



2012 Annual Report

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2012 Overview: A Year of Reflection and Growth

For Touching Tiny Lives, this year has been one of reflection and growth. In March of 2012, TTL reached the remarkable milestone of serving 1,000 children. This accomplishment allowed us to reflect on the past eight years we've spent developing TTL's unique model and look forward to the many years to come in which we will continue to serve the children of Lesotho.

This year, TTL continued to focus on expanding its outreach services, increasing the number and capacity of the Village Health Worker program, and improving the level of care provided to children in the safe-home. Along with this focus on our existing initiatives, TTL executed a large-scale monitoring and evaluation program that facilitated our ability to understand our areas of strength, as well as our areas in need of growth.

In 2012, TTL supported 387 orphaned and vulnerable children in the Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts of Lesotho. In our efforts to provide children and their families with a broad range of service including nutritional assessments, food packages, assistance with accessing health services and medication, as well as training and caregiver education, TTL made over 1,394 visits to individual households. Many of these visits focused on providing specific care to HIV+ mothers to support those children and families that are dealing with the devastating consequences of this disease. Additionally, TTL's safe-home provided essential rehabilitative care to fifty-one children.

The successes TTL has experienced in the past year are attributable to our innovative service model, the commitment of our leadership and local staff, and the strength of the children we serve. The knowledge and experience of our thirty local Basotho staff is an integral part of TTL's success, providing an understanding and regional expertise that guides TTL's operations. While we celebrate and reflect upon the achievements of the past year, we are also reminded that there are still many children in Lesotho in need of services. We will use this fact as motivation to grow and refine our services to ensure that we continue to provide high-impact care, one child at a time.



TTL Accomplishments in Numbers

- 1394** Visits made to children's homes through the Outreach Program to provide nutritional and medical support, as well as training to caregivers
- 259** Clinic and hospital visits made by TTL clients, facilitated by TTL
- 15** Trainings/site visits to strengthen the Village Health Worker Network and identify children in need of support
- 68** Women living with HIV supported by TTL in their position as caregivers
- 165** New child clients identified and served by TTL
- 109** Child clients who reached health and stability and successfully graduated from the Outreach Program
- 51** Children rehabilitated in the Safe-home
- 190** Number of 20 kilogram bags of maize meal given to families to combat Lesotho's increasing food insecurity
- 387** Total number of child clients supported in 2012

1159 Total number of TTL child clients served to date

Batloung: A Long Journey to Recovery

Batloung was referred to TTL when a Village Health Worker identified him as suffering from severe malnutrition. Upon assessing his situation, the TTL Outreach team quickly realized that Batloung's swollen face and feet were a clear sign of Kwashiorkor, a critical form of malnutrition resulting from a significant lack of protein. The Outreach team took Batloung to the Mokhotlong Government Hospital where he spent a number of weeks undergoing treatment for malnutrition. For the past several months, Batloung has been receiving rehabilitative care at the TTL safe-home. During his stay at TTL, Batloung has experienced tremendous progress in regaining his health and catching-up on developmental milestones. He is now crawling and standing independently and the safe-home caregivers note advances in his responsive and expressive language almost every day. While Batloung still faces many challenges in this recovery, the immense strides he has already made give us great confidence in his future.



TTL's Model at Work

Outreach

TTL devotes a large amount of time and resources to its Outreach program, which serves an average 100 children every month. In addition to the health challenges our Outreach clients face, the physical remoteness of their villages of Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts make their situations even more difficult to address. TTL provides assistance in multiple ways, from the delivery of monthly food packages, to counseling and education for caretakers on how to seek and adhere to medical treatment, to financial support for transport to the hospital, as well as hospital fees. TTL's Outreach program allows vulnerable children to receive life-saving services, while keeping families and communities intact and involved, enabling the sustainability of positive results.

Of the 276 children served by the Outreach program in 2012, 235 were from Mokhotlong district, with the other 41 residing in the Mashai area of Thaba-Tseka. TTL traversed the rough mountain roads of these areas in order to make over 1,390 individual home and rural clinic visits. By reaching clients in their villages, TTL builds rapport and establishes personal relationships with each individual family, tailors its services to the specific needs of that family, and provides in-home training to caregivers. This unique practice of serving clients and caregivers in their homes also benefits other members of the household, extending the impact of Outreach activities beyond the child client.

With TTL's support, Outreach clients made over 259 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. Some clients continue to receive this form of support even after graduating from the Outreach program if financial barriers would prevent a child from accessing life-saving medical support.

