

# KHOTSO

July 2012

United States Peace Corps  
PO Box 554  
5 Bowker Road  
Maseru 100, Lesotho  
Southern Africa  
Phone: +266 22313871  
Fax: +266 22310287

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## Message from the Country Director



**M'e Mamokola, ED12 Sadie Nelson and Kathy's friend at Sadie's waterfall**

Dear Volunteers,

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we welcomed 21 CHED12 trainees. It's hard to believe that they've been enjoying PST for a month already! Ask any of the staff or Volunteers who've met them and they'll tell you what a great group they are.

In June, we also gathered the ED12s and their counterparts for a PDM/HIV Capacity Building workshop in TY. As always it was a jam packed 4 days, but all participants hung in there and seemed to get a lot of the workshop. We thank them for their enthusiasm and wish them luck in developing activities in their communities.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to do some Goal 3 work by taking a friend who's visiting us from the US on a site visit to Sadie Nelson's. She was duly impressed by Sadie's situation – the road, challenges with cell phone coverage, her job – and has newfound respect for Peace Corps Volunteers. Sadie's doing a great job in a very unique site.

As previously mentioned, it's time for the Annual Volunteer Survey. We use data from the survey to attempt to improve aspects of our operations. For example, the 2010 survey indicated that many Volunteers felt that their training in PACA and working with counterparts was weak. We attempted to strengthen these areas in subsequent PSTs and ISTs and saw an improvement in the 2011 survey in this area. In the 2011 survey, many Volunteers indicated that they did not feel safe and did not feel they received adequate support in this area from PC. In response over the past year, we have placed a great emphasis on improving safety and security training

and responding to Volunteers' safety concerns in an effective manner.

The deadline for the survey is September 3<sup>rd</sup>, but let's aim to have all Volunteers complete the survey by the end of July. If all Volunteers complete the survey, an additional day of leave will be granted to eligible Volunteers. Unfortunately, this would not affect the CHED10s, but they could COS will the satisfaction of having left a very nice gift for their fellow Volunteers! By the way, one of our "senior" Volunteers (which can be interpreted as older and/or having been here a while) reported that she found the survey to be an excellent self-reflection tool. So reflect away as soon as you can!

I'd also like to share that at a recent presentation of strategic plans by PC/Washington staff, the PC Director complimented PC/Lesotho on our success in addressing Volunteer safety and creating a "culture of safety". As I've mentioned many times, this couldn't have been possible without a concerted effort by staff and Volunteers. In the past year and a half, we've had only one "violent" crime incident involving a Volunteer – a mugging in the taxi rank in May 2011 – which places Lesotho towards the bottom when compared to other Africa posts' crime statistics as opposed to near the top 2 years ago. I'd ask everyone to continue to be mindful of the long way we have come and to maintain the vigilance necessary to ensure that all Volunteers enjoy a safe service in Lesotho.

Finally, as we prepare for the COS of most of the CHED10 Volunteers, I'd like to thank them for their service in Lesotho and wish them the very best in the next chapter of their lives. And to Kelly Anderson and PCVL Delia Helie, we look forward to your third year.

Stay warm and keep up your great work! –  
Kathy

### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor – Kathy Jacquart Dill, Country Director

Editor – Deepak Pullanikkatil, IT Specialist

Staff Contributors:

Administration – Jim McCormick, Director of Management and Operations

Program and Training:

Charles Miller— Director of Programming and Training

Education – Clement Lephoto—Associate Peace Corps Director & Malitaba Hlabana— Programming & Training Specialist

Community Health & Economic Development - Selloane Pitikoe—Associate Peace Corps Director & Mamakhetha Moranye—Programming & Training Specialist

Training – Masechaba Mapena—Training Manager, Mamokola Matlanyane—Language, Cross Culture and Homestay Coordinator

Safety & Security – Nthoalo Masiphole

Medical—Dr. Victor Inegbedion

Distribution – Lebohang Ranooe

All other staff and PCVs who contribute

### From the Editor

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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Please make sure that your email address is on file with Peace Corps. Remember that it is your responsibility to read the Khotso Newsletter for updates from Peace Corps Lesotho.

