



Thusanang

Lesotho Community and Family based Vulnerable Children's Care Centre Project

Project description including
Pilot Project at Mount Moorosi

Version 2.3.1 20 March 2006

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Project Summary



Lesotho is a small independent, beautiful but poverty stricken mountainous land-locked kingdom in Southern Africa. It has a population of approximately 2.5 million Africans known as Basotho in plural and as Mosotho in singular. The official HIV/AIDS infection rate is over 30% however, many believe it in reality to be over 50%.

There are over 200,000 orphans of which 100,000 are estimated to be HIV/AIDS related.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is made up of 10 districts, each having approximately 250 villages.

The lifestyle is generally rural with only one large town, Maseru, the capital, in the country.

Lesotho has experienced drought and famine over the last three years.



The overall objective of this project is to relieve the suffering of orphans and vulnerable children in Lesotho in Africa through the planning, financing, construction, staffing, maintenance and ongoing operation of Community and family based Vulnerable Children's Care Centres.

The initial goal is to create a pilot project at Mount Moorosi, a village in the Quthing District of Lesotho with documented significant high-risk orphan populations. The centre will either be built or existing buildings extended in low cost traditional Basotho style and will include a kitchen for feeding vulnerable children and orphans, toilet and bathing facilities, space for educational, counselling and vocational skill building programming, as well as a few beds for short-term housing. Agricultural and other skills will be promoted to encourage self-sustainability and to reduce food costs to the centre.

A minimum of ongoing operational funding will be necessary to sustain each centre beyond the building/extension and furnishing of the original facilities. The sustainability of this project is based on the non-denominational management and staffing of these centres by the Basotho villagers themselves. Volunteers from the village and existing community resources will be utilized to provide ongoing programming and support.

A core value and activity of this project will be the counselling, support and placement of vulnerable children and orphans with extended families.

It is envisaged that this project will initially be organized and coordinated by the Catholic Church within the Diocese of Qacha's Nek, Rotary Lesotho and Rotary International, Lovelight of Byron Bay of Australia and other stakeholders. The children's care centre will be immediately managed by the non-denominational Thusanang Committees which will include the existing non-denominational humanitarian Justice and Peace Committees already set up by the Catholic Church, made up of the villagers themselves and set up within Mount Moorosi.

The basic belief in Divinity itself and the five human values of Truth, Love, Peace, Goodness and Non-Violence and the giving of selfless service will form the core functioning of this project.

This project is seen as a potential blue print for sustainable African community and family-based and village-run vulnerable children's care centres required to address the growing HIV/AIDS pandemic that is sweeping Africa. An evaluation plan will be built into the design of this project so that we can test the viability of this concept and duplicate it if successful in other parts of Lesotho and Africa. We believe our proposed project represents 'best practices' as articulated in many United Nations documents and also adheres to the philosophy of the Lesotho government on dealing with the orphan crisis in this country.

The project will cater for all vulnerable children whether HIV/AIDS related or not.

While every effort will be made, as part of this project, to keep vulnerable children with appropriate village extended family units, we recognize that such prospects do not exist for all children who are orphaned. By extension, a further goal of this project is the potential development of new family units i.e., foster mother (and father where

possible), and groupings of individual children and brothers and sisters who can provide each other with mutual support.

The cost of this initial 2 year phase of the project is AUD520,000 which will support 350 orphans and vulnerable children and enable the construction of a simple elegant operational Child Care Centre at Mount Moorosi (we have assumed support for half of the estimated 700 orphans and vulnerable children at Mount Moorosi). This document is being distributed to obtain this funding to enable this project to continue.

The Problem



The vast beautiful isolation of the highlands which form a large part of Lesotho. Living in these harsh regions is very difficult.

Lesotho is a land-locked mountain kingdom surrounded by South Africa. The economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and exporting water and labour to the South African mines. There has been a significant amount of retrenchment of workers from the mines over the past five years, leaving many families with little or no income.

