



2015 Annual Report



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2015:

2015 was a productive year for identifying new and innovative projects that will help TTL grow and sustain.

After our success in our “Happy Beaks” trial run, the staff have decided to revamp and expand the project for 2016. We have given 20 households chickens and have seen success in all the households with regards to producing eggs and increasing protein intake. The project expansion will aid these families during harvest time when the effects of the current drought hit hard.

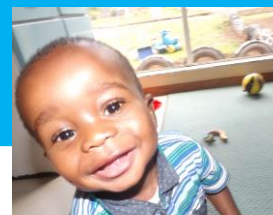
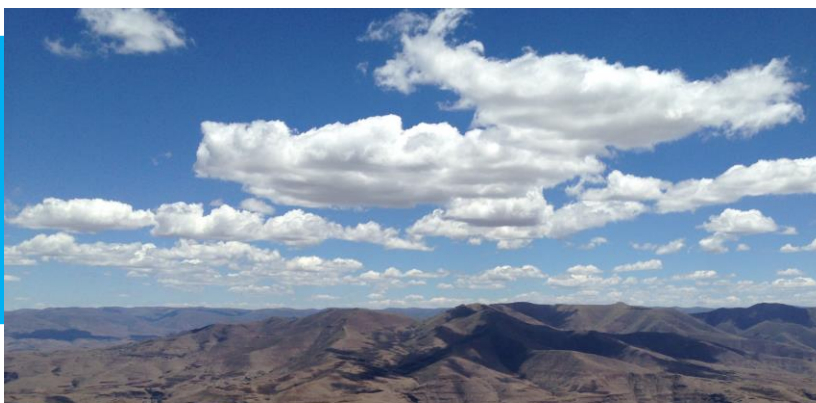
Not only is TTL expanding the chicken project, but we are in the implementation stage of our Caregivers on Campus project. Come 2016, TTL will be building a new building that will house the caregivers of the Safe Home children to improve the reunification process. The goal of this project will be to increase the inclusion of caregivers in the process of rehabilitation and reduce the impact of separation from caregivers.

The Outreach program continues to provide health, nutrition, and developmental support to our infant and child clients and education and emotional support to caregivers. The TTL Outreach Team made over 1,321 visits to individual households and assessed 1,780 children on various site visits.

The Safe Home continues to provide intensive nutrition and developmental support to our most vulnerable infant and child clients. TTL made strides in nutritional services after 2014 and still follows the protocol the nutritionist put in place. The Safe Home has been successful in rehabilitating 29 children in the safe home this year.

In 2015, TTL supported 349 vulnerable children in the Mokhotlong and Thaba Tseka districts of Lesotho. We provided children and their families with a broad range of services including nutritional assessments, individualized food parcels, assistance with accessing health services and medication, as well as child development assessments.

The accomplishments of TTL can be attributed to the dedicated staff, their constant innovative proficiency, and their commitment to learning and growing. The 30 local Basotho staff are an integral part of TTL’s model, providing an understanding and regional expertise that guides our operations. We celebrate our accomplishments from this past year, yet TTL has laid groundwork to make 2016 filled with improvement and success. TTL hopes to continue its momentum in growth and to serve more children in 2016, one child at a time.



TTL Accomplishments in Numbers

- 1321** Visits made to children's homes through the Outreach Program to provide nutritional and medical support, as well as training to caregivers
- 394** Clinic and hospital visits made by TTL clients, facilitated by TTL
- 1780** Children assessed at site visits made by Outreach
- 300+** Caregivers supported by TTL in their position as caregivers
- 170** New child clients identified and served by TTL
- 250** Child clients who reached health and stability and successfully graduated from the Outreach Program
- 52** Children rehabilitated in the Safe-home
- 388** Total number of child clients supported in 2015
- 1947** **Total number of TTL child clients served to date**

The "Happy Beaks" Project Success

Four years ago, this young man came into the Safe Home at two months old. His mother was too sick to take care for him, so he was severely malnourished. As always, the Safe Home crew made sure that he got the best care, nutrition, and medication.

