

KHOTSO June 2011

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CD Kathy Jacquart Dill and her American *Nkhono*

Message from the Country Director

Dear Volunteers,

It's nice to be back in Lesotho after my vacation in the US. I did have a great time though sharing a bit of Lesotho back home. The day after arriving, I joined my family to celebrate my grandmother's 92nd birthday. I presented her with a small blanket that I finally finished knitting with wool I bought in Iceland on my COS trip in 1991! I had also brought back a Basotho hat to give to my brother. As everyone sat around her living room, my grandmother came out of the kitchen wearing the blanket and hat. It was so cute I had to share a photo.

Since I returned 2 weeks ago, things have been quite busy with the CHED 11 PST TOT, other PST preparations and site visits with Rocio Enriquez (CHED 09), Sara Green (ED 10) and Parker Bryant (ED 10) in Mokhotlong and Karolina Lobrow (CHED 09) in Mapheleng. Rocio took Sara and me to a WFP food distribution site where we got to speak with beneficiaries who had had lost crops and animals due to the heavy rains this year. Sara and I visited an ECCD

center and a reception she works at and spoke to the teachers about ways they've incorporated in their classrooms some of the things Sara has taught them. Parker, Sara and I visited a school where Kristine Movalli (CHED 09) finished a PCPP project, which entailed wiring the school for electricity and installing lights. The students, particularly those who board, were thrilled to be able to study after dark (or so they claimed). Finally, I spent a few hours with Karolina meeting several wonderful staff at a clinic where she's worked and being treated to delicious Polish pancakes!

Below are a few random reminders and other info that has come up recently:

- The **Basotho Shield** burned down early in the morning of May 25th. Many artisans, including those with whom Adam Peel (CHED 10) works, lost a lot of merchandise. Very sad.
- If you have an **issue or concern**, I hope you know that you should always feel free to share it in writing, by phone or in person with me or any other staff. We appreciate your input. You might not always get the response you're looking for, but hopefully we can at least discuss your concern.
- Volunteers serving on **committees** need to be cleared by staff. Committee chairs should submit names of proposed committee members to the respective committee staff liaison.
- You must text the **Whereabouts Phone** anytime you will be away from your site overnight. If you don't get a response text again, or call the number. If you decide to leave site on a weekend, you must text the Duty Phone. Traveling without receiving an acknowledgement that your message has been delivered isn't acceptable. This is for your safety and security in case of emergency. Please cooperate!

Believe me, I dislike reiterating rules as much as you probably dislike hearing them, but we've noticed that folks sometimes forget.

Khotso!
Kathy

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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 1st 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.

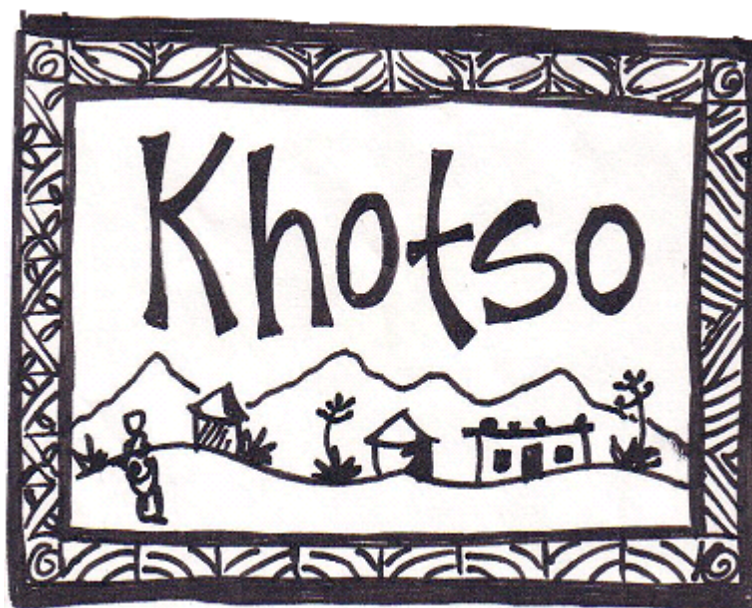
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you.