Many of the miners also returned to Lesotho with HIV/AIDS and other chronic health problems. According to the HIV/AIDS surveillance data reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (2000), the HIV prevalence rate in the country is 30%. In a joint report issued by UNAIDS/UNICEF/UNAID, 'Children on the Brink' (2002), it was reported that by 2003 there would be an estimated 180,000 orphans in Lesotho, with 100,000 orphaned by AIDS and 49,000 of those children documented as double orphans (both parents deceased). On a recent fact-finding mission conducted by Lovelight of Byron Bay and the Justice and Peace Committee, our team visited three primary schools in the Qachas Nek and Quthing Districts and discovered that between one third and one half of the student body (135 students) were orphaned with approximately 100 single orphans and 25 to 35 double orphans.

The Need



Basotho village children

Orphans in Lesotho need alternatives to institutional care where extended families do not exist or cannot afford to care for them any longer. While the Lesotho village social structure provides extended family support for many of the orphans, in many villages there remain dozens of vulnerable children who are homeless, uncared for, sexually abused or at risk for other forms of exploitation, including prostitution.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (Bjorn Ljungqvist, 2003), '...throughout sub-Saharan Africa, there have been traditional systems in place to take care of children who lose their parents for various reasons. But the onslaught of HIV slowly but surely erodes this good traditional practice by simply overloading its caring capacity by the sheer number of orphaned children needing support and care. HIV also undermines the caring capacity of families and communities by deepening poverty due to loss of labour and the high cost of medical treatment and funerals'

Keeping orphans in school is crucial to their futures. While primary education is basically free in Lesotho through 7th grade (as of 2005), many orphans are not in school due to extended family not being interested in educating them or able to afford other school fees. According to UNAID report 'The Global HIV Epidemic, 2002', 52% of

the children orphaned by AIDS in Kenya were not in school compared to 2% among non-orphans. Stephen Lewis, UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, stated in his report *'Africa Recovery (2001)'*, *'There has to be a Herculean effort made for these kids so we don't lose them. Otherwise you will have a society where kids haven't been to school and therefore can't fulfil even basic jobs...a society where a large proportion can have anti-social instincts because their lives have been so hard. You have a generation of children who will be more vulnerable to exploitation and to disease because they won't have the same sense of self-worth'*. One of the goals of this project will be to encourage orphans to remain in school and/or to provide educational opportunities on site including vocational and agricultural skill-building.

According to several studies, orphans are thought to be at greater risk for being malnourished and stunted due to their general lack of access to regular nutrition. Both *'malnutrition and illness are associated with children who are alone after the death of their parents'* (pg. 225, *'Turning A Crisis Into An Opportunity; Strategies For Scaling Up The National Response to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic--UNDP*). This Thusanang project seeks to provide at least two solid meals each day for both double and single orphans in each village.



Winter in Lesotho is extremely cold. Many of the mountains and the approximately 2,500 villages are around 2,500 to 3,000 metres above sea level, some even higher. Large tracts of Lesotho are covered in snow for many months in Winter, making the life of the poverty stricken Basotho people very difficult.

For AIDS orphans in particular, counselling and emotional support is essential. *'These children suffer profoundly as their parents fall sick or die, with their experience characterized by psychosocial distress from their parents illness or death, which is worsened by the stigma and shame associated with HIV/AIDS. The psychosocial impact of caring for ill and dying parents cannot be overestimated. It can affect schoolwork and the ability to keep up in class. There is also the obvious hardship in relation to the inability of the parents to work, resulting in children being forced to take on frightening adult responsibilities'* (pg. 225, *'Turning A Crisis Into An Opportunity; Strategies For Scaling Up The National Response to the HIV/AIDS Pandemic' (UNDP)*). The toll on the family structure and the rush of these children into parental roles complicates their passage to adolescence and adulthood.

In consultation with the Bishop of Qacha's Nek, a pilot site has been chosen at the village of Mount Moorosi in the district of Quthing.

We are currently collecting hard evidence on orphans at Mount Moorosi and so far we have registered 140 double orphans (children with no mothers or fathers).

We believe even these statistics we have collected are not complete. UNICEF estimates 200,000 orphans in Lesotho, which translates to an average of about 80 orphans per village assuming 2,500 villages in Lesotho.

Proposed Project



The beauty of a Mother.

The Justice and Peace Department of the Catholic Diocese of Qacha's Nek and Lovelight of Byron Bay propose to build a Community and family based Vulnerable Children's Care Centre pilot at the village of Mount Moorosi in the district of Quthing over the next two years.

