

# KHOTSO

December 2012

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## Message from the Country Director



Ambassador Bond and Peace Corps Regional Director Dick Day with PC Lesotho staff.

Dear Volunteers,

After hosting my boss, the Africa Region Director, who visited us for a few days, I started the month with great visits in Mokhotlong and observed ED 12s Caitlin Vincent, Nick Mast, and Katie Beuchel teach science and math classes. They are in very different schools with class sizes ranging from 12 to over 100! You've heard it before, but it is truly inspiring to see Volunteers working in dirt poor schools, interacting on a personal level with their students and clearly making a difference in their lives. Makes a country director proud! I also visited CHED 12s Anri Tanabe and Carlaine Reynolds, who have settled into the highlands quite nicely.

At their Phase III training, CHED12s shared very inspiring stories from their first 3 months, and all mentioned how

well integrated they feel. This is exactly what we hoped for and are proud of the working they've begun.

With PST winding down, I'd like to encourage the ED13s to hang in there and try to get the most out of the remaining weeks of training. You're doing great and are almost there!

I wish you all a safe and happy "festive season"!

Khotsong!  
Kathy

### Editorial Staff

Managing Editor – Kathy Jacquart Dill, Country Director

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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.

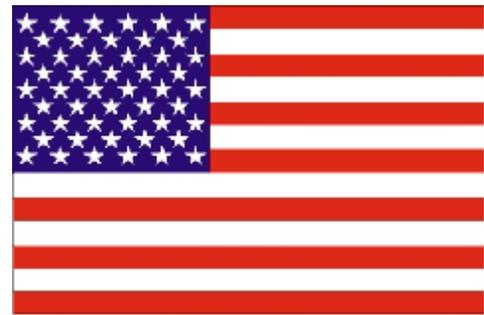
The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you.

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!

**December**

Nees Van Baalen, Morgan – 4  
Kelleher, Chelsea – 6  
Helie, Delia – 8  
Jayaraman, Aparna – 15  
Selete, Peter (Driver/PST Logistician) – 23  
Eysallenne, Mishelle – 26  
Ramaliehe, Maliabo (Janitor) – 30

**January**

Lawrence, Amanda – 4  
Solano, Michael – 18  
Nelson, Sadie – 22  
Pullanikkatil, Deepak (IT Specialist) – 22  
Putsoa, Maggie (Cashier) – 23  
Whitley, Annie – 26  
Rosen, Brendan – 27  
Magobet, Tab – 30

**PEACE CORPS LESOTHO HOLIDAYS** (Office closed these days)**December**

Christmas Day – 25 (US & LS Holiday)  
Boxing Day – 26 (LS Holiday)

**January**

New Year's Day – 1 (LS Holiday)  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day – 21 (US Holiday)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND STAFF TRAVEL**

Dec 1	World AIDS Day
Dec 13	CHED PAC Meeting
Dec 10	ED 13 Swearing In
Dec 11-13	ED 13 Supervisors Workshops (North and South)
Dec 12 – Jan 8	M'e Itumeleng on leave
Dec 28 – Jan 4	Ntate Mohale on leave
Jan 1 – Jan 25	M'e Lebohng on leave

**2013 P&T CALENDAR (Repeated from November 2012 Khotso)**

**Note that Volunteers should not plan to take leave during events relevant to their group. If the dates below change and a Volunteer already has approved leave during the new dates, they will be excused from the event.**

*ED 12 Mid-Service – date to be confirmed; sometime between Jan 16 and 19*

Feb 7	VRFs due
Feb 11-15	CHED 12 HIV/AIDS & PDM Workshop (South)
Feb 18-22	CHED 12 HIV/AIDS & PDM Workshop (North)
March 21-27	ED 13 Phase III
March 27	ED PAC Meeting
April 22-26	CHED 13 PST TOT
May 9-10	CHED 11 COS Conference
June 7	CHED 13 Trainees Arrive; PST begins; VRFs due

