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2010 Annual Report

touching tiny lives

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Moving Forward In a New Decade

2010 Overview

In 2010, TTL began a new decade of service with a renewed commitment to its mission of supporting the young children of Lesotho who are affected by HIV/AIDS. Toward that mission, TTL continued to grow its staff, expand its outreach services, increase its number of village health worker trainings, and develop the institutional framework needed to maintain momentum as the organization looks toward further expansion into Thaba Tseka District in 2011. These efforts made 2010 a benchmark year in terms of preparation for a future of increased impact.

In 2010, a total of 379 orphaned and vulnerable children were supported through outreach services: a 22% increase from 2009. More than 500 visits were made to HIV positive expectant mothers to aid them in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT).

In the second half of 2010, TTL hired a new financial administrator, developed and filled a new position of administrative assistant, and otherwise retained its most talented and knowledgeable staff.

TTL has continued to expand its activities in the Thaba Tseka district and is now assisting communities served by the St. Theresa, Mohlanapeng and Sehonghong clinics. In Mokhotlong, TTL has continued to build strong ties with community leaders and local health clinics and hospitals throughout the district. The Village Health Worker Training Program, designed to identify children affected by malnutrition and HIV/AIDS, was introduced in 2010 at one additional clinic in Mokhotlong (Malefiloane) and one additional clinic in Thaba Tseka (Sehonghong).

This growth to a new total of seven VHW clinic programs has resulted in an ever-expanding TTL referral network, with more organizational eyes and ears in the field than ever before. The next step for TTL will be an expansion of outreach services in 2011 into more and more areas of the Thaba Tseka district.

Touching Tiny Lives has served more than 750 children in the Mokhotlong and Thaba Tseka districts since its inception in May 2004. Despite these achievements, TTL recognizes that there are many more children in need. TTL hopes to continue its momentum in growth, to serve more children than ever before in 2011 and beyond.



Rapelang, just before leaving the TTL Safe-home in February 2010.

TTL Accomplishments in Numbers: 2010

1541 Visits made to children's homes through the Outreach Program to provide nutritional and medical support, as well as training to caregivers

780 Visits with HIV+ women involving breastfeeding, nutrition, and hygiene training

363 Visits by clients to clinics and hospitals, facilitated by TTL

580 Visits made to new and expectant HIV+ mothers to aid in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT)

201 New child clients served through the Outreach Program

169 Child clients who reached health and stability and successfully graduated from Outreach Program

379 Total number of clients supported through Outreach Program

82 Child clients tested for HIV infection

40 Children rehabilitated in the Safe-Home

TTL's Work

Outreach

Touching Tiny Lives served more than 350 children through its outreach efforts during 2010. These children face complex and often overwhelming challenges. TTL is dedicated to providing them with personalized support to help them through their early years. TTL provides that help in whatever form is needed, whether it is the delivery of monthly food packages, counseling and education for caretakers on how to seek and adhere to medical treatment, or financial support for transport to the hospital and for hospital fees. The outreach program allows TTL to provide vulnerable children with lifesaving services while keeping families intact.



TTL Outreach Coordinator Matello Matiea reviews the health booklet of former safe-home client Karabo, along with Karabo's mother, outside a rural clinic.

Of the 379 clients served during 2009, 249 were from Mokhotlong district, with the other 130 residing in the Mashai area of Thaba Tseka district. In order to serve these clients, TTL made over 1500 individual home and rural clinic visits. By reaching clients in their homes, TTL establishes personal relationships with each individual family, and tailors its services to the specific needs of that family. These home visits also offer opportunities to provide caregivers with training on proper nutrition, basic medical issues, and disease prevention in the home.

With TTL's support, these clients also made over 360 visits to local clinics and hospitals. By encouraging and enabling these visits through education and financial

support, TTL not only ensures appropriate medical care, but also instills strong treatment-seeking behavior for the future.

Of the 379 clients served, 169 clients were successfully “graduated,” having achieved stable health and nutritional conditions. With TTL’s support, each of these children passed through a period of great vulnerability and is now able to live and be supported by their families and communities.