The Children's Care Centre will all be designed in the traditional Basotho style and will be built with local labour and local materials (stones, mud, thatch) and will be built with the cooperation and selfless service of the local Basotho community. The Catholic Church has donated land for the pilot Centre. The Centre will include the following features:

- A kitchen for feeding double orphans and single orphans
- Toileting and bathing facilities
- Temporary sleeping accommodation for homeless and abused orphans
- Quarters for a 'mother' who will live on site and provide support, counselling, supervision and cooking
- Educational and vocational training space

As well as providing the children with a foster mother, nourishing food, caring support, good clothing and shelter, programming will be provided on-site through various professional partnerships including educational activities for out-of-school youth (Peace Corps will be asked to provide an ongoing placement of a teacher/volunteer on a two year rotation); counselling (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare); and vocational and life-skill training (agriculture, carpentry, arts and crafts, IT, etc.) utilizing local or village volunteers.

A Thusanang Committee composed of good people in the local community will manage the project. The concept of selfless service will be encouraged, ie. the giving of one's time and skills at no cost.

The project will be run by a three personnel team, with the periodic engagement of consultants for special activities.

There will be a project coordinator (PC) whose responsibilities will include but be not limited to oversee all project objectives, monitor proper implementation of project activities, control staff and assets, liaison with donors, interact with communities, and furnish reports to interested parties.

There will be an Administration and Finance Officer (AFO) whose function will include management of all financial matters relating to the project, including budgets, purchases, contracts and documentation of OVC (Orphans & Vulnerable Children) profiles and all other project information.

There will be a Care Giver (CG) (mother): The mother's responsibility shall be to counsel and maintain the welfare of all OVC, whether they use the drop-in service or are temporary residents, and keep the centre clean at all times. The mother will be expected to reside at the Care Centre.

Sustainability



World Food Program food distribution in Lesotho. We have already approached WFP and other humanitarian organisations to give food for our Thusanang Vulnerable Children project. Initial indications are promising.

While project donated capital funds will be used to build facilities, ongoing costs potentially can be paid out of interest earned on further donated capital. This form of ongoing financing can help ensure sustainability.

Alternatively, for financing of ongoing sustainability donors need not bequest capital, but may prefer to bequest *interest* on capital as an ongoing donation.

The basis of personal involvement of all care-givers (Basotho and all others) in the project is that of selfless service. (ie. The human desire to help one another through the active experience of Divinity and the five human values of Truth, Love, Peace, Goodness and Non-Violence). In fact, the name of the project 'Thusanang' is the Sesotho word that encompasses this sweet experience.

The great resource of Africa is the availability of people's time.

In line with these human sentiments, the active participation of individuals will be the key to the success of this project both in sharing their skills as volunteers and in providing monetary donations. Both Lovelight of Byron Bay and the Diocesan Justice and Peace Committee will focus on seeking out individual donors, corporate, foundation and international aid support for the planning, construction, ongoing expenses and evaluation of the pilot centre for the first two years of existence. The over-riding goal of the project is to create Centres throughout Lesotho which will need very little ongoing operating revenue beyond the original construction. Things like routine facility maintenance will hopefully be donated by the villagers for example through the local Justice and Peace Committee structure. We plan to provide ongoing nutritional support by growing crops and utilizing international food programs when available. Ongoing grant funding and donations will hopefully support the other day to day expenses. All other services will be provided by volunteers (teachers, craftsman, agricultural experts) or existing community agencies whose mission is to serve this population (i.e. governmental entities or charities).

Ultimately, the Diocesan Justice and Peace Committee will provide long term support and guidance to ensure the success of this project into the future. If the two-year evaluation plan indicates it is a success, further funding will be sought to implement further Thusanang centres in more villages within the surrounding Districts.

Because this vulnerable children's project is village based and village managed, we believe this 'Thusanang' project is a loving, caring practical sustainable and extendable family based model developed in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic sweeping the African continent.

Thusanang may thus form a basis for a new African village support system for the more than 50 million African orphans by the year 2010 (UNICEF statistics).

Community Ownership and Involvement

The whole concept of Thusanang is that the Child Care Centre belongs to the community, is part of the community and is built, maintained, operated, managed and supported by the community.

The voluntary community Thusanang Committee manages the Child Care Centre.