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 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.

June

Irena Erdeg	June 10
Amy Jo Carson	June 17
Rocio Enriquez	June 17
Brenda Ryan,	June 20
Evan Anderman-Hahn,	June 21

July

Melissa Hill	July 8
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Staff Birthdays**June**

Malitaba Hlabana	June 6
Lereko Mofokeng	June 15
Matlanyane Mamokola	June 13

July

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

Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays**June**

June 2— Ascension Day (LS Holiday)*

July

July 4— Independence Day (US Holiday)*
July 17— King's Birthday (LS Holiday)*

*PC Lesotho remains closed on this day.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Full name: David Seutloali

Job title: Training Driver

Background: Born and raised in Nazareth, Lesotho.

Jobs prior to PC Lesotho: Worked as a radio presenter and a taxi driver.

Family status (married? kids?): Married with one daughter.

Most favorite part of your job: Really, it is just doing my work.

Least favorite part of your job: Working in the store at the PC office.

What do you do in your free time?: Drive trucks, taxis and work as a messenger for the district court. And of course, I love playing football (the kind where only the goal keeper touches the ball with hands).

If you hosted a dinner party, who would you want to come?: Tom Thabane and Barrack Obama.

Advice for PCVs in Lesotho: Take really good care of yourselves and stay safe.

ADMIN CORNER – By Jim

If the June edition of the Admin Corner seems a little “disjointed” I apologize. I was under the impression the world was going to end last Saturday (May 21st) as predicted so now I am playing “catch up” on several things.

In the six months or so that I have been here, I can easily tell you what the hardest part of this job has been. I will never get used to saying goodbye to PCVs COSing or on their way back to the States for reasons beyond their control. The CHED 09 group had their COS conference a few weeks ago and I am already saddened by their impending departures. On the other hand I know I can speak for other staff members in saying that one of the best things is for us to welcome new PCVs and the 22 CHED 11 trainees will be arriving on June 3rd. Whatever support and encouragement you can give them as your paths cross would be greatly appreciated by all of us.

If you are planning on taking the Foreign Service Exam in June (or any other standardized test) you should know that Peace Corps allows you up to three days leave in order to do so. Please keep in mind, however, that the costs of travel and/or accommodations to the exam are on you. In Maseru the Anglican Training Center is still the cheapest option, but you are certainly not required to stay there. Please make sure you submit the required forms and notification so we know where (and when) you are travelling.

We (as did every other PC post) took a pretty good hit on our approved 2011 budget during a mid year review. It seems like every government office has a bulls eye on it financially right now, but it won't interfere with our PCV support for all of you.

Progress in being made (although slowly) on a new PC office site. At the moment we are hoping to move to the “Pink Palace” at the intersection of Kingsway and Moshoeshoe. The approval process can be quite lengthy in Washington, however. We have submitted the proper paperwork, but it isn't likely anything will happen in the next several months. As a result, please stay vigilant when traveling to and from the current office. It still isn't considered a “safe” area by any means.

'M'e Victoria and Baby Makori are doing well. She checks in periodically with baby updates. We hope to have her back in the office by July 6th. On a similar note we have started the “M'e Rohini baby pool in the office. Deepak says she is due mid-June. The calendar is on the bulletin board by reception. As before it is M10 per square (date), winner take all...!

That's about it for now. Remember, we are here for you. Don't forget that and as always...please stay safe...!

EDUCATION CORNER—By Ntate Clement & 'Me Malitaba

Likhomo tseo le manamane a tsona!

With winter break coming up shortly, we are aware that a number of you will be taking vacation time. Please make sure that you process your paperwork ahead of time and as indicated elsewhere in this edition provide full details of your itinerary. For those who plan to remain at sites during this time we encourage you to explore opportunities to work more with the youth since they have a good two months without many obligations. Peace Corps has produced a great resource manual for those interested in working with the youth and below is a description of what the manual is all about:

WHY A VOLUNTEER MANUAL ON WORKING WITH YOUTH?