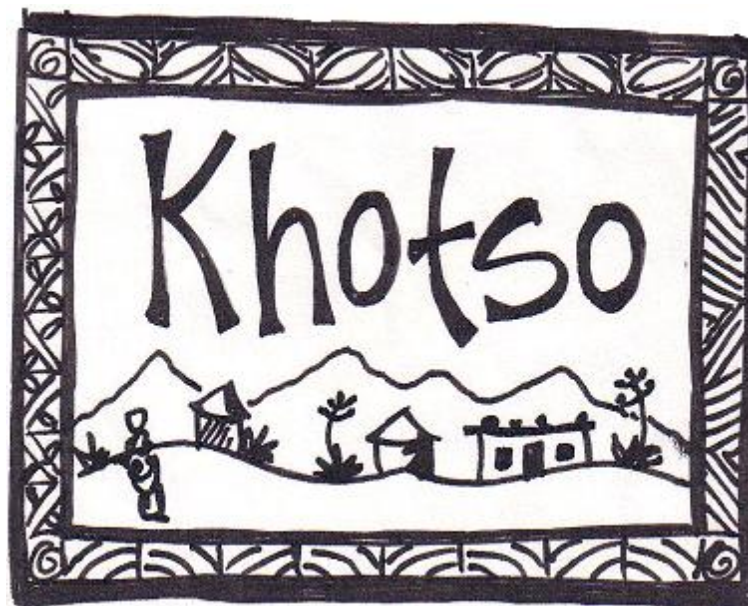
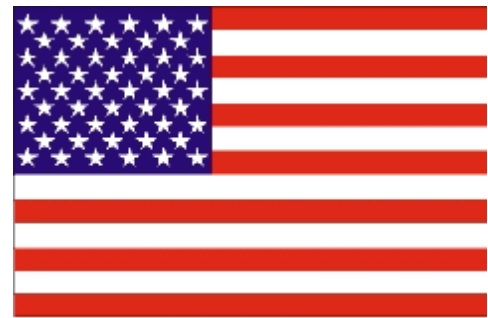
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you.

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 & Staff Birthdays

*Birthday greetings go out to the following Volunteers and staff!*

### July

Mast, Nick – 2  
 Jacquart, Kathy (CD) – 4  
 Hughes, Tara – 10  
 Howard, Jessalynne – 21  
 Wilson, Ashley – 21  
 Makhele, Malisema (PEPFAR Admin Assistant) – 27  
 Mofolo, Victoria (Financial Assistant) – 31

### August

Mohale, Letsatsi (Programming and Training Secretary) – 1  
 Wilhelm, Jess – 2  
 Mclsaac, Molly – 3  
 Day, Maggie – 4  
 Smith, Jasmine – 4  
 Okegbe, Tishina – 9  
 Deakin, Matt – 9  
 Berdini, Ariana – 12  
 Cain, Shawna – 17  
 Marlow, Sarah – 20  
 Buechel, Katie – 26  
 Peel, Adam – 27  
 Pagan, Elizabeth – 30

## Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays (Office closed these days)

### July

Independence Day (US Holiday) – 4  
 King's birthday (LS Holiday) – 17

### August

No holidays this month.

## Calendar of Events and Staff Travel

July 2 – 7	Kathy on leave
July 2 – 20	Nt. Clement on leave
July 5 – 25	Jim in Cameroon
July 19 – 29	Kathy on leave
July 31–August 4	'Me Mamakhetha, 3 PCVs at Racial Diversity Workshop in Pretoria
August 7	Swearing-in of CHED 2012
August 13 – 18	Jim at DMO Conference in Pretoria

## Duty Officer Schedule

July 2 – 8	APCD – ED
July 9 – 15	APCD – CHED
July 16 – 22	Training Manager
July 23 – 29	HIV/AIDS Coord.
July 30 – August 5	PTS – ED
August 6 – 12	PTS CHED
August 13 – 19	SSC
August 20 – 26	ITS
August 27 – Sept. 2	FA

## New staff members

We would like to welcome new temporary drivers bo nstate Lebohng Mabela and Abel Mathai. They replace Ntate David and Ntate Tsele who accepted positions with the Ministry of Justice.