The local community supply labour and materials and supplies where possible as selfless service.

Local and Overseas skilled volunteers

The Thusanang project can supply innovative technical and educational assistance to the community via overseas and local skilled volunteers who will transfer knowledge of use to the community and the project. Examples include agriculture, woodworking, building, metal working, nursing, medical and education services.

Thusanang Websites

The project has available to it extensive IT skills in the form of Solihin Millin, a Trustee of Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust.

Sol intends to develop and maintain websites to connect and inform donors of the Thusanang project. Please have a look at www.lovelight.org.au and www.byronbayattitude.com as existing examples. These examples will be extended and improved with further transparent donor/recipient multi-media connectivity, project and activity updates, newsletters and detailed accounting of usage of individual donor funds.

Ongoing Fundraising Activities

The Lovelight Trust and the Catholic Church and hopefully other like minded organisations (eg Rotary) will continue with ongoing fundraising activities generally in countries outside of Lesotho at individual, NGO and governmental levels.

Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust is a registered not for profit charitable trust in Australia (NSW).

Lovelight is currently applying for DGR status in Australia which will enable all Australian donations to be tax deductible for donors and donor organisations.

Project Management and Documentation

A major outcome of the Mount Moorosi pilot project will be full documentation for the planning and development and operation of further similar Child Care Centres in other parts of Lesotho and Africa in general.

The Mount Moorosi Child Care Centre will form a model for Africa, which can be visited by interested individuals and organisations.

Our policy will be to freely hand out information enabling the construction and operations of further such centres by other individuals and organisations.

Project Timeline

The initial phase of the project will take two years. During this period a functioning community and family based vulnerable children's care centre will be facilitated in Mount Moorosi in the Diocese of Qacha's Nek, Lesotho. Ongoing evaluation, needs analysis and analysis of benefits and required changes will enable further extension of the project beyond the initial phase.

⌘ February 2006:

Initial research; Development of partnerships and collaborations; Site visits, Evaluations and selection (including land acquisition); Development of evaluation tools; Grant writing

⌘ February 2006—March 2006:

Modify and extend original Thusanang proposal. Project refinement. Proposals sent out. Initiate individual and corporate fundraising.

⌘ April 2006—July 2006:

Build and open Mount Moorosi Child Care Centre

⌘ April 2006—January 2008:

Operate Outreach Program
Gather statistics on OVC and project activities

⌘ August, 2006—January 2008:

Implement Child Care Centre programs and evaluate project

Credentials

Although the success of this project will depend on many individuals as well as new and existing partnerships within the Diocese of Qachas Nek, the initial collaborating partners include:



The Mission of the
Collaborating Partners.

⌘ Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust (Australia) - a not for profit organisation (currently being registered as a charitable trust in Australia and Lesotho). Lovelight's motto is 'Love in Action for the enlightenment of Humanity and the upliftment of the homeless and uncared'. Lovelight is based on non-denominational Divinity itself and the five human values of Truth, Love, Peace, Goodness and Non-Violence and the giving of selfless service which forms the core functioning of all Lovelight projects. Lovelight's website is www.lovelight.org.au

⌘ Justice and Peace is a Pontifical Commission of the Global Catholic Church for social concern mandated to foster global progress in its following aspects:
Human dignity
The Common good
Subsidiarity (ie. working with the vulnerable and helping them and giving them the opportunity to resolve their problems)
Justice
Peace
Solidarity
Options for the Poor
Integral development

Reconciliation

Integrity of Creation (Harmonious Living)

Justice and Peace Committees are elected by villagers based on human values being, Love, Compassion, Selflessness and Credibility.



- ✂ Machabe Machabe, is a married Masotho farmer who is currently Qachas Nek Diocese Coordinator of the Justice and Peace Department of the Catholic Church in Lesotho. Failed to sit for COSC (Cambridge Overseas Schools Certificate) examination due to financial constraints. Currently doing project management through correspondence with Southern Business School, Johannesburg, South Africa. Ntate Machabe Machabe obtained his 1st year certificate in Project Management. Worked in the Lesotho Civil Service for 17 years as a clerical assistant with various responsibilities that included amongst others working in the Human Resource Office. Worked with rural communities for 2 years initiating Self Help Farmers Associations. Worked with the interim Quthing Local Government structure where Machabe was chairperson for the District Rural Council which was comprised of 20 community councils.