Of the 279 clients served, 108 clients were successfully graduated, having achieved stable health and nutrition levels. 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. Unfortunately, eight outreach clients passed away during 2012. These children remind us of the realities of our work, of the hardships faced by orphaned and vulnerable children in Lesotho, and the support they so critically need.



A child and his grandmother are visited by the TTL Outreach team. Many of TTL's clients are being raised by their grandmothers because their mothers have passed away from AIDS. TTL supports these families by providing health assessments, nutritional assistance, and psychosocial support.

TTL's Model at Work

Safe-home

The safe-home continues to be a place where TTL clients receive life-saving care. TTL's safe-home provides temporary care in the form of nutritional and medical rehabilitation for children who are severely malnourished and in critical need of medical support. Over the past year, the safe-home has provided support to fifty-one of the most severely malnourished and ill children referred to TTL. Of these children, forty-one have been successfully reunited with their families in their home villages, receiving further services as Outreach clients. Six remain in the safe-home to be reunited in the coming year, while one child is now living in a local orphanage because no suitable family placement could be established. Each of these positive reunifications provided all of the TTL staff and community with endless motivation to continue to serve the children of Lesotho. Additionally, the safe-home provided temporary shelter to six children as Social Welfare placements. Unfortunately, three children passed away while at the safe-home. All three of these children arrived at the safe-home extremely malnourished, while two of them were exposed to HIV. The tragedy of losing these children remind all of us of the myriad challenges Basotho children face and highlighted the importance of the early identification through the Outreach and Village Health Worker Programs.



A safe-home caregiver sings and claps with children to help in the development of language and motor skills. The safe-home provides rehabilitative care to children from 0 to 5 years of age.



TTL's Model at Work

Village Health Worker Program

The Village Health Worker Program acts as a vital part of TTL's service model. Since 2008, Village Health Workers have tirelessly identified children affected by HIV/AIDS or malnutrition in their villages and refer these children to TTL, resulting in over 5,000 children being assessed for services. On average, more than twenty percent of TTL's referrals come from Village Health Workers, while in the most rural and isolated areas TTL serves nearly fifty percent of referrals come from Village Health Workers.

In 2012, TTL's Village Health Workers served nine clinic catchment areas: six in Mokhotlong and three in Thaba-Tseka. Further, TTL has begun culminating plans to expand to four additional clinic areas - three in Mokhotlong and one in Thaba-Tseka - resulting in the entire operating area of TTL being served by Village Health Workers. With the expansion to each new clinic area, TTL provides training and builds relationships with an average of forty-five Village Health Workers.

TTL continually works to build and strength the capacity of the Village Health Worker Program by facilitating trainings around key topics in identifying malnutrition and childhood illnesses. Further, TTL conducts site visits to each Village Health Worker area - allowing for the assessment of over 1,000 children each year. This year, TTL focused on evaluating the effectiveness of the various trainings models that have been used throughout the course of the Village Health Worker Program. In the coming year, we hope to tailor the trainings TTL offers to ensure Village Health Workers have all the tools they need to support children in their villages.

Caregivers bring their children to a Village Health Worker site visit to learn about the services TTL offers and to have their children assessed for malnutrition.



With the help of a Village Health Worker, a TTL Outreach worker measures a child's height using a length board. A child's height, weight, and MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) are used to quickly assess for malnutrition.

High Impact Care, One Child at a Time: Mamello's Story

During 2012, many in both TTL's Safe-home and Outreach Program demonstrated the remarkable strength and resilience of children. Mamello is one such child.

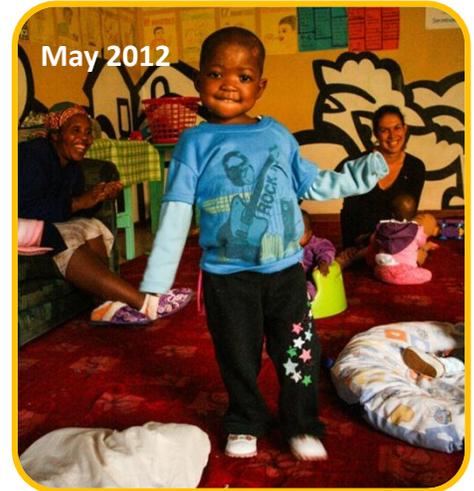


March 2012

Mamello arrived at the safe-home in March of 2012, following an extensive stay at the Mokhotlong Government Hospital where she was receiving treatment for severe malnutrition. At three and half years old, she weighed just seven kilograms. After her parents passed away, Mamello and her three other siblings were being taken care of by a young aunt, who as a child herself had difficulty shouldering the

responsibility of raising these young children.