Since the first Volunteer stepped off the airplane in Accra,

Ghana, in 1961, and in other countries around the world since then, local youth have been watching and interacting with Peace Corps Volunteers. Local young people offer Volunteers opportunities to develop enriching relationships that can satisfy Volunteers' aspirations to make a meaningful difference, participate in family life activities, and have fun.

Youth work crosses all sectors of Peace Corps projects. At various times during your Peace Corps experience, you will have opportunities to make a positive impact on the local young people. If your primary assignment is in the youth development area, we urge you to use this book to gather ideas for activities to support the goals and objectives of your Peace Corps Project Plan. If your primary responsibilities are in another sector, this book is for you too. Increasingly, youth are being recognized as an important and worthy group to target in development activities. This book can help you connect your project to young people.

Sustainable development must include young men and women. Helping youth build their knowledge and skills is an important investment in the future and should be part of every Volunteer's work. Fortunately, young women and men are like sponges. When given the opportunity, they can absorb and retain a wealth of information and experiences that can strongly influence their development and that of their families and communities.

This manual is intended to complement knowledge, intuition, and good intentions in your encounters with youth. It can support your efforts by helping you make more informed and thoughtful decisions as you engage young people in discussions and activities. Through advice and information from Volunteers, staff, and experts, this manual will provide you with creative and innovative Working With Youth: Approaches for Volunteers ideas for activities that are founded on development principles and gathered from experience throughout the world. This manual is not only an information resource, but we hope also a source of encouragement and inspiration. We hope you will find this manual useful, if you need further info, please contact 'm'e 'Makhauta, 'm'e 'Malitaba or Clement.

Site Visits:

This week we conducted the last round of site visits to the ED 10s (see photos), and we are proud to say that despite the many challenges you have faced, you seem to be holding on and enjoying your experiences. We would like to thank you wholeheartedly for your dedication and patience in working with our local schools and communities. Please take a look at some of the moments we captured during our visits elsewhere in this edition!

Staff on vacation:

With 'vacation season' here we are also planning to take a few weeks to recharge!!! 'M'e 'Malitaba will be out May 31 through June 17. Ntate Clement will be sunning himself on some tropical island July 4–22. Please note that during the vacations we will not be in possession of the Peace Corps cell phones, hence one of the reasons we are not taking vacation at the same time!

CHED Corner By—Charles Miller & 'M'e Selloane

Hi CHEDers. Winter has arrived! Snow has already fallen in the highlands and we've already pulled out our winter clothes. Colder weather also signals the impending arrival of our newest CHED training class. Staff and Volunteers have been busy planning for their pre-service training.

CHED 11 PST:

CHED11 includes 22 eager individuals ready to begin PST. Our newest group consists of five men and 17 women; two married couples; 4 trainees over 50 years and 18 who are in their early



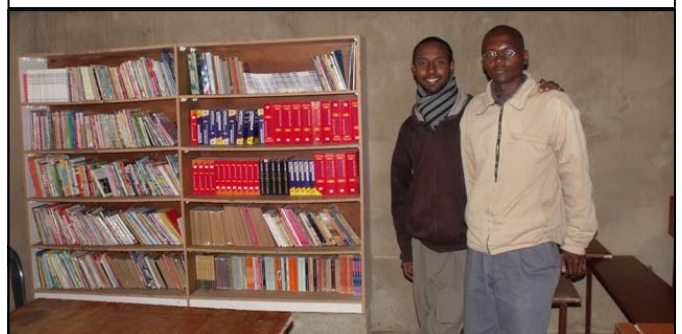
Dustin Tamsen with pupils from Thabana Morena Primary.



A spirit of oneness... Adam Santos and nate Matjelo (host nate) at Qholaqhoe.



Kali Bechtold with colleagues at Mekaling SS.



A team from 'Mantoetsi SS showing off a newly build library, Nathan and Ntate Rabele, the principal.



Nate Landrum doing what he does best at Ha Sefako.



Eric Pierce doing his best to guide the learners at Thuto ke Leseli SS.



A form B class at Linokong HS with Andrea Holmen looking on.