Sadly, 22 outreach clients passed away during 2010. They are a poignant reminder of the hardships faced by orphaned and vulnerable children in Lesotho, and the support they so critically need. Their struggles and deaths will not be forgotten, but will feed TTL’s desire to help save the lives of more and more children into the future.

PMTCT

One horrible reality of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is that most young children with HIV contract the disease from their mothers. TTL’s PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) program provides women with the knowledge and resources to give their children a chance at a life free of HIV. Working with local clinics and hospitals, TTL assisted 86 new clients who were pregnant, providing them with services such as transport to hospitals for delivery, clean bottles and brushes, and formula if they chose to stop breastfeeding. Additionally, TTL made 780 visits to train women on breastfeeding, alternatives to breastfeeding, and hygiene best practices.



Tseliso, whose mother was HIV positive, resting in the arms of one of TTL's safe-home caregivers after enjoying a bottle of formula.

TTL also witnessed the continued growth of the government's role in eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, which led to the provision, through rural clinics, of more and more PMTCT services to women in need. This expansion was accomplished in part through the support of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and USAID. In 2011, TTL hopes to reevaluate and revitalize its own role in PMTCT services in rural Lesotho, in light of the increased services from other entities.

Safe-Home

In 2010, 40 children were rehabilitated at the TTL safe-home. Of these children, 29 were successfully reintegrated with their families and are currently supported through outreach services. Five children are still residing in the safe-home and will soon be reunified as well. Sadly, six children passed away after arriving at TTL in critical health. These children highlight the importance of the Outreach and VHW programs to identify seriously ill children as early as possible. When found in time, the children who come to the TTL safe-home generally go through a transformation similar to Paballo's:



Paballo at Arrival
September 2010



Paballo at Departure
November 2010

When Paballo arrived at the TTL safe-house, she was severely malnourished. Today, she is healthy and reunified with her family. TTL's outreach workers continue to support her and her family with medications, clinic visits, and nutritional needs.

Many of the children who have stayed with TTL this year have made remarkable recoveries, escaping from death's doorstep to become smiling, playful babies ready to return to their families. As TTL's Outreach and PMTCT programs grow and serve increasing numbers of children, the safe-home will continue to serve as a final safety net for the most vulnerable. Another 2010 TTL success story is Ntseliseng's:

Ntseliseng

When 16-month-old Ntseliseng arrived at Touching Tiny Lives in April of 2010, she was an orphan on the verge of death, fighting undiagnosed HIV and other illnesses, an infestation of scabies, and malnutrition so severe that her tongue barely fit in her sunken cheeks. Her stomach was distended from hunger and her legs were completely undeveloped.



Ntseliseng on arrival to the TTL safe-house in April 2010, left, and dancing behind the safe-house three months later after an astounding recovery.

Three months later, after 24-hour care and nourishment at the TTL safe-house, Ntseliseng had transformed into a happy and healthy toddler, on a successful regimen of medication for HIV and strong enough to dance! She was soon reunited with a loving aunt who TTL helped find and who has stepped forward to be her full-time caregiver. She remains in good health, and her future now looks bright!

Village Health Worker Project

Following a successful launch in 2008 and a strong year of growth in 2009, TTL's Village Health Workers (VHW) Program continued to grow in 2010 - bringing more and more referrals of children in need to TTL.

This year saw the expansion of the VHW program to one additional clinic in Mokhotlong District (Malefiloane), as well as one additional clinic in Thaba Tseka District (Sehonghong).

This expansion brings the total number of clinics in which the TTL VHW Program is operating to an impressive seven - with four in Mokhotlong District and three in Thaba Tseka District.

In the coming year, TTL hopes to further develop this network as it continues its expansion throughout the Thaba Tseka District.



Some of the Village Health Workers who now serve as TTL's eyes and ears in their rural communities, assessing children for malnutrition and illness.