June 9-14	ED 13 HIV/AIDS & PDM Workshop (North)
June 16-21	ED 13 HIV/AIDS & PDM Workshop (South)
July 20-21	ED 13 Language IST (North and South)
Aug 6	CHED 11 COS Date
Aug 12	CHED 13 Swearing In
Aug 13-15	CHED 13 Supervisors Workshops (North and South)
Aug 30 – Sept 1	ED12 COS Conference
Sept 9-11	CHED 12 Mid-Service
Sept 16-20	ED 14 PST TOT
Oct 7	VRFs due
Oct 11	ED 14 Trainees Arrive; PST begins
Nov 17-18	ED 14 IL Workshops (North and South)
Nov 24-30	CHED 13 Phase III
Dec 1	World AIDS Day
Dec 9	ED 14 Swearing In
Dec 11	ED 12 COS Date
Dec 12-14	ED14 Supervisors Workshops (North and South)

**Duty Officer Schedule**

Dec 3 – 9	CD
Dec 10 – 16	DMO
Dec 17 – 23	APCD (ED)
Dec 24 –30	APCD (CHED)
Dec 31 – Jan 6	TM

**STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH – Malisema Makhele, PEPFAR Admin Assistant**

'M'e Malisema has been instrumental in putting together the initial FY13 PEPFAR budget, managed PEPFAR carry-over funds so that we will not require any "early funding" of our FY13 budget and distinguished herself at the recent AA/FA Conference in Tanzania. Her participation was complimented by the Africa Region Chief Admin Officer, and she came back with a good understanding of the transition to the PEPFAR financial planning and management system.

**ADMIN CORNER by Jim****Happy Thanksgiving**

I hope you all had a very Happy Thanksgiving. My family and I spent ours in Namibia. It was great fun, but I must confess I missed Lesotho sooner than expected. It isn't easy being away from home and family for a Holiday like this (especially for those experiencing it for the first time). Please don't hesitate to reach out to others for comfort if you are feeling lonely or separated from loved ones. Remember, we are all family here and like family we are here to support each other.

**Living Allowance Survey**

Just a quick reminder about completing the Living Allowance Survey. To date we have received five back, which is far short of the 75% response required to request an increase in the Living Allowance. This is our only chance each year to appeal to PC HQ for more funds so please take the time to fill it out as best you can and get it back to us. You might be very happy that you did.

### **Tuition Reimbursement**

Please make sure that you are using the correct Tuition Reimbursement Request Form when you are submitting your requests. You can tell if it the correct form if there is a place for both your APCD (either Ntate Clement or 'M'e Selloane) and our LCHC ('M'e Mamokola) to sign it. Both of these signatures must be secured for it to be processed for payment so please submit them timely in order to be reimbursed as soon as possible.

### **Living Allowance Deposits**

As you have all experienced, it is difficult to know the exact date your Living Allowance will be available in your accounts from month to month. Most months it is a week or so before the end of the previous month and occasionally it is later than that. One good way to better manage your funds is to plan on having the money available by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month it is intended for (i.e., December 1<sup>st</sup> for your December Living Allowance). That way you can stay on a four week cycle for budgeting for your expenses. Along the same lines if you can get your reimbursement requests to Admin (signed by your APCD or Dr. Victor) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month you will stand a better chance of having that money in the Living Allowance deposit you receive at the end of that same month.

### **Bed Bugs**

We are trying to address "bed bug" issues just as soon as we are made aware of them. A few PCVs have asked if the solution and sprayer could be sent to them so they can take care of it themselves. It is important to know that the "spray" we use is highly toxic and needs to be applied with a mask covering your nose and mouth. Because of that we prefer to have someone experienced do the spraying. We absolutely understand the urgency of your requests and know that it is hard (if not impossible) to live with a bed bug infestation. If you have tried all local solutions (i.e., using sprays you can find locally; washing and leaving out in the sun your clothes, mattress, box spring, etc.) without success, please communicate your situation to us and we will do our best to get to you ASAP.

