	July 8
Youngren, Phillip	July 12
Quihuiz, Stephanie	July 13
Hadar, Lynn	July 27

August

Hoehner, Samantha	August 9
Berdini, Ariana	August 12
Ebata, Kimiko	August 13
Laufman-Walker, Aaron	August 16
Langridge, Jessica	August 19
Veiga, Tarsha	August 19
Marlow, Sarah	August 20
Peel, Austin	August 27
Deakin, Matthew	August 29
Murray, Melody	August 31

September

Mcclaine, Ryan	September 1
Reed, Kristan	September 5
Liberio, Sonny	September 8
Jones, Christopher	September 9
Wade, Cullen	September 10
Johnson-Miller, Diana	September 19
Washington, Maya	September 19
Kelly, Megan	September 25
Schofield, Jesse	September 30

STAFF SPOTLIGHT**Tsatsi Sefefo****Full name :** Sefefo, Tsatsi**Job title:** General Services Assistant**How long with PC:** 6 years**Job prior to PC:** Ellerines Holdings**Family status (married? kids?):** Married with no kids.**Where you grew up:** Butha Buthe.**Favorite part of your job:** Managing the inventory (which happens to be every GSA's nightmare). And of course, helping the PCVs with whatever my department can lend a hand with.**Least favorite part of your job:** Site visits.**Hobbies:** Soccer and volley ball.**If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be?** President Obama.**Advice for PCVs in Lesotho:** Stay safe and remember that ultimately, you are responsible for all your actions.

PCV News Corner



Staff Birthdays



July

Kathy Jacquart Dill July 4
Malisema Makhele July 27
Victoria Mofolo July 31

August/September

No staff birthdays.

Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays

July

July 5— Independence Day (US Holiday)*
July 17— King's Birthday (LS Holiday)*

August

No holidays this month.

September

September 6— Labor Day (US Holiday)*

*PC Lesotho remains closed on this day.

Admin Corner By Rich Carlson

MOLDOVA!

Are you wondering what and where Moldova is? I was too a few weeks ago. I will be leaving Peace Corps/Lesotho this spring, after three, fast, wonderful years. I will be arriving in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova in the fall. Two winters back-to-back. Who could ask for more! If you're traveling through Europe, please plan to stop by. My wife, I and Elvis would love to have guests from Lesotho. My last day in the office will be August 31st.

As a side note, we have a very capable, dedicated admin

staff. I would encourage any of you to seek out 'M'e Victoria, 'M'e Malisema, or Money Maggie for your admin questions. They have access to your financial records, the combination to the safe and a host of other answers. All are more than willing to serve you. Even if I'm in the office and busy, you might get your question answered quicker if you seek them out.

Thank you all for making my time in Lesotho so enjoyable! I might not remember all your names or pronounce them correctly, but I sure like you all.

Monthly Living Allowance

As a reminder, beginning in September all of your Living Allowance payments will be made into your account monthly, not quarterly.

Increase in Your Readjustment Allowance

As you know, effective April 1st, 2010 your Readjustment Allowance was increased. Please see detailed information on Readjustment Allowance increases on Share-point.



Staff Corner, Admin
Corner &
Education Corner

Education Corner By Clement Lephoto

A new Volunteer has just arrived in town! Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Travis Schultz, the first Peace Corps Response Volunteer here as far as we can remember! Travis brings a vast experience in the education field having served in Philippines for two and half years and also having had a short stint in Bangladesh earlier. He has been assigned to the National Health Training Center where he will assist in strengthening the Bridging program for the Nurse trainees. On this note we would like to say thank you to Ryan for hosting Travis for a night at Ha Lejone...He says a taxi ride on his way back to NHTC was 'Easy'.

We have just read through your VRF submissions and have responded to each one of you (if you have not received a written note yet, please check your mail box!) We have thor-

oughly enjoyed going through these reports and again we are amazed how much you all are doing within and outside your communities. A few of you have had some challenging moments, but this has not deterred you from the mission of the Peace Corps. Please continue to do your best!

We are aware that the VRF does not provide an option to share your activities with your counterparts/supervisors as was previously the case with the old reporting system. We will work with Deepak to see if there is any way we can produce a report specific for this group. This may help remove some possible redundancies in reporting within your schools/organizations.

There are unfortunately a few Volunteers who are yet to submit their reports. As we move towards the end of the year,

we absolutely need these reports in so that our annual reports reflect what you all are doing. In the next few weeks we will be contacting the culprits individually. Once again thank you for those who took time to report, your names are listed in front of 'm'e Lebohng's desk!