Joey Lehnhard relaxing with her host 'm'e (left) and a teacher from Phechela



Ntate Majara seemingly dancing to some music whilst Katie Shepard looks on.



Ryan McClaine and principal Ntate Rampai beaming with happiness having just received ALP books.

to late 20s; and several multiple-degreed trainees. We've had phone calls with the vast majority of trainees, and they are all eager to start the "Lesotho" chapter of their lives.

As we prepare to welcome CHED11, take a minute or two to remember what things were like for you when you first arrived? You wanted to know everything all at once, but time and experience are part of the overall Peace Corps adventure. Resist the urge to tell trainees virtually everything you know. *Discovering some things on one's own is exciting and empowering.*

As you meet the CHED11 trainees, please discuss your experiences with your job, the project, your village and community members—the successes and the challenges you've faced and how you are working to overcome them. Since all sites are different, remember to clarify that what happens in your community could likely be very different in their community.

Think about how and what you say in the company of our new trainees since first impressions have lasting effects on new, and very attentive trainees. During my first few days in Guyana I met a Foreign Service Officer who proceeded to bad-mouth Guyana (and my new home for the next two years). I wondered why he'd stayed since he hated it so much and vowed not to let his experience impact my own.

Staff and Volunteers have worked diligently to plan and improve upon PST – a continual process where no two PSTs are exactly alike. Some of the changes to this PST are a longer stay with Host Families focused on improved language, culture and com-

munity integration, which begins on the day of their arrival; and improvements to PACA training, and more training on working with youth. We are also using 3 new villages on the Berea plateau, and are excited to introduce more Basotho to Peace Corps.

We are hopeful the weather will cooperate so we can include visits to remote areas during the Host Volunteer Visit, and we plan to make use of the more-involved site placement process initiated last year.

Thanks to all of you for helping to welcome our newest Trainees to Peace Corps Lesotho, and for helping to start their two years of service on a positive note.

CHED 11 Site Identification:

This is the last call for site identification for CHED11 as we work on putting the final touches on sites for our new Volunteers. For those of you helping to identify sites, please remind host agencies that we're wrapping up this process so any new requests for Volunteers should be submitted by the end of May.

Trimester Reports:

Trimester Reports for the February 1st through May 31st reporting period are due June 15th. Please remember to complete all sections of the report. Incomplete reports will be returned to be completed and resubmitted correctly.

Thank you, CHED 09!

Thank you to the CHED 09 Volunteers (Rocio, Irena, Brice, Ed, Melissa, Chris, Elissa, Karolina, Erin, Kristine and Greg) as you conclude two years of service in Lesotho. We wish you the best as you wrap up your projects and prepare to head off into the sunset.

We invite all Volunteers to write congratulatory or thank you messages for any of the CHED 09 Volunteers and drop the messages into their envelopes outside 'M'e Selloane's office. Alternatively, you can email any messages you have for any of the CHED 09 PCVs to Charles, 'M'e Selloane or Ntate Mohale and we'll print the messages and drop them into the respective envelopes. As each of the CHED 09 PCVs complete their service they'll take their envelopes with your inspiring messages.

CHED 10 Reconnect:

August 2011 is the mid-point of service for CHED 10. This is typically the time we gather Volunteers for their annual medical check-in at a mid-service "reconnect workshop". These workshops are not mandated by PC/W, however, and if we do organize a workshop, we want to be sure it's an effective use of time. Please let us know by Friday, July 1st if you need or want additional training in any of the following areas as this will help us to determine the best use of everyone's time over the next several months: (*please be specific in your request/s for additional training*)

- Promising Behavior Change Strategies
- Food Preservation
- Identifying and Engaging Young Leaders
- Working Effectively with Herd Boys
- Strengthening the Counterpart/Volunteer Relationship
- Village Savings and Loan
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Ideas for training others in small "income generation activities", i.e. beekeeping, crocheting/needlework, etc.
- Other topics – again, please be specific

If we do not hear from anyone by July 1st we will assume there are no needs for additional training.