### **2012 W-2 Forms Coming**

Sometime in January you will be receiving your 2012 W-2 forms which will detail the portion of your Peace Corps income (Living Allowance and Readjustment Allowance) that is taxable. If your Peace Corps income is the only income you have for 2012 it is not necessary to file a federal income tax form (your State might still require it however). More information on this will follow but we just wanted to give you and advanced "heads up."

### **U.S. Embassy Lesotho**

Please remember that the U.S. Embassy is here to serve and assist you (and all American citizens) in Lesotho. The services they offer vary from passport renewal, obtaining visas for non U.S. Citizens to travel to the States as well as services like notary public. If you would like to know more about how they might help you with your needs please go to their web site at U.S. Embassy Lesotho and "click on "U.S. Citizen Services" on the tool bar at the top.

### **VRC Computers**

We have finally been able to order replacement UPS

(Uninterrupted Power Supply) boxes for the two disabled computers in the Maseru VRC. As soon as they are received they will be installed and we will have four working computers in the VRC again.

As always, please stay safe...!

### **ED CORNER by Dr. Lephoto & M'e Malitaba**

Once again thank you to everybody who has given time to support to the ED13 PST. The Resource Volunteers, the hosts for Volunteer Visits and indeed all those who interacted with the trainees have played a vital role in creating a strong platform for the group to establish themselves in Lesotho. We wish you all a restful holiday season!

### **Mid-service training**

As communicated earlier, the training will take place in January 16-17, 2013. On Wednesday January 16, Peace Corps vehicle will depart PCO at 3:00pm for Molengoane Lodge (this in order to accommodate those who will be travelling from remote locations). The sessions will begin at 4:00pm. Please plan to return to your sites on Friday January 18, 2013. Peace Corps will take the Volunteers traveling to Mokhotlong and Qacha's Nek first thing in the morning to make sure they catch their buses in Maseru.

### **VRF**

Please accept our apologies once again for not providing feedback on time on the VRFs. In the next couple of weeks we will send feedback and also present the VRF for FY13, which will contain some modifications on the change indicators to reflect the recently submitted Education Project Framework. Thanks for your patience.

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

#### **Festive season**

Likhomo tseo le manemane a tsona (greetings!) and compliments of the Festive season! For some of you this will be your first Christmas in Africa and in the Mountain Kingdom while for some...this will be their last Christmas before they COS! All the same, enjoy responsibly and come back fully recharged your energy from those long awaited vacations!

#### **Healthy Youth (formerly CHED) Project Framework**

This is work in progress; however, the framework seems to be taking a good shape now. We are aiming for the PAC meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the new Framework and be ready to submit the draft copy with comments from the PAC by December 31<sup>st</sup> the latest.

#### **CHED 11 Site Visits**

We will schedule visits to CHED 11s starting in January. During the site visits we plan to "see you in action", talk with you about the work that you are doing (successes and challenges), meet with your supervisor and counterpart about the work you have done with them and the capacity building they think you have contributed to your site and the challenges and also talk to your host family about your stay in the family and the relationship that you have established. We look forward to seeing you.

### CHED 12 Site Visits and Phase III Training

It is/was nice seeing the CHED 12s at their Phase III workshop 26-30 November. Remember, PACA will always come in handy whenever you need information about your site. So does the data that you collected during your Phase II. If in doubt, ask, and as staff we are always here to provide you all the support that you will need during your service. Tsamaeang hantle (Travel safely) back to your sites!

