

Help Lesotho Library Project

Help Lesotho (HL) is a small and rapidly growing Canadian charity working tirelessly against gender inequity and HIV/AIDS in the Lesotho. Lesotho has the third highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the world. Over 30% of the child population is orphaned and many more are left vulnerable. Currently, over 8,300 orphaned and vulnerable children benefit from HL projects in Lesotho. Key programs include child sponsorship, grandmother support, schools improvements, teacher training, capacity building and HIV/AIDS Clubs.

HL is building two Centres to support our work with orphans, vulnerable children, youth and civil society in the villages of Pitseng and Hlotse. Each will have a library. It is not easy for children to find books to read or extracurricular literacy support. In addition to providing resources and information, the libraries will provide a place for people to gather. Many children and youth have nothing to do and nowhere to go. A library will introduce new ideas, invoke thought and foster discussions.

Lesotho does not currently have a literacy based culture.

Most homes have few or no books.

Reading opportunities are slim.

Books are just too expensive.

Libraries will:

- Serve and provide support for children, youth, grandmothers, teachers and principals;
- Be used for peer tutoring sessions for students;
- Include culturally relevant books, with as many as possible in Sesotho;
- Host story times for children and youth;
- Provide rooms for workshops on using the resources;
- Make accurate information available on HIV/AIDS, health, grief and career counselling; and
- Encourage creative reading and writing.

Help us make literacy opportunities a reality!!!

To **donate funds** for locally purchased books, bookshelves, chairs, tables, education, resource posters and to help fund a full time librarian (Tax receipts will be issued for any donation over \$15.):

- 1.) Send a cheque made out to Help Lesotho to Keller Williams Ottawa Building, 610 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, ON CANADA K1S 4E6 (613-369-5868) Indicate Library Project on the memo line;
- 2.) Pre-authorized monthly bank withdrawal (for is on the **Ways to Help** page www.helplesotho.ca) or
- 3.) Credit Card – online through CanadaHelps at www.helplesotho.ca. Where prompted choose Library Project as your designated fund.

Note:

Books will not be accepted for this project due to the high cost of shipping. Culturally appropriate books are purchased locally and support the local economy.

Bringing literacy to hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children