Close of Service for ED09s [including Violeta, Tarsha and Phil]

Time flies! It's time for you to be planning your "Close of Service". The official COS date for ED 09 is January 7, 2011. Kathy has the authority to advance/delay your COS date by 30-days, (between 12/9/10 to 2/4/11). Dates beyond these will need to be approved by PC/HQ. Post can process about 4 COSes a day. Therefore, we will need your group to have your COS dates spread out. We will have a

COS Date Calendar at the COS conference to sign up on.

Unless you get an exception your COS date should be on Wednesday, Thursday or before 1:30 a.m. on Friday. Normally, you will come to the office on Monday and immediately begin your medical clearance, which will take two days due to the TB test check. You should not plan to arrive in Maseru over the weekend prior to your COS date or have a Peace Corps driver pick you up on the weekend since that's overtime, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Remember, the time to say goodbye to your friends is at the COS conference, not when you're actually COSing.

We expect you to have your COS or extension plans at the COS conference. Because the lead times are considerable, delays in getting this date will affect when you receive your Cash-in-Lieu and 1/3 Readjustment Allowance payments. A checklist you may begin reviewing will be sent to the COSing Volunteers. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Clement or Rich.

The COS conference for ED09s will be held in Maseru on September 1-3, 2010. Please take note of these logistical aspects:

9/1 - COSers arrive in Maseru - Check in at the Maseru Sun

Cabanas. PC will pay for Dinner and Lodging only on this day.

9/2 - Sessions
9/3 - Sessions until lunch (possibly late lunch), Banquet, Following the banquet, Volunteers will be expected to be moving in the Training Centre for the night.

9/4 - Check out of Training Center. Please note that the CHED group will be arriving to begin their Mid Service on this day...therefore it's important that you all check out by 10am.

If you have any question regarding the COS conference, please call 'm'e 'Masechaba.

CHED Corner By Charles Miller

June is behind us and the winter months seem to be quickly slipping away. CHED 10 site identification continues and a big THANK YOU to all of you who have assisted in this arduous process.

CHED 10 Update: PST continues for the CHED 10's who are already in their fourth week of training. Only six more weeks until swearing in. Hang in there, guys and gals. This week, the Trainees are visiting

current serving CHED Volunteers at their sites to gain a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by PC Lesotho Volunteers. Another big Thanks to those CHED Volunteers who are hosting the CHED 10s.

PCT/V Comings and Goings: PC Trainee Diana Johnson Miller decided to return to her home in the USA. Diana asked us to wish all the CHED 10s the best of luck in their PC

Lesotho journey. Likewise, we wish Diana only the best in the next chapter of her life.

PCV Melissa Hill will soon begin teaching life skills at her new site in Mafeteng, Matholeng High School. Melissa has been very patient as we've all worked with her to identify her new site. Thanks Melissa!!!

Don't forget your Trimester Reports.

Education Corner,
CHED Corner and
Safety & Security
Corner



Safety & Security Corner By Thamae Mpiti

Message to District Security Reps: THE DSR CELL PHONE ISSUED TO YOU IS NOT FOR YOUR (OR ANY OTHER VOLUNTEER'S) PERSONAL USE. These phones should be used to disseminate messages re-

ceived from PC to Volunteers in your district or in cases of emergency. We have received exorbitant phones bills for many DSR phones with many unauthorized calls. Beginning in July, DSRs will be charged

for any phone calls that cannot be justified as safety and security related. A DSR training is in the planning stages. Stayed tuned.

STAFF SCHEDULE

7/1-23: Clement on leave in Mauritius.
7/1-2: Kathy on leave and site development in Mokhotlong.
7/5: July 4th US Independence Day observed. Office closed.
7/15-25: Deepak on vacation in Mozambique.
7/17: King's birthday. Office closed.
7/26-30: ED10 HIV training.
8/12: CHED 10 swearing-in.
9/1-3: ED09 COS conference
*Other committee meeting dates, camps, and workshops to be finalized and communicated to Volunteers.