Six months later he was reunified with his family and continued to receive services as our outreach client. Unfortunately, he lost his mother due to HIV/AIDS but his grandmother is doing an amazing job caring for him.

Now, at four years old and one of our "Happy Beaks" Chicken Project clients, he is happy and healthy. They have taken great care of their chickens, produced eggs, and increased the protein intake in their household. We could not be happier with the success of this particular chicken project.



TTL's Model at Work

Outreach

This year the TTL Outreach team served 388 clients in the Thaba Tseka and Mokhotlong districts.

The Outreach team began a program in conjunct with the Caregiver on Campus pilot. The team brought 29 caregivers to Mokhotlong for two caregiver trainings. As part of the training, the caregivers received training on gardening techniques, hygiene information, nutritional information, and lastly, psychological support from a psychologist which addressed challenges in caring for orphaned, vulnerable, and HIV children. In one training, the caregivers of the children in the Safe Home at the time came to the Safe Home to visit the children and see how the nutritional program in place works.



Sustainability is still a focus for at TTL and we want to ensure that families do not grow too dependent on TTL for long-term survival. The “Need for Seeds” project that began in 2014 saw huge success in increasing vegetable intake in 42 of the 52 households that were given seeds. In 2015, 62 households were given seeds. Unfortunately due to the current drought, the “Need for Seeds” project was halted but will still be monitored. The sustainability is now focused on the “Happy Beaks” project. This project provides a set of five chickens to the most vulnerable households so that they will have a reliable source of protein from the eggs and an income-generating tool through selling the extra eggs. We have had two of the families use the chickens to hatch more chickens. The project pilot was successful this year, so we have a plan to expand it to many more outreach families in 2016.

With TTL's support, Outreach clients made 394 visits to local clinics and hospitals. By encouraging and enabling these visits through education and financial support, TTL not only ensures timely and appropriate medical care, but also instills strong treatment-seeking behavior for the future. In certain situations where financial constraints would prevent a child from accessing life-saving medical care and support, Outreach clients continue to receive medical remuneration upon graduation from the program.

TTL Outreach team have assessed 1,780 children on site visits in 2015. These site visits can be used for a number of different reasons: to educate on health issues, to determine if any children need to be referred to TTL, and some, with the help of the Ministry of Health, to act as a health assessment with immunization and Vitamin A supplements.

Of the 359 clients served, 249 clients were successfully graduated after achieving stable health and nutrition status. Thanks to the support of TTL through our partner organizations, each of these children overcame a period of vulnerability. They are now thriving with the support of their families and communities.



TTL's Model at Work

Safe Home

The Safe Home continues to provide nutritional, developmental, and medical support to severely malnourished and ill children. In 2015, the TTL Safe Home has provided support for 52 infants and children. 41 children in 2015 have been successfully reunified with their families and caregivers in their home villages. They continue to receive services as Outreach clients for as long as needed. We currently have 11 infants and children in the Safe Home and we look forward to reuniting them in the coming year.



The TTL Safe Home Bo'Me are a huge asset to the rehabilitation of the children. They provide developmental support to each child, encouraging the children to reach milestones of development, while entertaining them throughout the day.

Malnourished and Tongue-Tied

One of TTL's tiniest babies in 2015. At 5 weeks and just 2.7 kg, Leboneng* had a z-score of -4, indicating critically severe acute malnutrition. Ideally, children should have a z-score around the median for their height/weight, but he stood 4 standard deviations below the median. Leboneng's mother had complications following his birth, and was only able to breastfeed for 3 days before being taken to the nearest hospital for medical attention. Leboneng was left in the care of his adult sister, who could not afford formula and supplemented Leboneng only with water and sugar. Fortunately, Village Health Workers in his village alerted TTL Outreach staff of the baby's need for assistance while they were doing assessments at a nearby clinic. Our Outreach staff quickly recognized Leboneng's critical level of malnutrition, and brought him back to the TTL Safe Home immediately.