### CHED 13 Site Identification

We are already planning for the CHED 13s and really need your input in this area. Remember that the CHED 13 will be assigned to the new Healthy Youth project. Characteristics that were looking for in sites include (but are not limited to):

- ◆ An **OVC care and support** facility that can potentially host a PCV (orphanage/support group)
- ◆ A fully functional youth **vocational training center** that can make use of a PCV's skills
- ◆ An operational **Young Farmers' Training Center** that can make use of a PCV's skills
- ◆ A **youth club/group** that is fully operational but can make good use of the PCV skills
- ◆ A supervisor and counterpart **living** in the same village where the project is operating

### Gold Star Activities



This month we would like to reiterate the use of PACA with your communities by sharing the lessons learned from Berea district and a piece of advice that the document presents to other PCVs while using PACA. Here is what **Beth Pagan (CHED 12)** has to say...

#### What worked well?

- ◆ All of the PACA workshops were conducted in Sesotho
- ◆ The organization met for PACA workshops twice a month (spread out over time)
- ◆ They were held in the late morning so that both men and women from different villages could attend
- ◆ Before each new PACA workshop, we briefly reviewed what they learned the last time
- ◆ We started PACA with the Appreciative Inquiry and then moved on to the four main tools
- ◆ The organization conducted most of the PACA tools to gain a broad perspective of the various needs, realities and opportunities in the community
- ◆ The Needs Assessment was the most popular of all the PACA workshops

#### What could have been better?

- ◆ The analysis after each PACA workshop could have been deeper. I think the discussion would have been richer if I had a translator to help the organization see all of the connections between the various PACA workshops and reflect on how important PACA is to PCVs working in community development.

- ◆ Our PACA workshops were held outside under a tree since we don't have an office. It would have been less distracting if we were able to meet inside.
- ◆ The organization didn't do the Community Map because the members live in various villages in my area. It sounds like a great tool but it wasn't feasible for this organization.

#### General advice for PCVs:

- ◆ PACA takes patience. For PCVs, PACA is an activity that takes time. It takes time to translate it into Sesotho. For your groups, it takes time for them to grasp why it's important to do.
- ◆ PACA requires perseverance. It is a very daunting project! However, it's important to not give up when the going gets tough. The rewards definitely pay off.
- ◆ It's all about the power of participatory development! PACA empowers people in developing countries and gives them a voice in the development process. It's a way to encourage sustainability as PCVs!

Rea leboha ausi Beth ka litaba tse monate! (Thank you, Beth, for this insightful article.)



#### Terry Ellard, CHED 11

Terry and his counterpart and built a prototype mini greenhouse and delivered it to an OVC support group in Ha Tsotsi near Mapoteng. They gave a workshop on how to assemble, set up and use the greenhouse as well as how it might be used to provide an income generation such as raising and selling vegetable seedlings.



#### Carol McFarland, CHED 11

Carol worked with a group of WFP beneficiary women to implement a communal garden project that is intended to help increase their long-term nutritional security. They talked about composting, planting the seedlings against the sun (if it is too hot and dry) and did a cooking demonstration with zucchini they grew. Carol documented the success story about this project for WFP's website.



#### Anne Brewer, CHED 11

Anne and her colleagues at Department of Rural Water Supply were asked by World Vision to facilitate a workshop for several villages in Butha-Buthe district (Ha Selomo, Liqalaneng, Manamela, Ha Malofo, Qalo, Ha Makuini and Ha Nqabeni) which are the beneficiaries of rural water supply & sanitation projects funded by World Vision. Anne's Counterparts, the community liaison officers, facilitated many of the same sessions that we normally

do for capacity-building workshops for MCA-funded RWSS projects. Anne co-facilitated a session on HIV, which covered many topics - largely guided by the questions from the audience - including myths about HIV, understanding transmission, prevention, and care for persons living with HIV. This was a large workshop, approximately 60 people

### **SAFETY & SECURITY CORNER by Ntate Nthoalo**

The holiday season is a time that many Volunteers like to travel; some explore the country in which they're serving and others visit new countries. And while traveling can bring lots of wonderful memories and new experiences, traveling also increases the risk that you'll be the victim of a crime - you're at risk when using public transportation, you're at risk when you get to your destination and your stuff back home is at risk because you're not there to look after it!