Leave Requests:

We are receiving an increasing number of incomplete Volunteer Leave Requests. Remember that it is your responsibility to ensure the form is complete; it is not Ntate Mohale's job to complete the form for you. Referring him or any staff member to another Volunteer's form for information is not acceptable and will only delay the processing of your request. Also, submitting late leave requests only adds unnecessary stress to you and us. Your lack of planning is not an emergency. We recognize that there are extenuating circumstances, but every leave request is not extenuating. Plan ahead, please! (The above applies to all Volunteers.)

Finally, please remember to copy both 'M'e Selloane and Charles on any CHED work-related emails. This helps to ensure that we can provide a timely response in case one of us is out of the office.

Thanks again for your hard work. Stay tuned for more "Gold Star" activities in the next edition of The Khotso!

HIV and AIDS Corner By 'M'e Jimi

To all our current Volunteers, we'd like to acknowledge your great work in HIV/AIDS, which has helped Basotho communities to reduce the rate/impact of HIV/AIDS. We once again assure you of our support and remind you of our open door policy to support you and your work.

Reporting on HIV/AIDS Work:

Reporting your work on HIV/AIDS is an excellent way of sharing and celebrating our collective achievements, challenges and contributions to the response to HIV/AIDS. This information is shared with the United States Government and the Government of Lesotho. It also helps us make informed decisions towards programming for the HIV/AIDS response. This past month, we compiled all HIV/AIDS data reported in your VRFs for a semi-annual PEPFAR report. We'd like to recognize your efforts and challenges with reporting. The two most common challenges in completing the VRF seem to be:

- ◇ Leaving things out: Some of you forget to include HIV/AIDS information even when you have done something.
- ◇ Double counting: Some of you report the same beneficiaries under all indicators. Remember to only report the beneficiaries once, choosing the indicator which most closely matches the activity. For example: Youth Life Skills should only be reported under one indicator, not two.

We are working to improve and strengthen reporting, but we need your help! Again, if you have questions or aren't sure where to report an activity, please ask your PA, APCD or me.

Grants: (VAST, PCPP, FOL)

Volunteer Activity Support and Training (VAST)

In the past, Volunteers experienced challenges with accessing VAST funds due to unclear processes. Since 2010 we've tried to improve upon training and management of grants, with feedback from many of you. The Office of AIDS Relief (OAR) in Peace Corps Washington provided us with new guidelines, which have helped to make it easier for Volunteers and their Counterparts to initiate a community project, and we have incorporated these guidelines into Volunteer training. If you need additional guidance on proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, do not hesitate to ask.

Volunteers who would like to submit an application for a VAST grant, please remember that grant applications are accepted at any time once a Volunteer has participated in the Project Design

Management Workshop. The steps for applying for such funds include:

Step 1: A group or organization with which you work discussed a need for which they lack certain resources. If a VAST grant could help meet that need, you can then...

Step 2: Discuss it with your District AIDS Representative (DAR) member or any other DAR member to solicit feedback. Next you...

Step 3: Share the idea with the HIV/AIDS Coordinator, APCD, or PA for initial feedback. Once you have responded to any feedback...

Step 4: Complete the application with your community counterparts and submit the application.

Step 5: Staff & DAR members review it and provide feedback to you and your counterparts on how the application might be strengthened or the project improved.

Step 6: You and your counterparts make any necessary revisions and resubmit.

Step 7: Staff review the revised application to ensure that feedback has been adequately addressed and, if recommended for approval, submit it to the CD for final review and approval.

Step 8: Once approved, money is available within about 2-4 wks.

While we strive for less than 2 months for the whole process, it can take a few months depending on the quality of the application during the submission and resubmission process.

Peace Corps Partnership Program (PCPP)

If you and your community have come up with a project which is **not HIV/AIDS** related, a Volunteer can mobilize funds from your family and friends back home through PCPP. Forms and additional information can be accessed through your APCD/PA or via the Peace Corps Share Point in the Volunteer Resource Center (VRC).