Mamello was at the safe-home for just a few days when it was decided that it was necessary for her to be readmitted to the hospital to undergo another round of treatment for malnutrition and begin a regiment of ARVs. Mamello returned to the safe-home two weeks later. During her first few weeks at the safe-home, Mamello spent the majority of her time lying down watching the other children play. For her to simply stand and walk across the room was extremely laborious and heart-breaking to watch. While she did not have enough strength to run around, she happily participated in many other activities - such as looking at picture books, taking pictures, and coloring - and all of the TTL staff quickly fell for her engaging smile.



May 2012

Following many nutritious meals and much nurturing care from the safe-home staff, Mamello was soon dancing around the room. Because she was one of older children in the safe-home during her stay, she quickly became an eager helper to the safe-home caregivers.



December 2012

After four months in the safe-home, Mamello returned home to her village where TTL continues to serve her and her family as Outreach clients. Although Mamello has now been home for six months and is thriving in many ways, she still faces many challenges. Currently, she is experiencing some significant side-effects from her ARVs. Touching Tiny Lives continues to address Mamello's

changing needs, utilizing resources throughout the community and Lesotho to ensure this little girl has the future she deserves.

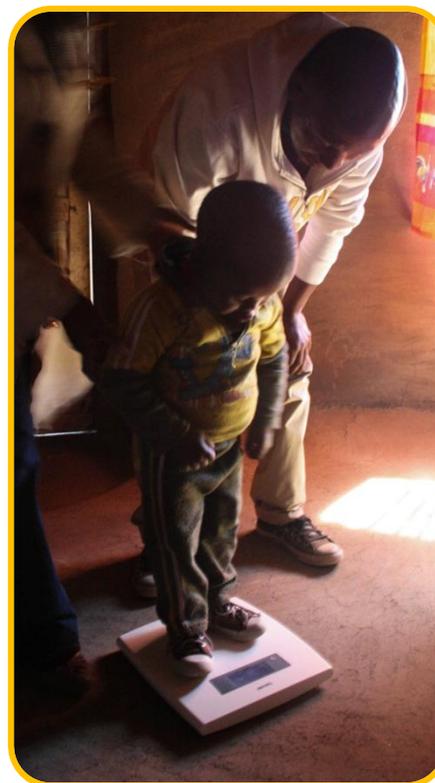
Monitoring and Evaluation

As a community organization, making sure that TTL is meeting the needs of its community is at the heart of everything we do. Consulting with our beneficiaries and other local stakeholders is indispensable to this commitment. In an effort to meet this objective, TTL engaged in a large-scale evaluation of our services in 2012.

As part of this consultation, TTL hired a team of independent data collectors to meet with over 145 caregivers and children who had benefitted from TTL's services. During these visits, the health of the graduated TTL child was assessed and caregivers were given the opportunity to provide feedback about their experiences receiving TTL's support. In addition, discussions were held with staff at rural clinics, local Councillors and Chiefs, and Village Health Workers to gain added insight into TTL's impact in the community. Focus groups were also held with all TTL staff to support their participation in determining how TTL can best support children and their caregivers in the highlands of Lesotho.

This evaluation serves as an important aspect of TTL's accountability to our beneficiaries and other stakeholders, including donors. It not only helped to identify what TTL does well and the long-term sustainability of our impact, but also how TTL can continue to grow in the future.

"They counseled me as a mother about HIV by showing me it was not the end of the world. I was no longer worried about what to feed my child and if he would survive...They help people so much and have a love of children. They should keep up their good work" – The mother of a child who TTL supported from 2008 to 2010, including a period of rehabilitation in the safe-home.



Data collectors assess a former client, Letlotlo, now four years old. Letlotlo came to the safe-home at six months old due to extreme malnourishment.

Staff Development

In ensuring the effective and thoughtful execution of all its programming, TTL recognizes the importance of providing continuing training and education to its staff. This year, TTL partnered with the Baylor Pediatric AIDS Initiative to provide a training regarding the psycho-social support of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS. A psychologist from Baylor came to the TTL campus to coordinate this training which focused on helping children and families dealing with the stigma of having HIV/AIDS and supporting children dealing with the loss of a loved one to HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the Baylor psychologist provided the TTL staff with strategies to use in dealing with their own emotions and grief that often arise as a result of working with sick and malnourished children.