DUTY OFFICER SCHEDULE

5-Jul-10	11-Jul-10	SSC
12-Jul-10	18-Jul-10	ITS
19-Jul-10	25-Jul-10	APCD-CHED
26-Jul-10	1-Aug-10	CD
2-Aug-10	8-Aug-10	APCD-ED
9-Aug-10	15-Aug-10	AO
16-Aug-10	22-Aug-10	TD
23-Aug-10	29-Aug-10	SSC
30-Aug-10	5-Sep-10	APCD-ED



PCV Life

RANDOM SUBMISSION Building a Better Mouse Trap By Michael Dill (Kathy's husband)

If you have a mouse in your house, a rodent in your rondavel, and you want it to be elsewhere, then all you need is an empty toilet paper tube, a trash can, and some bait. Put two creases in the tube, such that it has a flat edge on which to rest without rolling and looks like a tiny cardboard tunnel. Put a small amount of bait, such as peanut butter on the corner of a cracker or a large crumb of bread, at one end of the tube. Then balance your baited tunnel on the edge of a counter, bait side out, such that it is protruding into the air as far as it can go without tipping on its own. Directly beneath, place the trash can. Of course, you need not use a trash can. Any vessel will do, as long as it is tall enough that the mouse cannot jump out (approximately 50 cm, or 20 inches), has smooth and steep enough sides that it cannot be climbed, and made of a material through which the mouse cannot chew, such as metal or hard plastic. The mouse crawls into the tube to get the bait, the tube tips, and the mouse spends the rest of the night relaxing at the bottom of your container. Release the rodent at least a mile from your home, and keep setting the trap each night until you catch no more. Then set it again as soon as you start seeing signs that you have another uninvited guest. I have tried this, and it works.

Money to Fight HIV: Who Has It? You Do! By PCV Greg Viola, Co-Chair HIV/AIDS Committee



The global fight against HIV and AIDS is running out of money.

A recent article in the New York Times ("At Front Lines, AIDS War is Falling Apart", May 9, 2010) reports that major clinics in Uganda are regularly turning people away, that Nigeria and Swaziland have reported major drug shortages, and Kenya and Mozambique will soon have to cut major services, if they have not already begun to do so. Doctors Without Borders have seen drastic decreases regarding treatment of HIV positive patients in Tanzania and Botswana. Here in Lesotho, many NGOs are scrambling for funding.

And the numbers get worse every day. Worldwide, two million people die every year from the disease, and three million more are infected. Of the 33 million people currently infected, 14 million need immediate treatment; however, fewer than four million are receiving it. In Lesotho, the country with the third highest prevalence in the world, there are an estimated 50 new infections and 62 AIDS deaths *per day*. So with a crisis like this, how can money be disappearing?

The global economic crisis is a big part of the problem, but it's not all of it. In Europe and the US, public and private donors hesitate to commit large sums of money to what more and more are beginning to view as a losing cause. Instead, many are switching their sights to cheaper, more easily preventable killers like malaria, diarrhea and tetanus. The Obama administration's Global Health Initiative, the British Government, and the Gates Foundation have expanded their global health focus to place more emphasis on mother-and-child health.

Even though large amounts of money are being shifted away from HIV and AIDS, we as Peace Corps Volunteers find ourselves in a unique position: we've got plenty of money to continue to respond to the epidemic. Through the Volunteer Activities Support and Training Program (VAST), we can access President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funds. PC Lesotho has more than US\$20,000 available for VAST and two full-time PEPFAR-funded staff members, not to mention a Country Director who previously served as HIV and AIDS Programming and Training Advisor for Peace Corps in Washington DC and worked closely with the PEPFAR initiative.

However, with all of these resources available, only two volunteers applied for VAST grants last quarter. Many volunteers feel intimidated by the application process, but it is not as complicated as you may think. The size of VAST grants was recently expanded to a minimum of US\$100.00 and a maximum of US\$5,000.00. Peace Corps is now accepting applications for VAST grants on a rolling basis, meaning that there are no longer quarterly deadlines. Your District AIDS Representatives (DAR) are willing and able to assist you in the process. If you have an idea for a project, contact your DAR or Peace Corps/Lesotho's HIV/AIDS Coordinator 'M'e Majimisi Machai to see how you can get started.

We all know what a devastating crisis HIV is in Lesotho. Up and down King's Way, aid agencies are desperate for funds. Yet as Peace Corps Volunteers, money is available to us. It is our responsibility to take advantage of the resources available in order to make a change and help Lesotho. I urge you and your community counterparts to consider applying for a VAST grant.