## Staff member of the month – Khubelu Sekonyana



Peace Corps office janitor 'M'e Khubelu consistently goes about her work cheerfully and willingly takes on additional tasks. She keeps the inside and outside entrance of our office clean and presentable. She manages to keep the VRC clean and orderly despite a constant flow of empty pizza boxes, bottles and other assorted trash left there by Volunteers. M'e Khubelu was also the first staff member in the Admin unit to complete the Cross Cultural Communication

online course on PC University.

## Good news

Congratulations to 'Me and Ntate Nthoalo on the birth of their baby boy Bokang, born June 12<sup>th</sup>!



## ADMIN CORNER by Jim

**Random Thoughts:** It is amazing to me that we have reached the "half way" point of 2012. Even more amazing is the fact that in a matter of weeks the CHED 11 group will be the "senior" group of Volunteers in the country. To top it all off, I have been in Lesotho more than a year and a half, which really shocks me because I literally feel like I just got here. I guess the old adage about time flying when you are having fun truly applies.

**Transportation to the ATC:** For those of you that are in Maseru for official purposes (Medical, PST or Program related) and are staying at the ATC, you are entitled to be dropped off and picked up there by a PC vehicle. Generally speaking the driver will check the VRC around 4:45pm to see who needs a ride. The pickup in the morning at the ATC is around 7:45am. If for some reason you decide to make you own transportation arrangements, remember that we will reimburse for local taxis and that there is absolutely no walking around Maseru after dark allowed.

**CHED10 COSers:** Some of you have started dropping off technical and other work-related books and manuals in the VRC. Please remember that these must be returned to Ntate Mohale, otherwise you will be charged for not returning them. Please do not leave them in the VRC!

**Absentee Voting:** There is still time to register for your absentee ballot for the November U.S. Elections. It can be done on-line at [www.FVAP.com](http://www.FVAP.com). If you don't have reliable access to the internet I



also have cards which you can fill out and return to me. (You can also print a card here) [Federal Post Card Application \(FPCA\)](#). They will be mailed (for free) by the Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy.  
As always, please stay safe...!

**DPT CORNER by Charles**

I was reminded again of what amazing Volunteers we have while listening to the CHED 12 presentations from the Host Volunteer Visit last week. Whether you participated in the Training of Trainers workshop in April, greeting Trainees at the airport, co-facilitated training sessions, or hosted during HVV, you've each added immense value to training and have helped get the CHED 12 Trainees off on a very positive experience. Thank you for that!!!

Finally, in just a few short weeks the first of the CHED 10s will head off to their next adventures after completing two years of service. Thank you for your service to Lesotho, for your flexibility, and your resolve to make the world a better place.

**EDUCATION CORNER by Nt. Clement & M'e Malitaba**

Thank you again for your active participation at the PDM and HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Workshop. From the feedback we received, it seems this was a useful workshop. It is our hope that you will maintain the same enthusiasm you have shown with your counterparts to apply the knowledge and skills attained at this workshop. We are looking forward to hearing any project updates from your communities in the next few months. Good luck!!! Our camerawoman, 'm'e 'Malitaba, captured a few interesting moments from the workshop and we invite you to take a look in this Khotso edition.

Please be reminded that Ntate Clement will be on vacation from July 2-20. For any consultations, check in with 'M'e 'Malitaba.



Fantastic Display of Stigma Tree.



Gallery walk for PDM Materials.



Fun Activities led by OYAP.



'M'e Jimi and PCV Heather Mangan co-facilitating.



'Deep' discussion was the norm.



Various Organizations participated.

## CHED CORNER by M'e Selloane & M'e Mamakhetha

Khotsong!

**HVV:** Thank you to all the CHED Volunteers who hosted the trainees during the HVV. In particular we wish to acknowledge the flexibility of those PCVs who were flexible to accommodate the changes brought about by the weather changes and accepted to host! We have heard some great stories during their presentations!

**Resource Volunteers:** A big round of applause to you guys! You rock! You have demonstrated a high level of maturity, open-mindedness and a great positive attitude to the trainees so far! Remember that the way you present your content and yourself will earn you a high credibility and serve to motivate the trainees to serve for the entire two years!

**CHED 10 PCVs:** Congratulations for completing your full term of service with PC Lesotho! We are aware that some of you are already in the very advanced planning stages for their departure. Remember that irrespective of the hiccups that some of you might have had during your service, those were part of the learning curve! Who said serving as a PCV was an easy road after all! Your perseverance has not gone unnoticed! For those who are leaving this month, Bon Voyage!