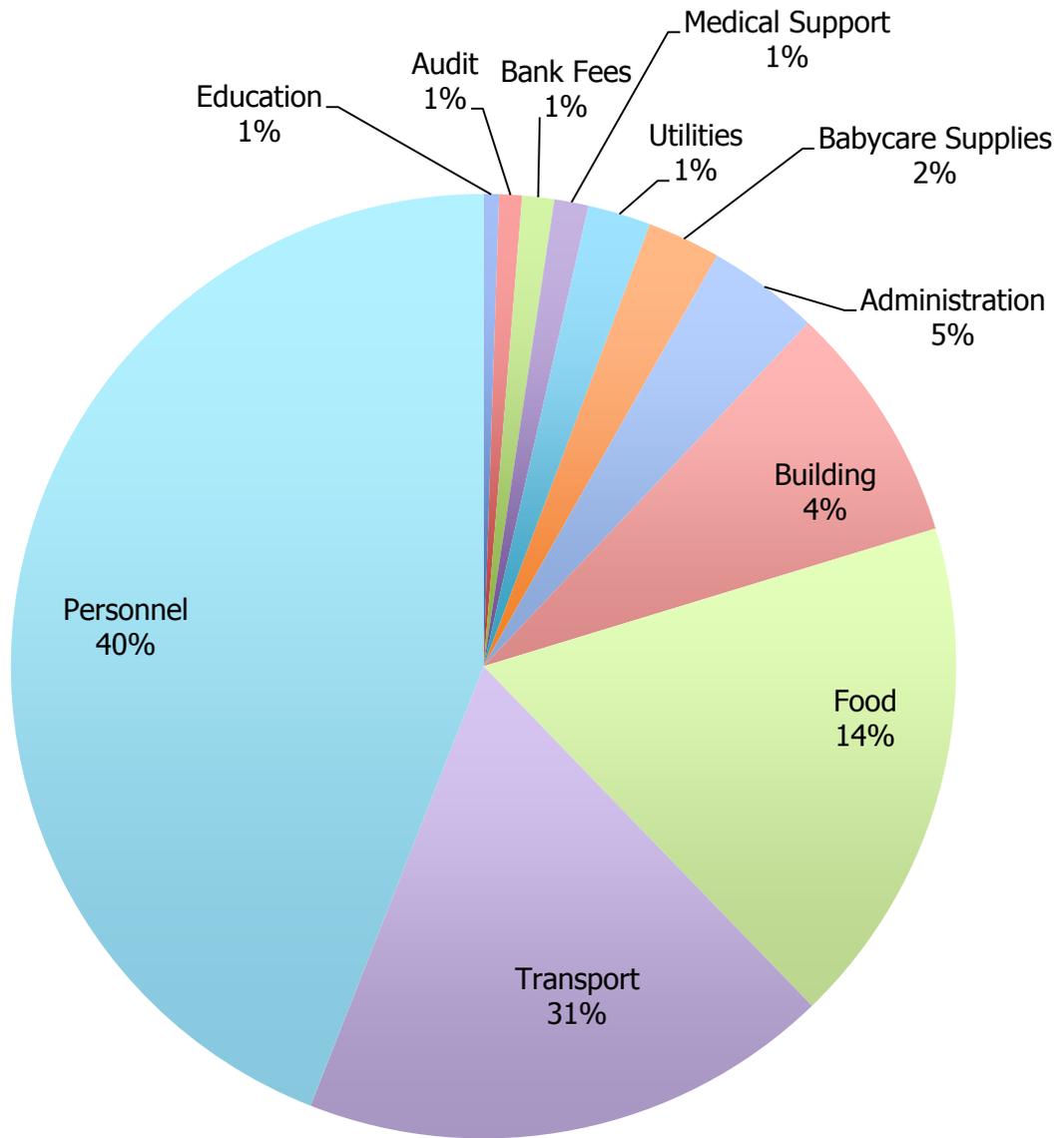
Further, TTL continued to focus on training staff in child development. With the assistance of a pediatric nurse consultant, the TTL staff developed skills in recognizing a child's developmental stage and identifying activities that can be used to encourage further development. The end of 2012 saw a focus on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). An understanding of IMCI will allow our Outreach team to more quickly and accurately assess the needs of clients they meet in rural villages.

Financial Details

1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012

<i>SAR 7 = ~USD 1</i>	SAR	USD
Total Income	R 2,927,399.18	\$418,199.88
Total Expenditures	R 2,282,456.83	\$326,065.26
<i>Administration</i>	R 116,724.69	\$16,674.96
<i>Audit</i>	R 10,721.70	\$1,531.67
<i>Babycare Supplies</i>	R 41,460.95	\$5,922.99
<i>Bank Fees</i>	R 18,250.97	\$2,607.28
<i>Building</i>	R 83,871.97	\$11,981.71
<i>Education</i>	R 7,075.00	\$1,010.71
<i>Food</i>	R 320,498.65	\$45,785.52
<i>Medical Support</i>	R 21,842.28	\$3,120.33
<i>Personnel</i>	R 899,766.73	\$128,538.10
<i>Transport</i>	R 714,646.49	\$102,092.36
<i>Utilities</i>	R 47,597.40	\$6,799.63