- ✂ Solihin Millin is the founder of Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust (Australia). Sol is an Australian citizen who was born in South Africa. He was Scholar of the Year in 1960 at Hilton College, Kwazulu/Natal. He has a 1st class B.Sc Degree in Applied Math and Physics from Natal University in Durban. He has spent most of his professional career in the Information Technology field. After raising his three children in Australia, Sol has decided to focus his energy on humanitarian efforts and selfless service to the helpless and disadvantaged in Africa, based on the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba of India.



- ✂ Chuck Kuehn, Volunteer, United States Peace Corps
Chuck has a Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin (USA) and has over 23 years experience working in child welfare and HIV/AIDS organizations. For eight years he worked in residential treatment centres for emotionally disturbed children and adolescents and for fifteen years he acted as the Director of three community based non-profit AIDS services organizations, specializing in fundraising and grant writing

Contact

If you or your organisation wish to donate to this project or you require further information, please contact Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust at email: thusanang@lovelight.org.au or phone +61266801030

Project Budget



The type of village building envisaged to house the project.

A complete child care centre constructed Of stone, wooden poles and thatch (all available throughout most of Africa)

Project Budget/Narrative: (Two Year Budget for Pilot Site)

The following numbers reflect the capital (facilities and furnishings), operational (day to day activities) and project management (administrative) costs associated with this project.

Financial value is expressed in the Basotho Maluti (M) which is equivalent to one South African Rand (R). Thus:

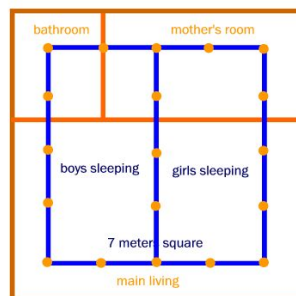
M4 ~ AUD1. M6 ~ US\$1, M8 ~ Euro1, M1 = R1

Capital/Facilities (One time costs)

The underlying premise of the capital costs is that the land and some kind of structure may be provided by the Chief in each village where the centres will be located. Structural additions to the building(s) and repairs may be required to meet the facility needs described in the project detail. In particular at Mount Moorosi, land has been provided but at present, no useable structure is available.

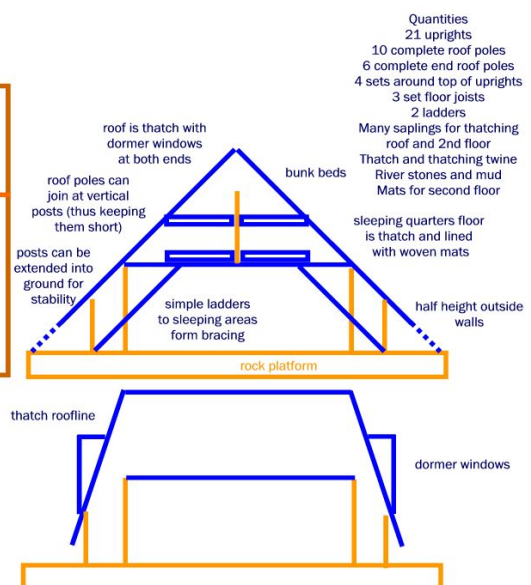
A novel approach will be used for construction of the pilot child care centre at Mount Moorosi. An attempt will be made, wherever possible to use materials which cost no 'cash' money and local community donated labour. I.e. we will use materials that are generally available free if one supplies the labour to collect and use them. Examples include stone, mud and thatch. In the first instance, use of manufactured items will be completely minimised. This includes fixings such as bolts, screws, nails etc. A novel approach of using 10mm re-inforcing rod cut into small lengths as fixings instead of bolts, with strong thatching twine used to bind structures together. If all the materials apart from poles, windows and doors and thatching twine and a small amount of cement are donated we believe we may be able to build a substantial child care centre for as little as M8,000. Of course, the interior at that stage, will not generally include furniture or bathroom fittings, but at least it will supply a cosy warm interior with five rooms (see plans below) and have a central circular raised platform for cooking and heating. Rock seats and beds can also be constructed within the interior eaves of the thatch roof. Another novel approach will be to build exterior wall just over a meter or so high, again saving of labour and materials.

