

Update on our twin school in

Lesotho:

Motati Primary School

School motto: Together, Today and Tomorrow



Motati Primary school is located in the village of Lihakeng in the district of Leribe. There are about 500 children attending Motati Primary school, in grades 1 to 7, and a total of 15 teachers. Many of the children are orphaned or vulnerable. Although school is free, many of the children have to walk great distances with an empty stomach to come to school. But they do come, they do learn, and they take great pride in their achievements.

Motati Primary School's needy children have received new uniforms and shoes from Deep Cove School through the money that we raised for the Orphan Relief Fund at our Christmas Fair. The uniforms include some warm track suits for the cold winter season. Local women made the uniforms. This provided much needed income for their families.

The children of Motati School have made booklets for their new friends at Deep Cove School. Carolyn Kennedy, Program director of *Help Lesotho* tells us: "I know that they worked so hard to do a good job and were so proud to be able to tell you about their country. They have so little to offer but want so much to share." The children here at Deep Cove have discovered these booklets and have been busy making their own stories to send to their new friends in Lesotho.

As you already know, the buildings of Motati school are in very poor conditions. The roofs of some buildings have been blown away during a storm several years ago and have not yet been replaced. As a result, one of the classes (grade 4) is taught in a tin shed, and others are taught outside. The principal of Motati school has tried in vain to have the roof repaired. There is hope however: the Lesotho government has apparently promised to replace the roof soon. Because of this, *Help Lesotho* feels that it could have negative consequences if we paid for the roof. They are instead making arrangements to meet with the minister of Education in Lesotho to try to speed things along.

The next project that Motati School would like to start is a vegetable garden. The produce grown in this garden would be used to improve the lunches for the students and the remaining vegetables would be sold at the local market to generate much needed income for the school. To start this project, they need a fence, some tools, a shed to store the tools and some seeds. Presently, there is a small garden, but the tools that they use are borrowed from the local villagers and are not always available when needed. The estimated cost of this project would be about \$3,000. **If we were able to raise this money now, *Help Lesotho* would try to get some tools to Motati School in time for the next planting season in September. So why delay?** See the second page of this newsletter for ideas on how you can help



To find out more:

We are planning to show a slide show on Lesotho and on Motati School for the parents after the lunch on Games Day, on **June 15**. Please mark this day on your calendar, come cheer your children on in the morning, stay for lunch and then for the PowerPoint presentation. If you can not make it, the first part of the slide show (on Lesotho in general) can be downloaded from the Help Lesotho website at www.helplesotho.ca, go under "about Lesotho" and download the PowerPoint presentation at the bottom of the page.

If you would like more information or if you would like to get involved in the Lesotho group, contact Martine Lunke (656-5658; martinelunke@uniserve.com) or Barbara Menzies (656-3895)

What can we do to help?

When we look at world-wide disasters such as the AIDS epidemic and the poverty in much of Africa, we may feel powerless, but when we focus our attention on a small community with specific needs, there is just so much we can do.

Many parents and students at Deep Cove School have been touched by the stories and images from Motati School in Lesotho and have asked how they can help. We have heard from Deep Cove children asking for donations for Lesotho instead of birthday gifts, other children planning a toy sale or a lemonade stand and others wanting to go busking to raise money for Motati School. Some parents have also asked us how to proceed to make a donation to support our twin school. Because we are almost at the end of the school year, we do not have the time to organize a big fundraiser, but we would like to encourage each family to contribute in a way that is meaningful for you, and to send your contributions directly to *Help Lesotho*, using one of the attached donation forms (the other one is for you to give to any friend or family member who might be interested). HL will issue receipts for income tax purposes, and they have also promised to give us regular updates on how much money we collect, as well as a specific breakdown on how the money is spent. We hope that many of you will choose to contribute to this exciting project, not out of guilt, but because of the joy it brings to contribute to somebody else's wellbeing.

A birthday party idea...

While we have great admiration for the generosity of children who request donations to charity instead of birthday gifts, we recognize that many children are not ready to do it, and that it just fine. What about requesting instead that the presents be wrapped in recycled paper, newsprint or colorful magazine pages instead of fancy gift paper, and that the money saved on wrapping (a loonie or twoonie) be brought for Motati School? If enough children do this, it could make a real difference. Good for Motati School and good for the environment.

“Given to”

a song by Ruth Bebermeyer

I never feel more given to
Than when you take from me-
When you understand the joy I feel
Giving to you
And you know my giving isn't done
To put you in my debt,
But because I want to live the love
I feel for you
To receive with grace
May be the greatest giving
There's no way I can separate
The two.
When you give to me,
I give you my receiving
When you take from me
I feel so given to.



A special Thank You to **Sarah Thomas**, in Mme Nayda's class, who asked that her friends bring donations for Motati School instead of gifts for her 6th birthday. Sarah and her friends raised \$120, that will go towards starting a garden at Motati School. With fresh vegetables from their garden, the children at Motati School will have better and more varied lunches.