HIV/AIDS Resources and Technical Support to PCVs

I have a stock of HIV/AIDS resources available for your use. This includes resources from around the region focusing on a variety of topics including youth activities, behavior change, and nutrition, to name a few. The resources may add value to some of your activities, or may help in providing you ideas for engaging others in your community. Please stop by my office with your flash drive to pick up these handy resource materials.

World AIDS Day (WAD)

HIV/AIDS affects us on daily basis, not just once a year on December 1st! We encourage Volunteers to think about ways to "celebrate" World AIDS Day EVERYDAY. Let's take a stance and remind our communities about this. Continue to share the message of hope. We have a World AIDS Day booklet of wonderful ideas from current and past PCVs that you can do with your communities.

Keep safe & warm this winter!

HEALTH CORNER – By Dr. Victor

The 2011 Flu vaccines are now available, and the medical unit has begun vaccinating PCVs. If you happen to be in Maseru for any reason, please stop by the medical office to get your flu shot. The annual flu shot is mandatory for all volunteers.

- Volunteers are reminded that, except in extraordinary circumstances, they need to schedule appointments or notify the medical office in advance before coming to the medical unit for medical consultations. PCVs should always endeavor to contact the medical office for an appointment or authorization to come to Maseru for medical reasons. This is in keeping with the Health Unit's policies and procedures.

- Requests for medications and supplies should be submit-

ted in advance whenever possible. This, again, is in keeping with the Health Unit's policies. In situations where a PCV has to access health care at a local private or public hospital/clinic, prior authorization should be sought from the PCMO.

Medical duty phone: 628 51003 (business hours only for non-emergencies, but 24/7 for emergencies).

- To order meds & supplies or schedule appointments, contact us on 628 66050.

Thank you for your co-operation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL

May 26 – June 10	Malitaba on leave
June 3 – August 12	CHED 11 PST
June 13	Education Project Framework Mtg
July 4 – 22	Clement on vacation
August 19-20	ED COS conference at Tsehlanyane National Park (details will be sent shortly)
Aug-Sept	ED Site development

DUTY OFFICER SCHEDULE

June 6 - 12, 2011	PA ED
June 13 - 19, 2011	PA CHED
June 20 - 26, 2011	SSC
June 27 - July 3, 2011	ITS
July 4 - 10, 2011	FA
July 11 - 17, 2011	GSO
July 18 - 24, 2011	CD
July 25 - 31, 2011	AO

PCV Corner

Peace Corps Computers

By Nathan Birhanu, ED10

Hello PCVs,



I sent out an e-mail about a month and half ago regarding the embassy computers that are available for volunteers to have donated for their site. I just wanted to remind volunteers to submit their request for a computer by June 9th. The application consists of the following questions:

1. Name of volunteer:
2. Site Location (Village and District):
3. Location where computer will be kept:
4. Intended use of the

computer:

5. Best approximation of the number of Basotho who will have an opportunity to use the computer:

If putting in a request, please e-mail me the answers to the above questions to n554@hotmail.com. If you did not receive the original e-mail, which gives greater details, please let me know and I will forward it to you. Thanks!

You Are Welcome

By Tam Weiss, ED10



Two mid sized rooms with cracked window panes and dung smeared floors sit on a ledge overlooking the Senqu river. Six primary classes are taught within these buildings. Three teachers. The nearest camptown is about three hours walking. It doesn't seem like a recipe for success. And yet...

"You are welcome," Ntate shares his soft smile with me. I've just asked about our schedule for next Tuesday. We are standing outside his classroom after one of my weekly visits. I come to work with his classes and the classes of the principal. This week I observed an English class and taught rounding decimals. Next week we rotate – I'll watch math then teach English.

"Ok, so next week I will watch your lesson on percentage? You can use that same game we used today, it should be ok."

"Yes, Mme. I have seen how they show fractions and decimals, and percentages, they are all related, so..." he pulls the concepts together with his hands in the air in front of us. "Yes Mme," he repeats as he turns back to me, "You are welcome."

"Thank you Ntate! And thank you for today! I think the children had fun too."

"Yes, I have seen that they have somehow understood, they have somehow gotten this concept." He pauses, and I'm waiting for what I think will be his goodbye.