Ideas for Thusanang Child Care Centre
Mt Moorosi - March 8 2006



9 meters square

Whole building connected with thatching twine (no bolts)



Interior fittings and other features

At Mount Moorosi in particular, VIP toilets are available close at hand for use by the Thusanang child care centre again, cutting capital costs.

A cost cutting approach will be to initially use a 'bare bones' child care centre, ie. at 'lock up' stage, without interior fittings.

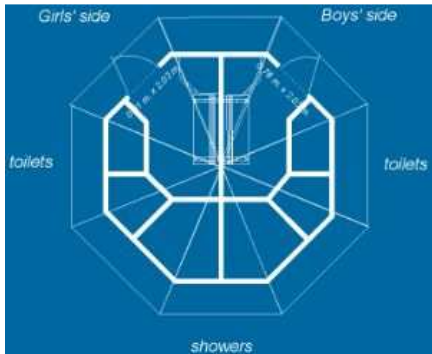
In time, as economics allow, the child care centre will be further furnished through donations.

Initial interior will function as many African homes do with washing in basins, and cooking and heating with cow dung or wood.

The central concept is to have a community 'safe place' for vulnerable children to receive care, support and attention.

Other items to be purchased in the longer run could include:

- Kitchen (Large four burner propane stove, kitchen utensils, supplies)
- Furniture (Tables, storage, propane tanks, heaters, beds, desks, wardrobes, chairs)
- Furnishings (sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, etc.)
- Site Development (agricultural plot preparation, trees)
- Showers and toilets, plumbing
- Composting toilets
- Hand washing basins 2
- Water container (roof)
- Solar water heating
- Solar electric lighting
- Miscellaneous plumbing



A possible plan for the ablution block in a Lesotho rondavel

Operations per Child: (annualised)

These estimates are for the support of each child who enters the Thusanang project. Initially, until the child is placed with an extended family, these costs will be incurred at the Child care centre.

However, once the child is placed with an extended family, support will be continued and transferred with the child but not in monetary resources, but rather for example, in the form of food, clothing and education (paid directly to schools)

Annual Costs per Child

Schooling - Primary	M200
Schooling - Secondary	M2,500
Clothing (excluding donated)	M1,000
Household supplies	M500
Miscellaneous/Contingency	M500

Totals	
115 Pre-school (M2,000 x 115 children)	M230,000
115 Primary students (M2,200 x 115 children)	M253,000
120 Secondary (M4,500 x 120 children)	M540,000

Total	M1,023,000
X 22 months	M1,875,500

Note: At present we do not have any reliable statistics on the demographics of age distribution of OVC's so here we are assuming approximately one third per schooling category. We will develop hard statistics during the operation of the pilot project.

We currently have hard evidence collected by the Justice & Peace committee at Mount Moorosi of 140 registered double orphans. Combining this with the hard statistics gathered by Lovelight in our 2004 research there will be at least 4 times as many single orphans, ie. 560 single orphans. Thus in the Mount Moorosi area we can assume at least 700 orphans! If we assume that only one half of these orphans are processed through and supported by our Thusanang pilot project during the first 2 years we reach the number 350 orphans. We would of course hope to support all 700 orphans.



The Bishop of Qacha's Nek Blesses the Project.

Left to right, Father Tobias Qacha's Nek Mission, Sol Millin, The Bishop of Qacha's Nek Diocese, Machabe Machabe Justice and Peace Qacha's Nek Diocese Coordinator.

Project Management

The project will be initially managed by Lovelight of Byron Bay with support from the Catholic Church of Lesotho. Project coordinator role will be transferred to a local Masotho as soon as possible.

Monthly Project Management Costs

A number of these costs can be spread across multiple child care centres in Lesotho as they are commissioned.

Single Project wide costs

Project Coordinator (PC)	M3,000
Project Administration & Finance Officer (AFO)	M3,000
Project Vehicle (fuel and maintenance)	M3,000
Vehicle Insurance	M250
Communications	M2,000
Travel expenses	M2,000

Monthly Total	M13,250
X 22 months (Apr 2006 to Jan 2008)	M291,500

This is a startup project. Initial and ongoing management infrastructure is essential. Once established a single project team will manage multiple Child Care Centres. Thus as Child Care Centres are implemented, a greater percentage of funding will go directly to the orphans themselves.