Peace Corps Volunteer Core Expectations – in Haiku By the CHED 10 Trainees

- Prepare your personal and professional life to make a commitment to serve abroad for a full term of 27 months
27 months
That seems like forever now
It goes by too fast
2. Commit to improving the quality of life of the people with whom you live and work; and, in doing so, share your skills, adapt them, and learn new skills as needed
We come to share skills
Along the way we learn skills
This is our mission
 3. Serve where the Peace Corps asks you to go, under conditions of hardship, if necessary, and with the flexibility needed for effective service
Re tla remeka
Lebeletse Mathata
Re rata keena
 4. Recognize that your successful and sustainable development work is based on the local trust and confidence you build by living in, and respectfully integrating yourself into, your host community and culture
We are the Peace Corps
We build trust and integrate
Lesheleshele
 5. Recognize that you are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your personal conduct and professional performance
Work hard all day long
We can't escape Lesotho
Why would we want to?
 6. Engage with host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, and mutual learning and respect
Engage. Be open,
Understanding. Be patient
And Compassionate
 7. Work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the local and national laws of the country where you serve
Laws. Rules. Policies.
We're happy to follow them.
Don't want to go home.
 8. Exercise judgment and personal responsibility to protect your health, safety, and well-being and that of others
Always listen to
Ntate Thamae, bo-'m'e,
And Dr. Johnson
And
Be responsible
Protect your health and safety
Do not walk at night
 9. Recognize that you will be perceived, in your host country and community, as a representative of the people, cultures, values, and traditions of the United States of America
We represent the
USA, where we work hard
We love Lesotho
 10. Represent responsibly the people, cultures, values, and traditions of your host country and community to people in the United States both during and following your service
One with Lesotho
Sharing and caring with you
Bring you home with me!

CHED PCTs June 2010



Anderman-Hahn, Evan



Anderson, Kelly



Berdini, Ariana



Carson, Amy



Casimer, Kevin



Comstock, Grant



Davies, Benjamin



Deakin, Lauren



Deakin, Matthew



Delise, Brandon



Fulton, Juliana



Glanville, Kathryn



Hadar, Lynn



Helie, Delia



Helm, Brandi



Helm, James



Johnson-Miller, Diana



Kerr, Michael



Koch, Victoria



Liggins, Chante'



Marlow, Sarah



Marsh, Kelsey



Niang, N'Deye



Peel, Austin



Rogers, Kathryn



Rosen, Zachary



Sanni, Danielle



Schofield, Jesse

Peace Corps Lesotho Welcomes you to the Kingdom in the Sky





From The Tech Committee By Elissa Kaufman, CHED 09

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Committee (also known as the Tech Committee) held their quarterly meeting with staff on 24 June to elect new officers, report on activities and discuss future plans.

The Tech Committee thanked, Nick Hopchak, for his service as Chair and bid him farewell as he is COSing in August. The committee elected Melody Murray and Elissa Kaufman as co-Chairs and Elissa Kaufman as Secretary. The committee is guided by PC staff: Deepak Pullanikkatil and Malitaba Hlabana. If you are interested in joining or contributing to the tech committee, please email Melody or Elissa.

The Tech Committee is in possession of 17 desktop computers donated by the US Embassy Maseru to be distributed among schools and clinics and other organizations. Four of the computers have been assigned to PCVs already, but 13 are still available. Expect more information via email shortly.

Additionally, the Tech Committee successfully conducted a survey of PCVs' technology usage in Lesotho. The information was used to inform invitees in the States about what to bring to Lesotho. The Tech Committee also produced a guide intended for the set-up and use of small-scale photovoltaic (solar) systems in Lesotho. It can be found on Sharepoint (PCV Group Files à Technology à Peace Corps Lesotho Solar Guide V3)

The Tech Committee will be assisting with the content of the first Peace Corps Lesotho Website. Please email us with information and resources you want to be made available online!

If you have a tech question, we have an answer! We are here to serve you.

Melody Murray, co-Chair
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5973-8535

Elissa Kaufman, co-Chair and Secretary
elissa.kaufman@gmail.com
5951-9645

Winter Wonderland By Andre Essue, CHED 08



Winter is here. Lesotho is cold and comes to stand still during the winter months. Now that those statements are agreed upon, let's move on to a critical question. As Volunteers what do we do during Lesotho's arctic winter months?

Here are some options:

- You can hide in your house under your blankets refusing to go outside.
 - You can drink gallons of tea & coffee while listening to reggae music hoping you were at the beach (I recommend Mishka and Boudouin Soundclash).
 - You can read 1,000 books (I don't read books but I love magazines).
 - You can put on all the clothes you own and do 100 jumping jacks as fast as you can (If you need a demonstration see Brett Burke).
- You can sit in front of your heater with your eyes closed and repeat to yourself "I am in Mozambique" (My personal favorite).