Development of Mokhotlong Campus

In 2010, the expansion of TTL's Mokhotlong campus that began in 2009 was completed, and the new Hesburgh-Amicus Centre was opened for business. The new building provides TTL with four additional offices and a conference room, and currently houses TTL's outreach office and finance office. This new construction has facilitated TTL's own organizational growth while simultaneously creating the potential for new partnerships in Mokhotlong camp town with other, like-minded organizations in the Lesotho highlands.

In 2011, TTL while pursue funding for the construction of a new campus is Thaba Tseka camp town, which will in turn facilitate programmatic expansion throughout the Thaba Tseka District.

Once established, the two campuses will work together to create a broader, more far-reaching presence for TTL across two districts.



A bird's eye view of TTL's campus and the growth it sustained this year. The large building at the right of the photo is the new Hesburgh-Amicus Centre, housing new TTL offices. The photo was taken from the roof of the TTL Safe-home.

Financial Details

1 January 2010 - 31 December 2010

SAR 7 = ~USD 1

	SAR	~USD*
TOTAL INCOME	R 2,063,088.41	\$ 294,727
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	R 1,833,567.55	\$ 261,938
<i>Administration</i>	R 132,768.87	\$ 18,967
<i>Audit</i>	R 15,960	\$ 2,280
<i>Baby-care Supplies</i>	R 92,690.69	\$ 13,242
<i>Bank Fees</i>	R 17,925.26	\$ 2,561
<i>Building & Construction</i>	R 83,372.95	\$ 11,910
<i>Education</i>	R 3,668.50	\$ 524
<i>Food</i>	R 342,166.31	\$ 48,881
<i>Medical Support</i>	R 44,088.57	\$ 6,298
<i>Personnel</i>	R 757,515.28	\$ 108,216
<i>Transport</i>	R 307,537.87	\$ 43,934
<i>Utilities</i>	R 35,873.25	\$ 5,125

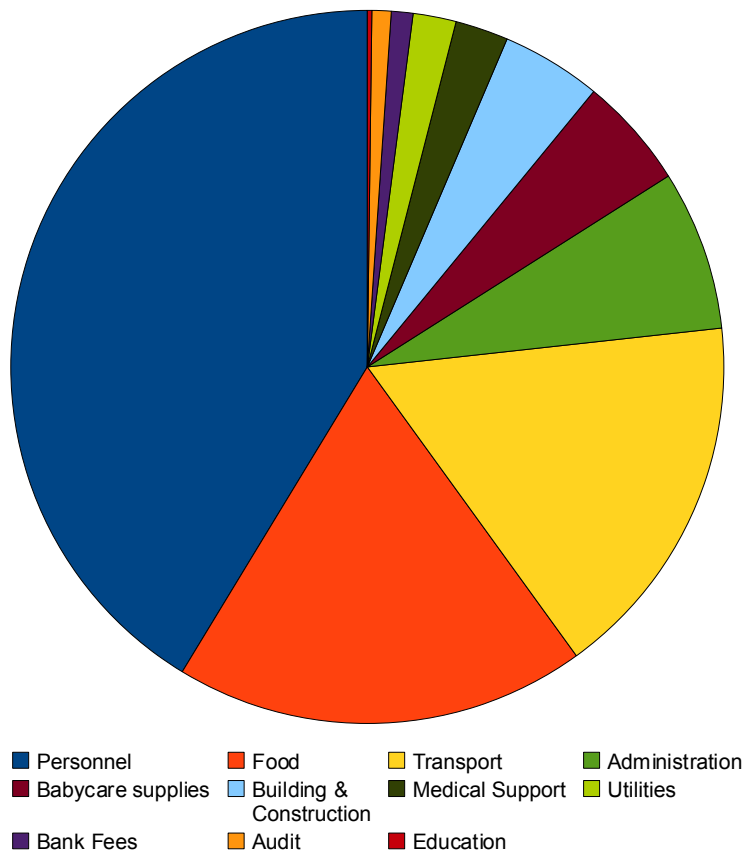
*Values in USD are approximated.