Instead he looks back at the classroom door we are standing just outside of, and when he turns back he has a huge grin. He begins to tick something off on his large chalk dusted hands.

"You know, this school, we have gotten best results in math," he glances up at me from this statement symbolized by his pinky, and then keeps going by taking another finger, "Best results in English," and he quickly grabs a third finger, "and best overall results for this region." He beams.

"What!?! Ntate! This school?"

"So you see, Mme. We are somehow listening. And we are somehow not just listening. We are doing."

"Fantastic, Ntate! Hantle!"

"Yes, Mme. This school. Our school. Next week we will go to pick up the trophies." He holds up his three fingers again. "Those three trophies."

I take his hand. "Ntate, I am not surprised. You have the most loving and dedicated teachers working here. And the students love to learn.

And that is something, a love that they also learn from you."

He grins and looks down shyly. We hold hands for a minute in the morning sun, listening to the light rustling of dry corn stalks

tiptoe across the wind. The river flows far below us. The song of time passing and time standing still.

I remember my first visit to the school, when I saw only decrepit blackboards, students crowded on precarious small wooden benches or sitting on the floor, and teachers juggling two classes at a time.

I remember the warmth with which the principal welcomed me to try teaching, sharing with me her challenging topics with which I could assist, and carefully reviewing the lesson plans I brought before teaching.

I remember when we began co teaching to be sure students learned and that we learned from each other.

I remember my English lessons with children fascinated by my tape recorder replaying the voices of local Basotho telling a story, while they read the words printed on the chart paper behind me and the principal translated into Sesotho.

I remember teaching lessons and Ntate and I carefully going over what went well, what to improve, and making goals for next time.

“Ntate, thank you so much for telling me, but really I am not surprised. This school is a very special place. You must be so happy. Thank you for making me feel so welcome here, and for having me join your school.”

“Yes, you are welcome, Mme.”

We drop hands.

“See you next week, Ntate.”

“Yes, Mme.”

He returns to his eager students, and I walk the hour back to my village.



Peace Corps Cookbook

By Chante Liggins, CHED10

Do you have any new recipes you'd like to share with the Volunteer community? Please submit recipes or input on any of the recipes in the current cookbook so we can take them into account in the next edition, which will be distributed to the CHED11s. Submissions should be sent to me at cmlliggins@gmail.com by June 17th.

25th Friends of Lesotho Anniversary

By Dyann Van Dusen, RPCV

Reunion and Anniversary Information on Facebook:
While you are all making plans in Lesotho to celebrate the Peace Corps 50th anniversary, FOL is busy planning its 25th anniversary celebration to be held in D.C. We will have a Reception and Welcome on Friday evening, September 23, along with a multimedia presentation, an address by the Ambassador from Lesotho, and time to socialize and network. On Saturday morning, September 24, we will get updated on Lesotho with a series of speakers, hear from Friends of Lesotho, and discuss ways we can help Lesotho. And, Lesotho RPCVs will be marching as a

group in the 50th anniversary celebration parade—showing our PC and Lesotho pride by wearing special t-shirts. Details about t-shirts will be coming on the FOL links below. If you are about to COS, we hope you can join us.

If you would like to be on the mailing list for up-dates, drop Bill Reed, Planning Committee Chair an e-mail at: wc44reed@gmail.com. Updated information about our Reunion

w i l l a l s o b e o n
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfLesotho25th>;
<http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/> and
<http://events.peacecorps50.org/>

Grants Available to RPCVs

Are you are about to become an RPCV?

Have you fallen in love with Lesotho and its people?

Do you have a project idea that didn't get funded because you ran out of time?

If you answered yes to these questions, FOL may be able to help.

Thanks to the continued generous donations from our members and other special donors, Friends of Lesotho has money ready to be put to use in Lesotho...and not just for current PCVs. Several projects we currently support were initiated by RPCVs in collaboration with Basotho partners.

FOL has not established a maximum grant amount but would definitely consider grants up to \$3,000. For larger projects we will consider providing matching funds if the applicant has commitments from other donors.