Here are some tips for staying safe over the holidays:

- **Stick together!** There's safety in numbers; don't travel alone and don't walk alone in unfamiliar areas, especially at night.
- **Stay alert!** Be aware of your surroundings and know where you can get help if you need it. Be on the lookout for suspicious persons, especially people following you or paying too much attention to what you're doing.
- **Stay in control!** Drinking is okay - but drinking too much can be a problem as too much alcohol can impair judgment.
- **Stay awake!** Don't take a little "something" to help you sleep on that long bus ride. If you're passed out, your bags and wallet will get off the bus without you. And you never know where you'll wake up.
- **Don't put all your eggs in one basket!** Keep your money, passport, tickets and other important things close to you at all times - but not all in one place. Spread them out over several pockets and use security devices such as "leg safes", hidden money pouches or tricks like pinning your pockets together.
- **Trust your instincts!** It's okay to be a little paranoid. If something "just doesn't feel right", then don't do it! Listen to that little voice in the back of your head. Don't trust someone if you really don't know them - don't invite them in, don't get in their car and don't go back to "their place".
- **Zip it up!** And then lock it. Putting locks on the zippers of your backpack will make it a little bit harder for a bad guy to get in. Most thieves are looking for a quick score - unzip the bag, grab the wallet and go. But if they can't easily unzip your backpack, they'll move on.
- **Lock it up!** Yes, you CAN lock your suitcase if you're checking it as baggage when you're flying. You may have to stand around and wait while your bag is screened in case it needs to be inspected, but that's better than getting to your destination to find that someone has pilfered all of your possessions from your suitcase.
- **Leave it locked!** Make sure your house is secure before you leave and ask someone you trust to look after things. Put your valuables out of sight - or better yet, lock them away in a strong, heavy trunk that would be hard to break into and even harder to steal. Don't give anyone the key unless you absolutely have to. Once the key is out of your hands, you have no control over who gets their hands on it.
- **Keep an eye on it!** Don't leave your bag, phone, iPod or camera laying around - it won't be there when you come back. And don't trust that the "nice" person you just met will look after your stuff while you go to the bathroom. When you come back, your stuff and your "friend" will be gone.
- **Keep a hand on it!** Don't put ANY valuables into your suit-

case or backpack if you're going to be separated from it while you're traveling. A bag that's under the bus or on top of the mini-van taxi can disappear before you know it. Keep your expensive stuff in the bag that you carry with all the time - and don't let go of it.

- **Keep it down!** Listening to your iPod can be a great way to pass the hours on a long trip but don't turn the volume up so loud that you can't hear what's going on around you.
  - **Don't bring it!** Only carry what you need for the trip; leave your other valuables at some in a secure location. Sure, you probably do need your camera for your trip - but do you really need to bring your laptop computer?
  - **Don't leave it out!** Don't leave valuables laying around your hotel room or in the hostel - the temptation may be too great for housekeeping staff and other "guests". Keep your valuables locked in your suitcase or backpack.
  - **Be prepared!** Expect the worst - hope for the best. Carry extras of the things you can't do without, like eyeglasses and medications. Make copies of your passport, visa, shot record and other important documents and keep the copies separate from the originals.
  - **Make a list; check it twice!** Carry with you a list of important phone numbers - your Peace Corps office, the Duty Officer and the Peace Corps office in the countries you'll be visiting, along with the numbers for the U.S Embassies in those countries. It's also a good idea to carry numbers for your family or other useful contacts in America - someone may have to make an important call on your behalf. Keep a record of credit card numbers and the phone numbers for your credit card companies, just in case the cards are lost or stolen.
  - **Know where you're going!** Figure out the best routes, the most reliable transportation and the safest places to stay. Plan your route as much as possible so that you don't look lost in a strange place - that's a surefire way to attract the attention of criminals. Peace Corps posts can often provide suggestions for places to stay and taxis to use - and to avoid.
  - **Know what's going on!** Learn as much as you can about the situation in the places you plan to visit. One good source for travel information is the State Department's website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov). You can find links to the latest Travel Warnings and Public Announcements as well as Consular Information Sheets that provide information regarding crime and safety issues in the country as well as useful information about medical services, laws, transportation and how to get in contact with the U.S. Embassy in an emergency.
- Tell us where you're going! Give Peace Corps a detailed itinerary of where you're going, how you're getting there and where you're going to be staying (along with contact information). If you don't show up, we have a better idea where to start looking. Also register with the State Department so they'll know to look for you if any problems arise in the place you're visiting. <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