But at the end of the day, none of these will help you feel productive or maintain a positive spirit during the winter months. Below are suggestions from Volunteers for ways to pass the time:

- A lot of sitting and keeping warm is done during this time of year. Volunteers can use this down time to interact and engage with community members to help identify the needs of their community. This can aid in the process of identifying potential community projects that could be started during the spring months.
- During the winter many village youth soccer teams begin conducting daily practices and with the World Cup in neighboring South Africa, everyone has World Cup fever! With the local schools out this is a great opportunity to interact with young people. This is also a great time for Volunteers to identify who the youth leaders are. Participating in the youth soccer games is also a great way to exercise and get warm. And there are few things better for the human spirit than playing!
- One PCV in Guyana worked on an oral history project for her community, which when left behind with the Community Council, provided much insight into the community's past, and helped plan for the community's future projects, considering what had been successful and not-so-



PCV Life

successful in the past.

- Other Volunteers have used this time to conduct feasibility studies for various projects with their community.
- The World Map project (see the ICE catalogue) is another great winter activity. This coupled with the recent World Cup would be a great avenue for discussing geography and similarities/differences of different countries participating in the World Cup.
- World AIDS Day is just around the corner, so it's never too early to start planning for this important event.
- Who needs school to be in session to conduct Life Skills lessons for out-of-school youth? Movie nights, IGAs involving the making and selling of popcorn, cooking demonstrations, nutrition lessons and debates can also be done during the shortest and coldest days of the year. Any activities that require the warmth of the indoors are possible on the coldest of days. What better way to keep your body and brain warm than exercise classes for a youth or women's group? Library projects are popular among PC/Lesotho Volunteers, so why not make up your own Community Book Week, with each day featuring a different activity?

Please email Andre Essue with any other promising practices for winter activities and I'll make sure to publish them in the next edition of *The Khotso*.

I hope all of you stay warm, stay positive and recognize how lucky we are as Volunteers to be participating in this epic adventure!



Volunteer Success Story
By Elissa Kaufman, CHED 09



I've been going to the English Medium School to help them organize & use the books they received through African Library Project. The process started out slowly when teachers were reluctant to sort the books, purchase the shelves, and clear out the room. Now that the library is 'complete' (due to the contribution of many student-librarians and a few teachers) I can tell it is making an amazing difference in the kids' lives because of the now motivated teachers. The change in the teachers' attitude occurred after a 'how to use the library' workshop and when the teacher-librarian 'M'e Lucia became supremely motivated. Her enthusiasm and hard work spread throughout the school. She took it upon herself to number all of the books within each category and in total, and she convinced the principal to have mandatory library time for each class included in the 2010 timetable. If a teacher doesn't show up during their time, she tracks them down and questions them. Once the standard 4 history teacher didn't come in, he said he was too behind in the history

curriculum. Me Lucia found a relevant history book, showed it to the teacher, and challenged why he was restricting the children's learning to the classroom and class texts.

'M'e Lucia even finished the library without me knowing. There was so much work left to do I thought it would take a few more weeks, but when I walked in the next week I was pleasantly surprised to see a teacher in there with her students using the library! Not only was the work finished but a standard three teacher, so eager to use the library, was reading a book about butterflies to her students. She called one student up to read about how butterflies eat nectar. After the student read the passage aloud to the class, she made all the students stick their tongues out and pretend to suck nectar. It was like being in an American classroom, with active and participatory learning! The next week when I came back during lunch a bunch of standard four girls ran up to me, so excited that I was going to the library because they wanted more library time! There's nothing like smiling kids who are excited to learn and I'm so happy to be involved with these motivated teachers who are shaping a future generation.

Tselane le limo

By Ann Scheuneman, CHED 07



I have been working for the past few weeks to develop the library at Paul VI High School in Mohale's Hoek. One day one of the teacher's, a student, and I began talking about fairy tales, and I asked about fairy tales in Lesotho, as I know little about them. The student Mampho, ended up writing a Basotho fairy tale for me, and has promised me more when she returns from her break for winter classes. This got me thinking: has anyone ever compiled a collection of fairy tales from around Lesotho? I think this would be a pretty cool project, really fun and interesting, and a great cultural project in a country that is losing its heritage. I work at an orphanage, and many of my children don't know about Basotho fairy tales at all. I am asking for volunteers around the country to talk with their communities and with their schools to get people to write the Basotho fairy tales they know. Draw pictures to go with the fairy tales if they want. Make sure the authors write their names on their tales, and their location, and email them to me or leave them in the Mohale's Hoek box with your name on them too. My hope is that this can turn into a larger project, perhaps a book could be published. My orphanage, Mantsase Children's Home, is willing to be the front organization for the project, but I am unfortunately leaving in August. I've already spoken with one volunteer who is willing to help with the project but doesn't want to be leader. If anyone is interested in taking on this project, writing a grant (maybe a Peace Corps Partnership or something like that), let me know: 5909 3454/ascheunemann@gmail.com. I am currently looking into publishing costs from a couple companies, so hopefully will be able to help with that info before I leave.