Basic Grant Guidelines

(1) Does the project have local buy-in and some form of matching support such as labour or use of a building; (2) Will there be a finished product, lasting impact or a method to assure sustainability; (3) Are the budget and completion timeframe realistic (4) Is there a reliable local contact for progress reports and documentation of how the funds were used (receipts, photos, etc.)

Note: FOL does not make grants to cover travel between the US and Lesotho or for travel while in Lesotho. Contact Richard Rowan, Donations Committee Chair(qhomaki@mac.com) or Dyann Van Dusen, Co-Chair (dyvandusen@yahoo.com) for more information. Or, go to the FOL Website Project Page for a grant application: <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org/project-funding-support/how-to-apply-for-funding/>

JOIN FOL FOR FREE

Complimentary membership in FOL is available to all active PCVs and RPCVs for 12 months from their date of COS. Just click JOIN from any page on FOL's website and follow the simple steps. One of the benefits of joining while serving is access to our website membership directory—a good resource to locate RPCVs from your home state or those who served in your district. RPCVs who want to continue to serve Lesotho by becoming a committee or Board member will be asked to pay the \$15 annual membership dues.

Thanks from all of us at FOL for your service to Lesotho. We very much enjoy reliving our service by reading about yours in Khotso. If you would like to share more about your life in Lesotho, send your blog addresses to Marty Smith, mwsmith13@gmail.com FOL Website Administrator (RPCV 2004-2006) so he can post them on our website

News From Around the Peace Corps World

Peace Corps Director Testifies Before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 11, 2011 – Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Peace Corps' enhanced safety, health and support measures for volunteers serving around the world. The hearing, entitled "Peace Corps at 50", also included testimony from returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), Peace Corps' Inspector General and members of the Peace Corps community.

In prepared testimony, Director Williams outlined ways the Peace Corps has increased its support to volunteers who have been the victim of a sexual assault or other crime. Since Director Williams took office in August 2009, the Peace Corps has instituted several new measures to improve the agency's sexual assault risk reduction and response program. Director Williams' testimony can be found in its entirety [here](#).

"The health, safety, and support of every member of our Peace Corps family is my number one priority," said Peace Corps Director Williams in a prepared statement. "The Peace Corps of today takes the issue of sexual assault prevention and response seriously and we are dedicated to providing compassionate victim-centered care. Since I became Director, the Peace Corps has put in place new policies to reduce the risks faced by volunteers and to ensure they receive our full support when a tragedy occurs."

The Director continued his statement by detailing the measures the Peace Corps has taken to strengthen global operations and improve the quality of care provided to volunteers. He concluded his statement by offering sincere thanks to the Peace Corps volunteers of yesterday, today and tomorrow for their commitment to public service.

The Peace Corps will continue to make additional changes as the agency works with returned volunteers, other government agencies and leaders in the field of sexual assault risk reduction and response. The Peace Corps has instituted the following reforms to strengthen safety and security procedures and ensure compassionate care for victims of crime.

Issued Peace Corps' Commitment to Sexual Assault Victims, a set of core principles to ensure we provide timely, effective, and compassionate support to victims of sexual assault:

- 1) Implemented and trained staff on our new Guidelines for Responding to Rape and Sexual Assault. The guidelines emphasize a victim-centered approach with specific procedures posts must follow to respond promptly to an incident and provide the best possible support to a victim.
- 2) The agency's Sexual Assault Working Group is developing a comprehensive sexual assault prevention and response program. The working group includes returned volunteers and survivors of rape and sexual assault, as well as staff with expertise in trauma response.
- 3) At the suggestion of returned Peace Corps volunteers with First Response Action, Peace Corps hired a nationally recognized leader in victims' rights to be the agency's first victim's advocate. The victim's advocate will make sure victims of crime get the emotional, medical, legal, and other support they need.
- 4) Created the Peace Corps Volunteer Sexual Assault Panel, made up of outside experts and returned volunteers who were victims of sexual assault, to help Peace Corps design and implement sexual assault risk reduction and response strategies.