## HIV/AIDS CORNER by M'e Jimi

**Letsema Forum Schedule:** Letsema is a forum which coordinates networks of organizations supporting orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs), central hub for HIV/AIDS organizations to work together and share knowledge and resources.

Letsema members work together to provide variety of services for OVCs ranging from residential care and support, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Mitigation. They hold monthly forums in Maseru and outreaches in Maseru's Hoek, Leribe and Semonkong.

The outreaches can be a platform for Peace Corps Volunteers to link their Community Based Organizations who work with Children and OVC's for resources. Volunteers may suggest to them to attend these forums, they are conducted in Sesotho and they beneficial in terms of formulating linkages, networks, resources, technical knowledge and skills.

Peace Corps is a member of Letsema and as time and schedule permits staff attends some of the forums in Maseru. Forums share various topics. Please refer to the table on page 10 for a schedule of planned Letsema National and Outreach Forums.

For more information about scheduled speakers/presenters, please consult [www.letsema.org](http://www.letsema.org) closer to the date of each Letsema Forum. (See schedule at end of this Khotso.)

## PCV CORNER

### **CHED12 Trainees' Peace Corps Core Expectations in Haiku**

I commit my time  
To serve Basotho people  
For the next 2 years.

*(Prepare your personal and professional life to make a commitment to serve abroad for a full term of 27 months.)*

Quality of life.  
Improve, share, adapt, learn skills.  
Commit to this goal.

*(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.)*

It might be hard but  
Be flexible everyday.  
Then you will succeed.

*(Serve where the Peace Corps asks you to go, under conditions of hardship, if necessary, and with the flexibility needed for effective service.)*

To be a success,  
Speak, know, and be Basotho,  
Building Lesotho.

*(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.)*

24/7,  
Living the Peace Corps values,  
We act as professionals.  
*(Recognize that you are responsible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for your personal conduct and professional performance.)*

Cooperation,  
To find mutual learning  
Always builds respect.  
*(Engage with host country partners in a spirit of cooperation, and mutual learning and respect.)*

Listen to the rules  
Of Peace Corps and Lesotho  
And work within them.  
*(Work within the rules and regulations of the Peace Corps and the local and national laws of the country where you serve.)*

While in Lesotho,  
Please take advice from Brendan.  
Always wrap it up.  
*(Exercise judgment and personal responsibility to protect your health, safety, and well-being and that of others.)*

We stand for true peace.  
We represent a nation and  
We are all human.  
*(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.)*

Speak kindly of here.  
You represent Lesotho  
And the Peace Corps too.

*(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.)*

## **DAR Sesotho Crossword Puzzle (Relax, there's a word bank!)**

Submitted by Jess Wilhelm, CHED11, DAR Co-Chair



Read the clues in the text below and match the Sesotho word to the English one in the text then put into the crossword: "a"=across, "d"=down, and "c"=cross-wise (diagonal).

### **Word bank**

Liente	Matekatse
Ngaka	Mafu a Likobo
Ho Sireletsa	Litokelo
Mekhatlo ea Tsehetso	Nepahet-seng

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Likhohlopo          | Bofutsana             |
| Khethollo ea Boleng | Tlhekefetso ea Motabo |
| Bohloeki            | Mokaola               |
| Lefuba              | Kokoana-hloko         |
| Tsoaetso            | Mokhoa oa Lichelete   |
| Tlala               | Thibelo               |
| Mooki               | Sangoma               |
| Likhohlopo          | Mokhachane            |
| Hlahlobo            | Phepo                 |
| Lipilisi tsa ARV    | Thobalano             |
| Makhooeng           | Bakuli                |
| Moriana             | Lebollo               |
| Ho Nyantsa          | Mokomo                |
| Tiiniki             | Maeneng               |
| Boikarabelo         | Likhutsana            |
| Ho Beta             | Nyatsi                |
| Bohali              | Hlokomelo             |

lined to the Sesotho words above

As a consequence of Poverty (22a), it has long been common for Basotho men to migrate to South Africa in search of employment. Typically, these men found work in Mining (13a). At one time labor migration was called going to The Place of the White People (12a). These migrant workers frequently had Sex (14a) with multiple partners while away from home, including Prostitutes (12d). It was also common for wives left behind in Lesotho to seek a Lover (15a). Bonyatsi, the practice of having sexual partners outside of Marriage(5a), has a long history in Lesotho. In recent decades, this practice has contributed to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)(16a) like Syphilis (7a) and HIV. Sharing of Needles (5d) is a far less common source of HIV/AIDS transmission than sexual intercourse. HIV/AIDS is spread by a Virus (10d) that can be transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. Those having high-risk sex should use Condoms (3a) in order To Pro-