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Financial Details

TTL Expenditures 2010



Organizational Profile

In the Mokhotlong and Thaba Tseka districts of Lesotho, HIV and AIDS are ravaging the community. With HIV rates estimated at near 25%, Lesotho is at the epicenter of the global HIV epidemic. Life expectancy has dropped from 45 to 36, and rates of associated infections, such as TB, are soaring. Largely as a result of this epidemic, some estimates suggest that there are more than 100,000 orphans in Lesotho, out of a population of only 1.8 million. Many other children have contracted HIV from their mothers. In too many tragic cases, children in these districts are both orphaned and HIV positive. This epidemic is coupled with food insecurity and high rates of child malnutrition. Despite the immensity of the challenges faced, these highland districts are some of the most underserved areas in Lesotho.

Touching Tiny Lives (TTL) is dedicated to helping children up to five years of age affected by this epidemic. Managed and staffed by 30 local women and men, the organization has served more than 700 kids since beginning work in 2004, and currently provides life-saving support to about 100 children and pregnant mothers.

To do this, TTL employs a unique model consisting of three integrated programs. At the core of the Touching Tiny Lives model is an outreach program that supports children in their homes by providing nutritional, medical, and educational support. A complementary PMTCT (Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission) Program works with pregnant mothers to prevent transmissions to newborns. Finally, TTL operates a safe-home in Mokhotlong where severely malnourished and sick children are rehabilitated. The safe-home is a final safety-net for the most vulnerable kids, and a temporary home to them while they recover.



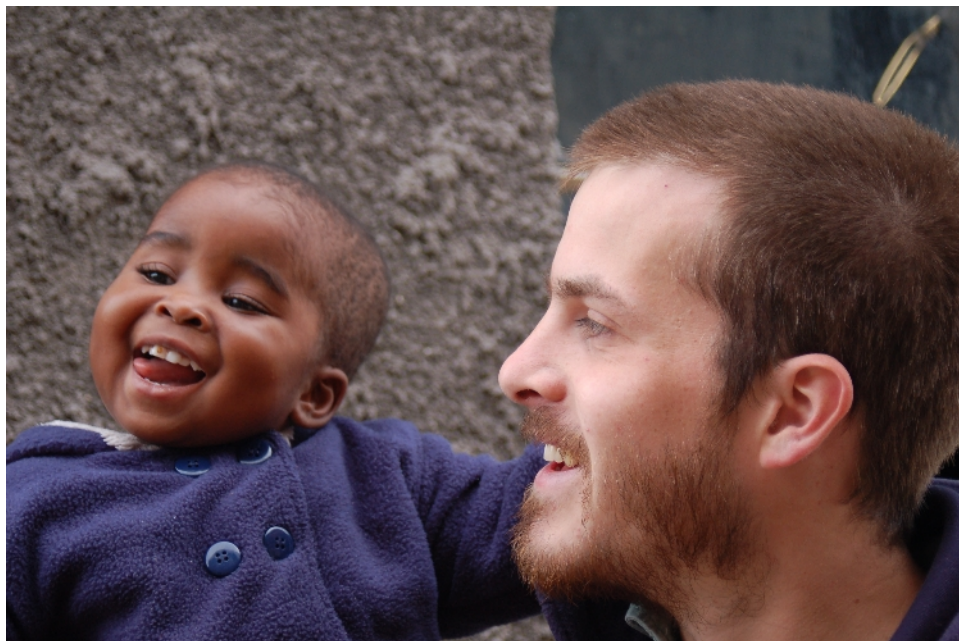
Khutliso, left, and Retsepile have become fast friends in the TTL Safe-home, as they both make remarkable recoveries.



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A young girl whose family benefited from TTL's support of her younger sister.



TTLF Fellow Kevin Rector and safe-home success story Seithati developed a close bond after both arrived at TTL in early February 2010.



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Safe-home client Karabo gives her enthusiastic point-of-view while playing outside with Ntseliseng.



Selloane enjoys a swing behind the TTL safe-home.