Just to get you started, here's Mampho's fairy tale: *Tselane le Limo (Tselane and the cannibal)*.

There was a mother who had a daughter by the name of Tselane. At their village there was a cannibal, so the chief of that village disliked living there. He told the villagers to move from that village to another. Unfortunately Tselane refused to move to another village because she liked her home, but her mother agreed to move to the other village. Tselane lived there alone but her mother agreed to bring food to her. Because she was living alone she feared the cannibal and was always in the house. When her mother arrived with food she would sing out to Tselane, saying

"Tselane my child
Tselane my child
Come and take some bread and eat"

Because Tselane knew her mother's voice she replied saying

"I hear, Mother
I hear, Mother"

Then she would open up, take the food, and close the door. As soon as her mother had gone the cannibal would come and sing the same song. Because his voice was deeper it was easy for Tselane to hear that it was the cannibal. She knew that the cannibal wanted to eat her so she would say

"No I can't open up because it's you, a cannibal"

Then he would go back to his home. Every day Tselane's mother came again and sang the same song and Tselane would open up, but when the cannibal came she refused to let him in. One day the cannibal decided to make his voice softer. He thought that the easiest way to do this was to burn a pole. When it became red and hot, he swallowed it and his voice became softer. As

PCV Life



soon as his voice became softer he went to Tselane’s home and sang out saying

“Tselane my child
Tselane my child
Come and take some bread and eat”

So Tselane opened up and the cannibal took her and tied her into a sack and then carried her to the tavern. The owner of the tavern was Tselane’s aunt. When the cannibal arrived it was given a command to go to the spring and fetch some water with the sieve, but he wasn’t able to come up with the water. While he was still there Tselane’s aunt released the person in the sack. When she opened the sack and saw Tselane she took her out but poured bees, snakes, and all insects that bite into the sack. When the cannibal came back it took the sack and went home. On the way he said

“Tselane! Tselane!”

But heard no one crying. When he arrived home he closed the door and all the windows and was happy that Tselane was still in the sack, and that he was going to eat her. When he opened the sack the bees came out and all the insects and snakes came out and bit him. Then he cried out for help but no one came and he died.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



PCV Life



Becky Chown and her muralists.



Walk the World -
PCVs Elissa, Melissa
& Rocio with the
Prime Minister of
Lesotho.

Khotse



FIFA—SOUTH AFRICA

PCV Life



2010





News from around the Peace Corps world

PC/SA Volunteers and 50 Local Students Meet with Team USA at World Cup Soccer Practice

Two Peace Corps/South Africa volunteers helped organize a trip Sunday for 50 local students to a U.S. men's national soccer team practice in Pretoria West. Initiated by the U.S. Embassy and coordinated by Peace Corps, the World Cup outreach effort provided orphans, vulnerable children, and other at-risk youth a personal look at the biggest sporting event on the planet. Photos from the event are [here](#).

Peace Corps volunteers Joanna Balza of Appleton, WI., and Haley McDonough of Strongsville, OH, traveled with their students, ages 10 to 16, to share in the festivities. Balza and McDonough regularly work with the students at their schools and through HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs. Five South African chaperones also helped with the event.

The students and volunteers were welcomed by U.S. Ambassador Donald Gips and U.S. head coach Bob Bradley and met many of the national players including midfielder Ricardo Clark, goalkeeper Marcus Hahnemann, and forwards Jozy Altidore and Edson Buddle.

The practice was held in Pretoria West, a one-hour bus trip from the students' villages in Mpumalanga Province. It was the first time many of them had traveled outside of their village. Wearing T-shirts with a U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the South African students waved "thank-you" notes as they arrived at Pilditch Stadium.

After enjoying lunch, the students received *vuvuzelas* to cheer on the team. Four of the older students were interviewed by sports broadcasters covering the open practice. Volunteer Haley McDonough said after the event, "I felt all kinds of happiness in that moment. To see these young ladies proudly express themselves to the unfamiliar faces demonstrated real growth in their understanding and respect for others."

Volunteer Joanna Balza observed, "It was really exciting for [the students] to meet the players; but for most of these kids, just getting to go on a bus to Pretoria and be given lunch is a huge deal. When we got back to the villages, despite the strict 'no *vuvuzela* blowing on the bus' rule, the kids were hanging out the windows blowing as hard as they could on their horns. They were so excited and wanted everyone to come and see them – on a bus, with their new T-shirts, and their *vuvuzelas*."

