

Lesotho is a small, landlocked country entirely surrounded by South Africa with the world's third highest incidence of HIV/AIDS and debilitating gender inequity. More than 30% of the children are orphaned and many more vulnerable.



Help Lesotho (HL) is a registered charity (#82246 8476 RR0001) partnering private, public and volunteer resources to mitigate against the effects of HIV/AIDS by promoting education, good governance and leadership development among local leaders, out-of-school youth, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

The severity of HIV/AIDS in this country is exacerbated by the underlying factors of gender discrimination and violence; widespread denial of the reality of the epidemic; stigma and the resulting absence of people willing to reveal their HIV-positive status; the scarceness of treatment availability; cultural myths and damaging beliefs; a quickly diminishing cohort of parents and leaders; staggering unemployment; food insecurity; inadequate government initiatives; poverty; and a lack of resources at all levels.

Girls are particularly vulnerable to infection due to their physical make-up and cultural norms.

Help Lesotho Partnership with St. George's-on-the-Hill

This partnership will build 50 young orphaned and vulnerable girls into village leaders in an innovative **Basotho Girls' Leader Corps (BGLC) Program**. These girls will be provided with education, leadership development and emotional support so that they can make a real difference in their country.

The BGLC Program includes:

- A Hostel providing shelter, food and clothing;
- Rooms for study, training and community volunteering;
- Education support including uniforms, books, school and exam fees;
- HIV/AIDS, sexual health and gender equity training;
- Leadership development throughout the year;
- Mentoring and support from older HL youth leaders to take on the leadership of programs during school breaks in their own communities; and
- Emotional and tutoring support.



Between October 2007 and June 2008

St. George's-on-the-Hill targets to raise \$100,000 toward this project. Will you join them?