2012 TTL Expenses



Organizational Profile

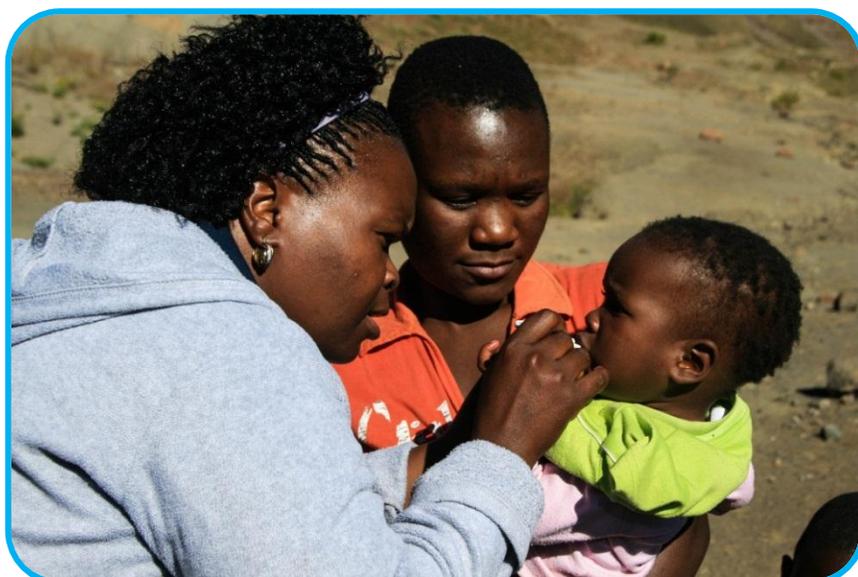
Chronic poverty, food insecurity and the HIV/AIDS epidemic have had devastating consequences for communities across Lesotho, particularly those in the rural mountain regions. HIV rates are estimated at near 24%, rates of associated infections, such as TB, are soaring, and under-5 mortality is persistently increasing where currently 1 in 9 children will pass away before their fifth birthday. As a result, more than 200,000 Basotho children have been orphaned (about 9% of Lesotho's total 2.1 million population), and 65% of these cases are directly attributable to HIV/AIDS. In addition, approximately 28,000 children have contracted HIV from their mothers and it is estimated 40% of children under-5 suffer from chronic malnutrition.

The Mokhotlong and Thaba-Tseka districts where TTL operates are some of the poorest in the country and the lack of infrastructure and poor road conditions - impeding access to health services among other difficulties - only serve to intensify the complications of the overall situation. Despite the immensity of the challenges faced, these highland districts are some of the most underserved areas in Lesotho. Managed and staffed by thirty local women and men, Touching Tiny Lives has served almost 1,000 kids since beginning work in 2004. On average, TTL provides life-saving support to 100 children every month.

TTL has shown innovation and leadership in the care of orphaned and vulnerable children by employing a unique model of three integrated programs that is able to respond to the individual needs of our clients and the changing contexts where they live. 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 program trains Village Health Workers to identify sick and malnourished children and refer them to TTL. Finally, TTL operates a safe-home in Mokhotlong where severely malnourished and sick children are rehabilitated. The safe-home is the final safety-net for the most vulnerable children, and a temporary home to them during their recover.

Our Mission:

TTL seeks to mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS on the most vulnerable infant children under five years of age by supporting their health, nutrition, development and emotional needs while empowering extended families and others who care for them to provide a better future for these children.



A TTL Outreach worker performs an HIV rapid test on an Outreach client. This test returns results in five minutes and allows the Outreach team to immediately start assisting the family in accessing services for an HIV+ child.

Our 2012 Partners & Supporters

Touching Tiny Lives Foundation

Sentebale

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Government of Lesotho)

Aktionsgruppe Gummersbach für die Welthungerhilfe/Initiative für Kinder in Lesotho

US Ambassador Community Grants

Shared, Inc.

ELMA Foundation

Letseng Diamonds

Gem Diamonds

Cowan International

Tsepang spent four months in the safe-home recovering from severe malnutrition. He rejoined his twin sister in his home village and continues to be served by TTL as an Outreach client.



Caregivers gather in the St. Martin area of the Mokhotlong district to discuss the needs and health of their children with the TTL Outreach team.

Thank you to all the volunteers and friends of TTL who have supported us during 2012 both on the ground and from afar.



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