Project Capital Costs

Mother/Care Giver (CG) (per centre)	M2,000
Capacity building/Training for Supervisors (per centre)	M1,000

Monthly Total	M3,000
X 18 months (August 2006 to Jan 2008)	M54,000

Project Vehicle (one time capital cost)***	Already donated
Construction of Mount Moorosi Child Care Centre	M8,000
Desktop computer	M5,000
Printer/Copier	M3,000
Telephone Installation	M1,500
Project Capital Total (one time cost)	M17,500

*** Note

Terrain in Lesotho is extremely rough. Access to villages requires a powerful reliable 4x4. We have been kindly given a reliable 1973 Landrover Series III for the Mount Moorosi pilot.

Project Cost Summary

If you or your organisation wish to donate to this project or you require further information, please contact Lovelight of Byron Bay Charitable Trust, email thusanang@lovelight.org.au or press the Donate button on www.lovelight.org.au website

Totals for Thusanang Project

Figures expressed in Maluti

	1 Centre	10 Centres
Number of children supported	350	3,500
Children Costs	1,875,500	18,755,000
Project Operations Costs	291,500	*583,000
Centre Costs	54,000	540,000
Initial Capital Costs	17,500	175,000
Total	2,238,500	20,056,000
% of total cost going to children	84	94
In A\$ (conv. Rate)	4.3	520,581
In US\$ (conv. Rate)	6	373,083

* Project management costs doubled.

Evaluation



Poor people in Qacha's Nek, Lesotho

The goal of this project will be to serve 350 unduplicated vulnerable children (single or double orphans) in the Mount Moorosi Community and Family based Children's Care Centre in an initial two year period.

When a child first enters services at the centre, a needs assessment will be completed. The goal will be to address at least three of the child's top five priorities/needs in the first twelve months.

Appropriate detailed records of childrens' experience and progress will be kept.

All experience will be recorded and evaluated including successes, failures, difficulties encountered and need for variation or improvement in the project processes.

A full evaluation will be made at the end of the two year period resulting in a detailed and comprehensive report to donors and other interested agencies.

This process should enable further supportive activities for Africa's millions of vulnerable children.

Overall goal

To relieve the suffering and support and improve the future of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in Lesotho.

Specific Objectives

To establish, construct, and run a community managed OVC support centre in Mount Moorosi in the Lesotho district of Quthing.

To operate the centre as a drop-in facility for OVC who live in the proximity of the centre.

To operate an outreach service for in school and out of school OVC.

To involve the community in major OVC support activities.

To introduce OVC to divine service.

Objective 1

To establish, construct, and run a community managed OVC support centre in Mount Moorosi.

Justification

It has been established that there are at least a staggering 140 double orphans in Mount Moorosi, most of whom it is believed are the victims of HIV& AIDS.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is known for its ability to wipe out the sexually active and child-bearing age group, who happen to be also the working group.

Thus, the dying parents leave behind them orphans and the old people. As a result, the old people are then faced with the burden of caring for the orphaned children.

On the other hand, unemployment and poverty are making it hard for the old and the extended family to cope with the burden of taking care of orphans, even though they might be willing to do so. Equally, there are the abandoned, abused, and destitute children who need to be taken care of.

Therefore, the centre will act as a short term refuge, while every effort would be made to place the children with extended families, or couples who would want to adopt them (the later would be in compliance with legal procedures).



A classroom in Lesotho

Strategies

Build a centre, which will have temporary sleeping facilities for ten to fifteen children, ablution facilities, a kitchen, counselling room, and a living place for the mother who will take care of the kids.

Indicators

The building is constructed.

Qualifying children are admitted to the centre.

Objective 2

To operate the centre as a drop-in facility for OVC living in the proximity of the centre.

Justification

Thusanang children's project is intended to relieve the suffering of the OVC, while proper relationship with extended families and the communities is maintained, with all efforts being made to avoid institutionalisation of the centre.

Therefore to offer as much support as possible, the identified OVC will come to the centre for counselling, play therapy, support and for meals. The later will apply only for those who are close to the centre.

Strategies

Counselling to be offered at the centre.