Once Leboneng arrived at the Safe Home, TTL realized that there was another obstacle in the way of his eating and gaining weight. Leboneng has ankyloglossia, which is also known as being 'tongue-tied'. There is a short band of tissue tethering the bottom of his tongue's tip to the floor of his mouth. It is a condition which is present at birth, and it restricts the tongue's range of motion. This can result in difficulty eating, speaking, swallowing, and breast feeding. Sometimes the band of tissue can loosen over time and resolve on its own, and other times needs to be treated with surgery. He was fed formula through a syringe in order to ensure he was getting enough.

Leboneng was rehabilitated in the Safe Home for two months. Although 'tongue-tied', he was able to learn how to eat properly, receive enough nutrition, and reach a stable and healthy weight. He visited TTL in November 2015 with his aunt, and the staff is impressed with how far he has come.



*Name changed

Programmatic Improvements

In 2015, TTL evaluated and changed the graduation criteria for clients. We were running into dead ends of having clients for many months or years and not seeing any improvement. After reviewing the graduation criteria of only using the weight-for-height z-scores and health, TTL reevaluated the criteria. Based on poor compliance with the guidelines and too much dependence on the TTL packages, TTL has adjusted the criteria to address compliance issues. The effectiveness of the caregivers in following the guidelines given to them by TTL was nonexistent in some clients, so we put our foot down in order to address these issues.

Additionally, in 2015 TTL reviewed the staff annual performance forms. The forms have been adjusted to include more information to be used for next year for better assessment of staff performance.

Staff Development

The Safe Home team took a day to tour the Masuru Children's Village, an orphanage taking care of orphans and vulnerable children ages 0-18 years. The goal of the tour was to learn of the challenges of the work environment and dealing with vulnerable children. The Bo 'Me came back impressed by the balance of the ratio of caregivers to children in the Safe Home.

Two of our employees were sent to a financial management training this year. The training was for improved OMNI software for finances. This training helped our finance team stay up to date on their software.

Lastly, TTL continues to build our relationship with Baylor. We assisted them in housing a doctor for a few months. This not only helped our relationship, but it made the assessment of the children in the Safe Home easier during those months.

Partners

On the front line from Notre Dame's focus on income generating activities, TTL has a contract with Management Sciences for Health (MSH) renting out our office space. Not only is this great for TTL for income, but collaboration with an organization that provides similar services to clients will be beneficial.

TTL has had plenty of visitors over the 2015 year. From Touching Tiny Lives Foundation, Jamie Martin, Lindsey Gilchrist, and Sheila Block, visited TTL to see all the great work that is being done with TTLF funding. We also had our donors from Gummersbach visit later this year to assess the programs they are funding and deliver gifts for the children.



Struggles

This year has had a few setbacks, but our generous donors have helped us get by.

- Strong floods in February destroyed the TTL garden. Luckily, these floods did not impact the outreach clients. Roses and Rosemary provided funding for the destruction TTL faced.
- There was a car accident in June with one of the TTL Outreach vehicles. Fortunately, no one was badly injured in the accident. The insurance covered the accident and ELMA gave us additional funding to purchase a new car.
- Lastly, Lesotho's current drought condition is alarming. TTL had to stop watering the garden and even lost running water for a few days. As warned by the Lesotho Meteorology Minister, the severity of the drought is anticipated to be one of the highest since 1972. This drought is already taking a toll on agriculture, livestock, and water resources. The rivers are dried up, the towns are experiencing water shortages, and agriculture is not thriving in these conditions. During the harvest season in 2016, there is a likelihood that Lesotho will experience a food crisis.



Thank You Ntate Motsi!

Ten years ago, TTL was fortunate to meet Ntate Motsi.

In 2005, TTL was approached for assistance by a village health worker in a village 4 kilometers from TTL. The TTL team was brought to Ntate Mosti's home; where unfortunately his wife had passed away shortly after the birth of their child. Ntate Motsi was shepherd at the time, making him not home enough to care for a newborn baby. Additionally, shepherds make no monthly income because they are typically paid by either sheep or a cows in a years work. This financial strain was also apparent to TTL, so we took his son into the Safe Home at just eight days old.