2010 Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS)

Letter from Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams

I am very pleased to invite you to take part in the 2010 Annual Volunteer Survey. By sharing your experiences this year, you will be contributing to the improvement of our operations and, ultimately, to the success of our agency. Given the value of your responses, I urge all Volunteers to complete this survey as soon as possible.

The analysis of past surveys has helped us to increase the effectiveness of our Volunteers and the quality of their overseas experiences. The information provided has allowed us to take steps to ensure tangible improvements in the lives of the individuals with whom our Volunteers work and to enhance conditions in the communities in which they work. Country directors have reported that our Volunteers' feedback contributes to planning, leads to specific changes in policies and procedure, provides support for revising training and budget needs, and can help to identify successful programs and areas for improvement.

Your perspectives and opinions are invaluable to the continued success of the Peace Corps. This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about your training, work, and living experiences in order to help improve our operations at post and headquarters and further strengthen the impact of our work in the field. It is important that you complete the entire survey so we can obtain an accurate picture of all areas of your service.

The survey begins on June 15 and will be available through August 16, 2010. I encourage you to complete the online version of the survey. If you cannot complete the survey over the Internet, please return your completed paper survey in a sealed envelope to your post or mail it to headquarters by August 16, 2010. The survey should take about one hour to complete.

We appreciate your time and effort in completing this survey in a thoughtful and constructive way. Whether you complete this paper survey or take the survey online, please let your post know when you have completed the survey. Thank you for your ongoing service as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the purpose of the AVS?

The AVS asks Peace Corps Volunteers to share their views and experiences in order to assess the impact of Volunteers' work and how well the Peace Corps is meeting the needs of Volunteers. The AVS asks Volunteers about their training, assignment and activities, safety and security, and support from the post. The results are widely distributed within the Peace Corps and are used to:

- Compare experiences and views across posts and over time
- Take steps to more effectively respond to the needs of the communities in which Volunteers are working and to tangibly improve the lives of the individuals with whom they work
- Inform Peace Corps staff about Volunteers' suggestions for meeting host country needs

- Analyze trends across sectors or projects for problems needing additional resources
- Provide feedback quickly to the Regional and Country Directors about Volunteer concerns
- Take Volunteers' views into consideration in assessing posts' potential for growth

Who is eligible to take the 2010 Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS)?

Volunteers must be sworn in to be eligible to complete the survey. Trainees and Peace Corps Response Volunteers are not eligible to participate in the 2010 Annual Volunteer Survey.

How do Volunteers complete the 2010 AVS?

From June 15 through August 16, Volunteers can take the 2010 Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS) by logging on to the online survey at this secure site: <https://live.datstat.com/PeaceCorpsAVS>. When logging on for the first time, Volunteers receive a computer-generated ID.

VOLUNTEERS MUST WRITE DOWN AND SAVE THEIR UNIQUE IDs, so that they can stop, re-enter, and complete the survey at a later time, if needed. When the Volunteer submits the completed online survey, a confirmation page will appear that the Volunteer can save or print as a confirmation of survey completion. To protect the Volunteer's confidentiality, email addresses are not captured. To request a paper survey, Volunteers can ask their post. Each completed paper survey should be sealed in an envelope and mailed by the Volunteer or post to: OSIRP/Peace Corps, Room 8335, 1111 20th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20526.

Volunteers who encounter problems logging on to the online survey or who lose their computer generated IDs can request help by sending an email to osirp@peacecorps.gov. The online survey asks each Volunteer to provide a secret word or phrase (up to 30 characters with no personal identifiers). The secret word/phrase will be used only when Volunteers have trouble re-entering their partially completed AVS. If problems arise, Volunteers may send their secret word/phrase to OSIRP so that AVS administrators can help them re-connect and complete the survey.

How is the anonymity of completed Volunteer surveys maintained?

To protect Volunteers' anonymity, the online survey system does not collect email addresses. Instead, the online survey system will generate a unique ID for each Volunteer. The Volunteer can use the unique ID to log back into the survey system, if needed, to complete his/her online survey. Volunteers who complete a paper survey should be provided a sealable envelope, to ensure confidentiality when the completed paper surveys are gathered at post and sent back to the Peace Corps headquarters.

When we analyze Volunteer responses by demographic characteristics (gender, age, race, etc.) or characteristics such as post, project, or length of service, we will report findings in which the numbers are large enough that no individual may be identified. Demographic comparisons are most often based on grouped responses, e.g., "under 40 years of age" vs. "40 years or older."