Play therapy sessions to be held at the centre.

Meals to be supplied by the centre.

Clothing and other support items to be available at the centre.

Ablution facilities to be available at the centre

Temporary sleeping facilities to be available at the centre.

Indicators

Number of OVC receiving counselling.

Number of OVC attending play therapy sessions.

Number of OVC coming for meals and number of meals taken.

Number of OVC attending and the kind of information gathered from them, and number of items/gifts distributed.

Number of OVC receiving ablutions.

Number of OVC over-nighting at the centre.

Objective 3

To operate an outreach service for in school and out of school OVC.

Justification

Maintenance of the social fabric is essential. That is why Thusanang regards it as highly imperative for the OVC to remain with their relatives and the extended families for maintenance of social activities and cultural rituals.

Similarly, Thusanang is aware of unemployment and poverty that act as constraints to proper growth and development of OVC, Hence the need for support in all aspects of life.

Therefore, Thusanang will offer support to OVC through an outreach service. Thus, out of school, at primary school, and at post primary school will be covered. Qualifying children either in school, or out of school, will be offered full or partial assistance, based on individual needs.

Strategies

Beneficiaries to submit applications at Thusanang office for consideration (in person or by care giver).

Government departments and NGOs may make referrals. Thusanang community management committee will screen the beneficiaries to identify those who qualify.

Approved beneficiaries will receive support according to their specific needs.

Assistance will range from food packages, clothing, toiletries, medical cared ,to the most important of all, education.

Thusanang will open a web page where qualifying OVC with full profiles will be announced for the donor community to consider for specialised financing.

Indicators

Number of OVC who receive partial support with quantities of items or sums involved.

Number of OVC who receive full support with quantities of items and sums involved.

Number of donors financing specific children.

Objective 4

To involve the community in major OVC support activities.

Justification

A sense of ownership is of utmost importance for the smooth operation of the project, hence the need for unwavering support and



Every child in this picture is an orphan
Mount Moorosi, Lesotho

participation of the communities at all levels of operation, from management to project sustainability activities.

In addition to the sense of ownership, the communities should benefit from the project as well as give something. In other words, the project should be of mutual importance to communities and OVC, hence the project name Thusanang, which means helping each other.

As a result of the sense of ownership, and the mutual benefits offered by the project, the communities will feel obliged to support all the project related activities, which in turn will enhance project sustainability.

Strategies

Project management board shall be made of good willed community members for the enhancement of transparency and accountability. Community members with special skills will be encouraged to offer free services to OVC. Examples include but are not limited to: counselling, farming, building, carpentry, plumbing, metal working and engineering, handcraft, and pottery.

Communities will be introduced to innovative farming methods that will increase their food production for the promotion of food sufficiency and poverty alleviation.

Farmers' associations and individuals will be encouraged to sustain the project by:

- Donating some of their harvest to the OVC project.
- Engaging into joint farming with the project

Indicators

Management board formed and committed to its functions and duties.

Number of skilled community members offering various skills free.

Types of skills offered.

Number of associations and individual farmers introduced to productive farming methods, and profitable practice of those methods by farmers.

Number of associations and individual farmers engaged into joint farming with the project.

Number of associations and individual farmers donating some of their harvest, and types of commodities and quantities.

Objective 5

To introduce OVC to divine service.

Justification

All the worldly endeavours are but annulled if not intended to guide humanity to Godly service. Therefore, every effort should be made to bring the OVC closer to God by teaching them divine truths.

Thusanang being a non denominational organization will not compel anyone to pray in a particular way.



Every child in this picture is an orphan
Quthing, Lesotho

Strategies

OVC will be encouraged to pray at least twice a day (morning and evening).

OVC will be encouraged to attend services in their respective churches.

OVC will be taught basic divine values.

Indicators

OVC attend church services.

OVC know how to pray.

OVC adapt good morals and behaviour.

Back Up Plan

The goal in funding the Mount Moorosi Centre initially is to evaluate the viability of this community based solution as a blue print for Africa to address the African orphan crisis.

Back up plan is to drop the concept of building a child care centre and focus on attempting the other aspects of the project using existing community facilities.

We see this as a retrograde step, since the existence of the community based Child Care Centres is key to the Thusanang concept.