### **I.T. CORNER by Deepak**

**A simple way for your blog to get more readers.**

PCVs, many of you have blogs and I am sure your family and friends love reading them when they come across your blog linked to your facebook page. Peace Corps staff also search the Internet to find and read your blogs. I am sure everyone who is interested in Peace Corps and curious about PCV life gets the best first hand information about the Peace Corps from your blogs. But it is possible that many people just read the first few stories that is presented by a search engine while they look for PCV stories. To create a collection of interesting PCV stories in one place a few RPCVs formed a team to build a smart website that posts interesting stories, blogs and articles by currently

servicing PCVs. They created a website that would let PCVs submit links to their blogs to the website. Here, material received are arranged according to popularity and hence it rapidly became the one place to visit to get PCV stories from all over the world. You can log on to [www.peacecorpsjournals.com](http://www.peacecorpsjournals.com) with your facebook account to submit your blog to them. Click on submit on the top right of the website to do so. Once your blog is submitted, it will be available for visitors of the website. As your blog gains popularity, it will be featured on the homepage of the website. Please remember that this is optional and not a requirement. If you wish to maintain a closed blog for only your family and friends, you do not need to do this.

## **PCV CORNER** **Volunteer Voices**

From ED 12 Hannah Campbell's Blog  
**Seasons of Fruit**

One of my favorite parts of Colorado summers was waking up early to go to the farmer's market with my mom. We'd stock up on whatever was in season—rhubarb in early spring, heirloom tomatoes and homemade herb pasta throughout the summer, and sweet corn and peaches in the fall.

We had our favorite farmers' stalls, too. We always visited the Roasted Pepper Guys first; they had a giant iron cage that spun over an open flame and produced a magnificent, smoky aroma that floated throughout the market. Next was the Bread and Dipping Oil Man. By the end of the summer, he didn't even need to ask for our order—we'd walk up and he'd immediately begin packing a plastic bag with the usual: dipping oils with parmesan cheese and spicy olives, rosemary and sage, and fiery green peppers.

Before leaving the farmer's market, we always sat down and ate something different. We tried organic coffee, breakfast burritos, miniature cherry pies, paella... once we even discovered an Argentine food truck. I absolutely swooned over the triple-layered *alfajores*, beef and chicken *empanadas*, and thick, sultry *dulce de leche*.

Cooking and eating in Lesotho isn't exactly like home. Like I've said before, my fresh fruit and vegetable choices in village are usually limited to onions, green apples, potatoes, and cabbage... and that's quite a selection compared to what many other volunteers have. I can't tell you how many variations I've come up with for cabbage dishes. Finishing an entire head of cabbage within a week and a half was one of my prouder moments of Peace Corps.

One thing I have noticed, though, is the fruit that comes along with the change of seasons. I arrived last year in late summer, just in time for peach harvesting. There were **peaches everywhere**. I overdosed on peaches on several occasions (which warrants far too many trips to the latrine, in case you were wondering what happens after a peach overdose). I couldn't walk down the road without being offered three or four peaches. My students brought me bags of peaches after school. We made sun-dried peaches and canned peaches in Home Economics class. Just when I thought I couldn't look at another peach, the weather turned cold and they disappeared just as quickly as they arrived.