Text: Read the paragraphs and match the English words under-



tect (1a) themselves from HIV/AIDS. For men, medical Circumcision (19a) can also provide as much as 60% protection from HIV infection (3d). Together with reduction of Multiple and Concurrent Partnership (MCP), these strategies can contribute greatly to Prevention (5c) of HIV/AIDS. Those who do not know their HIV status are advised to seek Voluntary Testing (6d) and Counseling from a health Clinic (14d). Those testing positive have a Responsibility (4a) to inform their sexual partners; however, they often face stigma or violence for doing so.

People Living with HIV/AIDS have Rights (13d), including the right to seek Care (18a) from health centers. There, depending on their condition, A Nurse (4d) may prescribe Anti-Retrovirals (11d) to combat HIV or Medication (1c) to treat opportunistic infections like Thrush or Tuberculosis (21a). In Lesotho, Nurses and Nurse Clinicians will generally coordinate care of Patients (3c), particularly when a Doctor (2a) is not available. Those who are HIV-positive but do not seek medical care or seek it only from Traditional Healers (8a) (or A Mokoma (4c)), will deteriorate in health. In association with medical providers, Support Groups (20a) also deliver some care, typically at home, for HIV/AIDS patients, Orphans (17a), and the elderly. Their work includes bathing patients, to ensure that they maintain good Hygiene (2d). For HIV-positive individuals, it is also particularly important that their Nutrition (9a) be Good (6a). HIV/AIDS can be exacerbated by Hunger (10a) and poor diet, which often results from poverty. Thus gardening or An Income Generating Activity (11a) can improve the well being of infected individuals.

Behavior change is at the heart of HIV/AIDS prevention efforts in Lesotho. In addition to decreasing MCP, behavior change should address Gender Discrimination (9d), which is linked to high rates of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa. Sexual Abuse (1d) prevention and mitigation training should also be included in Life Skills education. Stigmatization of victims and under-reporting often allows criminals To Rape (8d) with impunity. Behavior change should also encourage every Pregnant Woman (2c) to test and receive PMTCT treatment if she is infected. Regardless of their status, WHO guidelines advise mothers To Breastfeed (7d) exclusively. Only by stopping inter-generational sex, mother-to-child transmission, and MCP can Lesotho achieve the goal of an HIV-free generation.

## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE PEACE CORPS WORLD**

Dear Peace Corps Volunteer:

I am very pleased to invite you to take part in the 2012 Annual Volunteer Survey. Your voice is essential to our efforts to build a stronger Peace Corps and to advance our mission of world peace and friendship. This survey is your opportunity to share your experiences and recommendations, and I encourage you to provide honest, thoughtful responses to these questions. As a returned Volunteer myself, I am familiar with the peaks and valleys of Peace Corps service. I want to hear about your successes and your challenges. The responses that you provide will help to shape the agency's programming in the years to come.

We rely on the survey results to increase the effectiveness of our projects, to improve the quality of our relationships with individuals in the countries where we serve, and to enhance your overseas volunteer experience. The information you and your fellow Volunteers provide will allow us to make programmatic and managerial changes that will contribute to improvements in the lives of the individuals in the communities where you live and work. I have personally used the AVS results to inform key policy decisions and have heard from many country directors how useful the survey results are to them, as they work to improve training, staff support, and impact.

The survey begins today and will be available through Septem-

ber 3, 2012. Please inform your post when you have completed and submitted the survey; it should take you less than one hour to finish. Each year, the number of Volunteers completing the AVS increases, so after reaching a historically high response of 86 percent last year, I hope an even greater number of Volunteers will participate this year. For the first time ever, the 2012 AVS will be conducted exclusively online—the web-based 2012 AVS is customized to ask you questions that are most relevant to your specific circumstances.