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In 1996, TTL had an opening for the position of a night watchman. Considering Ntate Motsi's currently situation, TTL offered him the job. Ntate Motsi became a salary-earned, TTL-employed, father for all his children. His son was able to go home to be cared for by his family after six months in the Safe Home. His is now a thriving ten year old boy with an amazing father.



Ntate Mosti has been a dedicated and reliable night watchman for the past nine years. TTL admires his dedication to his job every single day. Friendly, always on time, and trustworthy, Motsi has been a great help to the safety of our campus. At the age of 65, he retired at TTL at the end of 2015.

TTL will certainly miss him and hopes for a great future for him and his son.

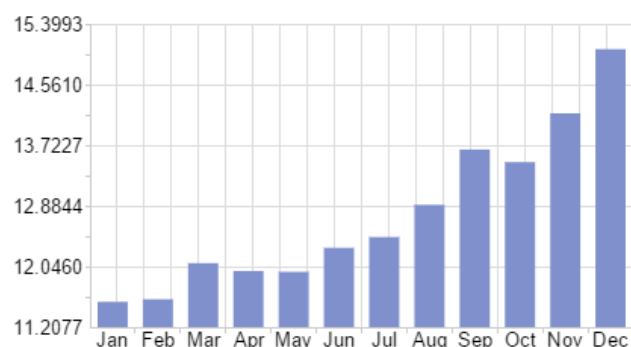
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Financial Details