Winter brought another season of fruit: oranges. I've never actually seen an orange tree in Lesotho, so I assume they are imported from South Africa. Orange peels littered the streets, and I constantly felt that sticky sweet film on my fingers that remains after halving a juicy orange. I got creative and experimented

with sweet orange bread, thai noodles with orange chunks, and freshly-squeezed orange juice. I'm not partial to oranges, I think because of the mess they make when you eat them, but I ate at least one orange a day (and all that vitamin C paid off—I didn't get sick once!).

Now it's summer time, and the fruit of choice is guavas, my favorite fruit season so far. I don't think I had ever actually eaten a guava before arriving in Lesotho. The smell of a ripe guava is enough to make your mouth water. The skin is tender and smooth and easily gives way when you take a bite. Guava fruits are filled with a cluster of small, hard but edible round seeds in the center. There isn't a core; the entire thing can be eaten without a trace of evidence. And they're so pretty! Sunset light orange on the outside and rosy pink inside. Such a girly fruit. I love them.

At home, everything is so readily available in the grocery store at all times of the year, so I never really noticed the different harvesting seasons. It's been fun to learn how to cook what's available—and cook **a lot** of it. The peach trees in my backyard are already developing tiny, hard green peach buds. I need to start brainstorming what I'm going to do with all those buckets of peaches. I can't eat that much peach pie all on my own. J

## **Friends of Lesotho**



Congratulations and welcome from Friend of Lesotho (FOL) to all the new Education PCVs. You have a couple of challenging and exciting years ahead of you in a country all of our members love and remember with fondness.

Included with this Khotso is a copy of the FOL Membership Directory. Please check it out—our members would love to connect with PCVs from their home state as well as those serving in their former villages.

## **Holiday FOL Fundraising Ideas**

Holiday shopping is quick and easy for those of you with internet access **and** your purchases can help raise funds for FOL projects. Amazon.com is a partner with FOL— 6% percent of all purchases made via the FOL link to Amazon on our website is donated to FOL. So please tell family and friends to go to: <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>. All they have to do is click on the SHOP page to get started. Family and friends can also help support FOL funding efforts by using <http://www.GoodSearch.org>. Every time someone uses Good Search a penny is donated to the cause designated by the user. While a penny doesn't sound like much, just think of the number of times we all search the net for information...it will add up.

## **FOL Supports the Lesotho Country Fund**

For the last several years FOL has made a contribution to the Lesotho Country Fund to support the TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) as well as other small grassroots projects initiated by PCVs. Our contributions are made available to PCVs through the PCPP application process.

We are aware that you have other US government funding sources specifically for HIV/AIDS projects, but want to remind you that FOL is here to support projects which may not meet the requirements of those funders.

Our contribution to the Country Fund for TAP is determined each spring based on the recommendations of the TAP Committee and will continue to be a priority. But, we need your input to help determine the amount FOL should contribute to the Lesotho Country Fund to support your other projects in 2013.

**Complimentary Membership Reminder**

Just a quick note to remind you all that you are entitled to free membership in FOL while serving in Lesotho and for one year from your COS date. We will send you our newsletters, annual report and other communications via e-mail if you simply sign up on our website <http://www.friendsoflesotho.org>.

**Wishing you all a very happy and safe holiday season!**

**PCV LIFE IN PICTURES**



Peace Corps Africa Region Director Dick Day and Volunteers in Mohale's Hoek, November 2, 2012.



CHED 12s Anri Tanabe and Carlaine Reynolds at Carlaine's keyhole garden in Linakaneng.



ED 12 Nick Mast at his house, purportedly the smallest rondavel among PC Lesotho PCVs.



ED 12 Caitlin Vincent observing Form B Science students giving a presentation.



ED 12 Katie Beuchel and her Form A Maths students.