Why is it important for the survey response rate to be sufficiently high?

With a global response rate of 70% or better, we can be confident that the AVS has captured the full range of Volunteers' unique perspectives. With a sufficient set of responses, post-specific sector or assignment level analyses may be used with confidence to assess program strengths and weaknesses and to identify areas that may require additional resources.

News from around the
Peace Corps world



Ed 2008 Close of Service (COS) Planning Check List

The COS Planning Check List is meant to help you organize for the hectic nature of closing your Peace Corps service. Each section is organized by department and by what needs to be done. You will receive a complete COS packet and we will review it at the COS Conference. It has the forms that you need to complete and submit to the Administrative Officer (unless otherwise indicated on the form). This check list is to give you an idea of what will be required and let you begin items you think may be a problem. If you have questions please ask either your APCD or the Administrative Officer for assistance. All items underlined on the Planning Check List must be completed before the end of the COS Workshop.

Medical Unit

- 1. Arrange for COS medical appointment before leaving COS Workshop.
- 2. Medical examination completed. Medical exams can be completed up to 60 days prior to COS.
- 3. Update World Health Organization (WHO) card at exit COS days.

APCD's Office

- 1. Speak with APCD about COS date and complete "Request for COS* form before leaving COS Conference.
- 2. Schedule appointment for exit interview with APCD. In this meeting also discuss any outstanding Partnership, PEPFAR or other projects with APCD. APCD should sign "Release of All Projects" form.
- 3. Review the "Utilities Clearance" form and have your APCD verify whether or not you had utilities and who was responsible for paying the charges.
- 4. Complete "Final Report/Site Assessment" and give to APCD during exit interview.
- 5. Return all program materials and/or account for all Peace Corps property with APCD. APCD should sign "Certificate of Non-Indebtedness".
- 6. Scheduled Sesotho language test.

CD's Office

- 1. Write your Description of Service as soon as possible. Templates are on the PC computers. Print three copies on Peace Corps letterhead.
- 2. Set appointment with Executive Secretary to meet with Country Director.
- 3. During exit interview with the Country Director, review & sign Description of Service (DOS). You should keep one original copy of the signed DOS and the other copies should be given to Executive Secretary.

General Services Officer (GSO)

- 1. Review "Inventory List" with GSO.
- 2. Provide the GSO at least three weeks before departure with the cost of transporting your household goods and Peace Corps property with local transportation to Maseru. The GSO will then determine if it's cost effective to send a vehicle to your site to transport your household effects or you should hire a taxi and be reimbursed the costs.
- 3. If you are traveling directly to your Home of Record, provide the GSO with the date and time you need to be transported to the airport at least three weeks before departure.

Administrative Unit

- 1. Submit your "Cash-In-Lieu", "Request for COS*", and "Readjustment Allowance" forms to APCD/Administration PRIOR to end of COS conference.
- 2. Review "Bank Account Clearance" form with the Cashier. You need to close your account at the bank first.
- 3. Complete "Final Payment/Collection" form with the Cashier. During this process, the Cashier will review all outstanding payments, vouchers, or debts that you have



Attachment

Attachment

with Peace Corps. Be prepared to pay any outstanding bills, or have money owed deducted from your Readjustment Allowance.

- ___ 4. Check your Inventory List and clear all Peace Corps property with the GSO. This includes property such as: heaters, helmets, riding gear, furniture, cell phones. Both your APCD and GSO need to initial "Certificate of Non-Indebtedness".
- ___ 5. Close-out your grants and/or other projects with whom coordinates special projects. Have coordinator sign "Release of All Projects" form.

DO THESE THINGS ON YOUR LAST DAY AT THE OFFICE

- ___ 1. Receive airline ticket, (if you do not receive Cash-In-Lieu), and original Travel Authorization from the Cashier and verify transport to airport.
- ___ 2. Review "Federal Income Tax Information" with Administrative Officer.
- ___ 3. Review "No-Fee Passport" form with Administrative Officer.
- ___ 4. Administrative Officer will void PC identification & take VRC access key.
- ___ 5. Review your address forwarding information with Admin officer.
- ___ 6. Remove any items from Safe Keeping.
- ___ 7. Complete CorpsCare Health Insurance form.
- ___ 8. Be provided with your "Certificate of Group Health Plan Coverage" for potential employers in the US.
- ___ 9. Administrative Officer verifies COS paperwork and takes the COS forms along with the checklist.