1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

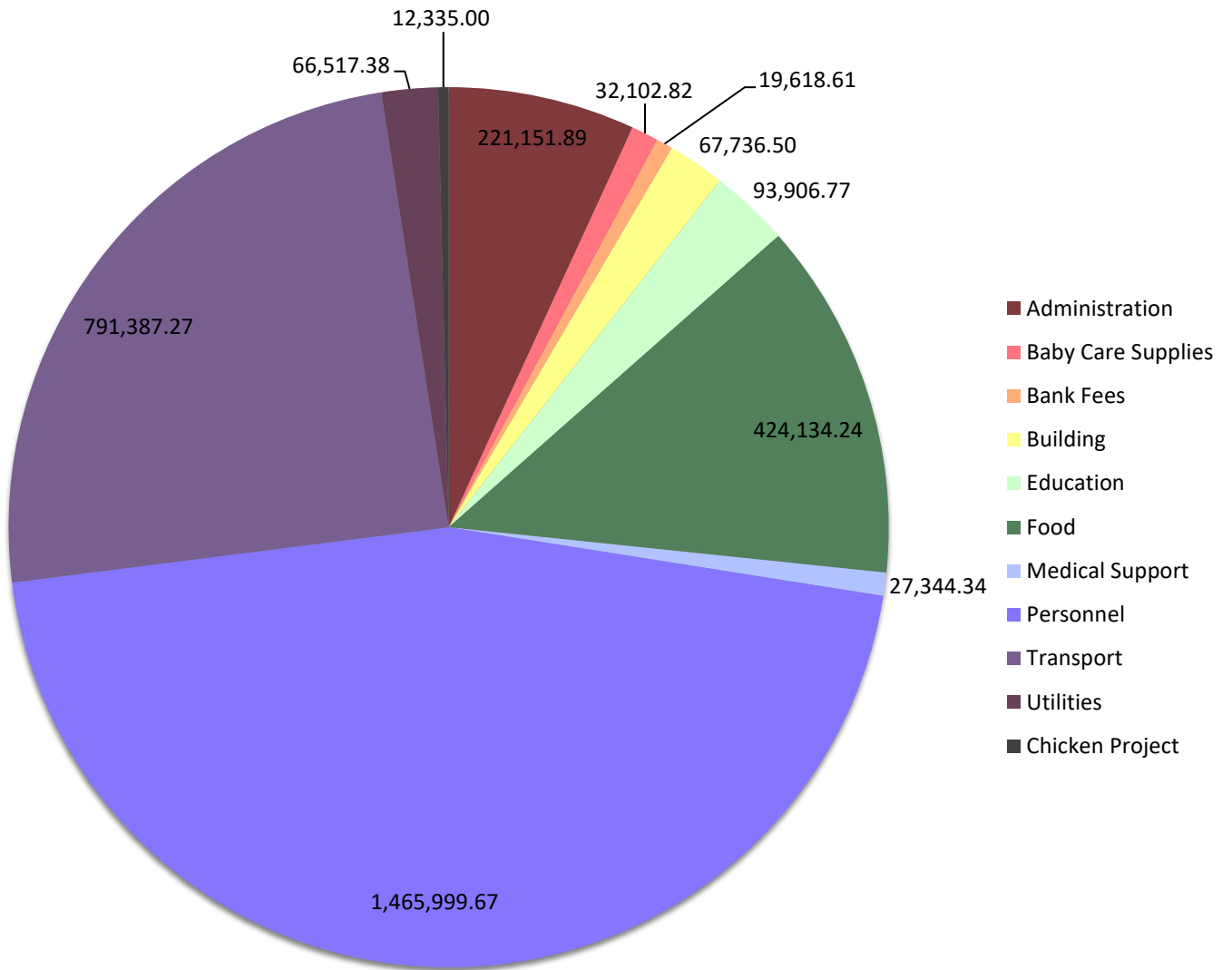
Rand to Dollar Fluctuation in 2015

www.x-rates.com



	ZAR	USD (R11-15 exchange)
Total Income	R 3,613,731.56	\$ 328,531.05 - \$ 240,915.44
Total Expenditures	R 3,247,234.49	\$ 295,203.14 - \$ 156,482.30
<i>Administration</i>	R 221,151.89	\$ 20,104.72 - \$ 14,743.46
<i>Babycare Supplies</i>	R 32,102.82	\$ 2,918.44 - \$ 2,140.15
<i>Bank Fees</i>	R 19,618.61	\$ 1,783.51 - \$ 1,307.91
<i>Building</i>	R 67,736.50	\$ 6,160.32 - \$ 4,515.77
<i>Education/trainings</i>	R 93,906.77	\$ 8,536.98 - \$ 6,260.45
<i>Food</i>	R 424,134.24	\$ 38,557.66 - \$ 28,275.62
<i>Medical Support</i>	R 27,344.34	\$ 2,485.85 - \$ 1,822.96
<i>Personnel</i>	R 1,465,999.67	\$ 133,272.70 - \$ 97,733.31
<i>Transport</i>	R 791,387.27	\$ 71,995.30 - \$ 52,759.15
<i>Utilities</i>	R 66,517.38	\$ 6,047.03 - \$ 4,434.49
<i>Chicken Project Expansion</i>	R 12,335.00	\$ 1,121.36 - \$ 822.33
<i>Lineo's Support</i>	R 25,000.00	\$ 2,272.73 - \$ 1,666.67

2015 TTL Expenses



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.

Our 2015 Partners & Supporters

Touching Tiny Lives Foundation

ELMA Foundation

Sentebale

UNICEF

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Government of Lesotho)

Aktionsgruppe Gummersbach für die Welthungerhilfe/Initiative für Kinder in Lesotho

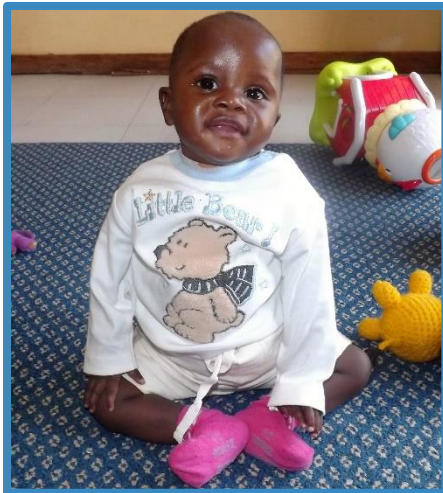
SHARED, Inc.

Roses and Rosemary

Our Outreach Team goes to great lengths to ensure vulnerable children received needed services. Often, workers must complete a journey on foot due to the remoteness and inaccessibility of some villages.



Thank you to all the volunteers and friends of TTL, both near and far, who have supported us during 2015.



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