I am committed to improving the Volunteer experience for you and the Volunteers who serve after you. As we consider how best to improve our operations, your input is needed. I urge all Volunteers to set aside time to complete this survey as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing service as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

Sincerely,  
Aaron S. Williams  
Director

## **2012 Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Volunteers**

### **When will the 2012 Annual Volunteer Survey (AVS) begin and end?**

The 2012 AVS begins on June 18, 2012 and ends on September 3, 2012, the last day that Volunteers can access the online survey. Click here to access the 2012 AVS. If you cannot use the hotlink, you can type this URL address: [www.peacecorps.gov/AVS2012](http://www.peacecorps.gov/AVS2012) into your browser.

### **Who should take the 2012 AVS?**

Please participate in the 2012 AVS if you are a currently serving Volunteer and have been at your site at least ONE FULL MONTH. If you were recently sworn in, please delay taking the AVS until you have been at your site at least ONE FULL MONTH (or longer) so you will be better able to answer more of the AVS questions. You may complete the AVS as late as September 3rd. The online AVS will not be available after 8:00am (Washington, DC time) on September 4, 2012.

### **Who should NOT take the 2012 AVS?**

Volunteers who have not been at their sites at least one month and Trainees are not eligible to participate in the 2012 AVS. Response Volunteers are also not eligible; Response Volunteers about to COS will be asked to complete a separate survey only for Response Volunteers.

### **Why should I take the AVS?**

The AVS offers you an opportunity to share your candid views and experiences through a confidential survey. You will be asked about your Peace Corps training, assignment and activities, safety and security, and support from the post. Your answers, along with those of thousands of other currently serving Volunteers, will help the Peace Corps assess service delivery to Volunteers and determine what may need to be improved. The survey is a key source of information that answers two questions: "How well is the Peace Corps meeting the needs of Volunteers?" and "What is the Volunteers' perspective on how Peace Corps can further improve its effectiveness in meeting host country needs?"

### **Is the 2012 Annual Volunteer Survey anonymous?**

Yes. You do not enter your name or your email address when you take the Annual Volunteer Survey. When you begin the survey online, you will receive a computer-generated AVS logon ID, in case you need to stop and later return to complete your sur-

vey. You can use this ID to return to your survey if your internet connection is interrupted, for example, after the internet connection is restored.

#### How do I complete the 2012 AVS?

From June 18th through September 3rd, you and other eligible Volunteers can use the hotlink above to log in and complete the online 2012 AVS. The URL for the 2012 AVS will be live on June 18, 2012. Please note that the 2012 AVS link is NOT the same link used for prior Volunteer Surveys. When logging on for the first time, you will receive a computer-generated ID which you MUST WRITE DOWN AND SAVE, so that you can stop, re-enter, and complete the survey at a later time, if needed. When you press SUBMIT to complete your online AVS, you will see a completion page. This will confirm that you have both completed and submitted the AVS. You should print or copy this confirmation page, as documentation which you can email to your country director that you have completed the survey.

#### What do I do if I have problems with the 2012 AVS?

If you have any questions or encounter problems logging on to the online AVS, you can send an email to [osirp@peacecorps.gov](mailto:osirp@peacecorps.gov) to request assistance. If you lose your computer-generated ID, you may send an email with your post and secret word/phrase to the same email address for help with your ID. The Peace Corps' Office of Strategic Information, Research and Planning (OSIRP) staff will personally respond to you as quickly as possible to help resolve your issue. Because your name and email address are not associated with your survey, you will need to provide the OSIRP staff with the secret word or phrase (up to 30 characters with no personal identifiers) you entered at the beginning of the survey. The secret word/phrase helps us to ensure you can re-connect and complete your survey.

#### How are the results used?

The 2012 AVS results, without any personal identifiers, will be tabulated and disseminated to country directors and headquarters by late October 2012 to: Inform Peace Corps Director Aaron William about Volunteers' recommendations on ways to improve the overall Volunteer experience Examine and compare Volunteers' assessments of the effectiveness of their post and project-specific training, support and assignment work Report grouped multiple choice and open-ended responses from all Volunteers at your post to country directors and post staff, as well as to the Office of Global Operations and Regions Compare Volunteers' experiences and views across posts and projects over time Plan and prepare for future training and program needs, and allocate resources effectively.

#### What is a good survey response rate and why is it so important?

When a post achieves a 70% response rate, we can: be more confident that the results reflect the full range of Volunteers' unique perspectives analyze and report out project-specific responses without compromising confidentiality. Every year, posts receive a set of increasingly more detailed AVS reports, comparing the views of recently arrived Volunteers with those who have served longer, as well as comparisons across projects, and even by project and cohort. Unless there

are at least five respondents in each category, the detailed AVS results must be withheld to ensure the confidentiality of the survey respondents.

#### How can Volunteers obtain the 2012 AVS results?

You can request a summary of your post's 2012 AVS results from your country director in mid-November, after the global and post-specific results are distributed to Peace Corps posts and headquarters in late October. Key 2012 AVS findings will be reported in the Peace Corps' 2012 Performance and Accountability Report. The global 2012 AVS results will be posted on the Peace Corps' Open Government site: [www.peacecorps.gov/AVS2012](http://www.peacecorps.gov/AVS2012). Previous years' global AVS results are already posted on the Peace Corps' Open Government site.

**TO:** Peace Corps Global  
**FROM:** Aaron S. Williams, Director  
**SUBJECT:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

*(This memo arrived after we disseminated the June issue of the Khotso.)*

I am pleased to designate June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month at the Peace Corps. This month recognizes and honors the many contributions LGBT Americans have made, and continue to make, in our workplace, communities, and country. The theme for this month's observance is "Pride Links Us Together."

Peace Corps' mission strives to promote a better understanding of Americans and our multicultural society in the countries where our Volunteers serve through cross-cultural understanding. On December 6, 2011, President Obama asked all federal agencies to work to advance the human rights of LGBT persons globally. Through daily actions in the field, peer support networks, and workshops to educate and promote dialogue, Peace Corps Volunteers and staff bring people and communities together fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where all individuals' human rights are valued and respected.

To commemorate LGBT Pride Month, Peace Corps staff will be participating in a number of different events across the country, including [parades](#), festivals, and information sessions featuring LGBT returned Volunteers.





### CHED—2012



**Peace Corps Lesotho  
welcomes you to the  
Kingdom in the Sky.**



## Schedule of planned Letsema National and Outreach Forums

Month	Theme	Objective	Venue/District	Dat	Time
January	Letsema membership drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensitize Letsema members about the new membership drive and the new look of the website.</li> </ul>	Maseru Sun (National)	25 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
February	Child Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline basic documents that a child needs to have.</li> <li>Inheritance of children's parents' properties including Land rights.</li> </ul>	Semonkong (Outreach)	08 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	29 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
March	Health and well being (Children with mental disorder)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding and identifying Autism</li> </ul>	Mohale's Hoek (Outreach)	14 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	28 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
April	Health and wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate information about the importance of children immunization.</li> <li>Different common sickness in children</li> </ul>	Semonkong (Outreach)	04 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Leribe (Outreach)	18 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	25 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
May	Health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion on Health vs. Culture</li> </ul>	Mohale's Hoek (Outreach)	16 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	30 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
June	Day of African Child's theme	To raise awareness of the importance of celebrating the Day of African child.	Leribe (Outreach)	18 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	27 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
July	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing previous activities</li> </ul>	Leribe (Outreach)	11 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Mohale's Hoek (Outreach)	19 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	25 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
August	Child trafficking	Strengthen awareness of the Anti-Trafficking in persons Act 2011 to Letsema members including youth organizations.	Leribe (Outreach)	15 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	29 <sup>th</sup>	09h00 – 12h00
September	Psycho-social support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To guide Letsema members on how to implement PSS in their work.</li> </ul>	Mohale's Hoek (Outreach)	5 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Semonkong (Outreach)	19 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	26 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
October	Food and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enlighten OVC service providers on the importance of nutrition and growth of a child.</li> <li>Food Security</li> </ul>	Leribe (Outreach)	10 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Semonkong (Outreach)	17 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Maseru Sun (National)	31 <sup>st</sup>	09h00-12h00
November	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of the year activity review</li> </ul>	Mohale's Hoek	7 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Leribe (Outreach)	14 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Semonkong (Outreach)	21 <sup>st</sup>	09h00-12h00
			Maseru Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	09h00-12h00