

# Saving lives, one child at a time



## From Lesotho

In the spring of 2015, I had the opportunity to visit the Touching Tiny Lives (TTL) Safe House in Mokhotlong, Lesotho and witness firsthand the loving care that nourished a young child back to health. Young Mamoetlo spent two months under the watchful care of the TTL staff, who slowly nursed her out of a malnourished and dehydrated state, to eventually become well enough to be reunified with her mother.

On reunification day, Mamoetlo's mother walked four hours from their village to the Safe House, much of it before sunrise, with a gift of lettuce for the Safe House workers and a small yellow peach for Mamoetlo. In a country where food is scarce, those tokens of appreciation and love said more than any words ever could about the gratitude the Basotho people have for the work TTL does.



Mamoetlo & her mother returning home

While it was hard for me to say goodbye to little Mamoetlo, I knew that between her mother's love and the follow-up from outreach workers who would visit her weekly for the next few months, she was well on her way to becoming one of TTL's success stories.

*Janelle Erickson*  
TTL Supporter

## Why do we need your help in 2016?

Each year the Touching Tiny Lives Foundation (TTLF) raises funds to support TTL's lifesaving work in Lesotho, Africa. TTL relies on this critical support for staff, medical and nutrition support for the children, education and training for caregivers, baby supplies, and building construction.

This year, TTLF's financial support is particularly important because of the current drought conditions in Lesotho and resulting food insecurity. We hope you will consider giving and giving generously this year so that we can support TTL's mission of saving lives – one child at a time.








Please help us reach our 2016 fundraising goal of \$250,000!

## How will your support help in 2016 & 2017?

*A few examples of what a donation could translate to in Lesotho:*

- \$5** One bag of powdered milk gives a malnourished child the vitamins essential to a balanced diet for one month
- \$10** One night stay at the hospital for caregivers who are supporting children in critical care
- \$40** Two tins of infant formula provide nutritious meals for one month to babies who can no longer breastfeed
- \$55** Two full tanks of fuel enable outreach services to drive from two area bases and conduct an average of 25 home visits in a week
- \$75** Water supply for a month at the safehome so that clothes, blankets, and children can be washed and cared for
- \$100** Electricity to keep the babies warm and lights on for night-time caregivers for a month
- \$150** Monthly phone and internet connections at the TTL campus help us reach caregivers, families, and donors/partners with news
- \$200** A month's worth of hygiene materials to support the strict practices we have in place to prevent viruses and bacteria from spreading
- \$300** Food packages for one child for a year, providing fully balanced meals (in the face of drought and severe food shortages)
- \$1,850** One-year salary for a TTL safehome caregiver, who work day and night to make sure our children are fed, clean, and cared for

## And what you helped us do in 2015:

-  **1,321** outreach visits made to children's homes to provide nutritional and medical support, as well as training to caregivers
-  **394** clinic and hospital visits made by TTL-supported children
-  **300** caregivers supported by TTL in their position
-  **170** new children identified and served by TTL
-  **250** children who reached health and stability and successfully graduated from the Outreach Program
-  **52** children rehabilitated in the safehome
-  **1,780** children assessed at Outreach Program site visits

**388 children supported in 2015**

**1,947 children served since TTL's founding in 2004**



# Why Touching Tiny Lives?

## The Need

Lesotho is a small, mountainous country in southern Africa with a stunning landscape and a welcoming culture. Lesotho has particularly suffered with the heartbreaking impact of high poverty rates (57%), high HIV prevalence (23%; the second highest in the world), and rampant malnutrition.

Poverty and HIV has taken an incredible toll on the health and development of Lesotho's children. There are an estimated 120,000 orphans and 41,000 children living with HIV. As many as 44% of children are chronically malnourished, and over 1/3 of the country experiences food insecurity.

**This year, Lesotho is suffering from one of the worst droughts in decades.** It has already taken its toll on agriculture, livestock and water resources. As a result, Lesotho will likely experience a food crisis during this year's harvest season, which means more children at risk and more work for TTL.



## What makes TTL different?

**TTL is the only organization exclusively dedicated to caring for orphaned and vulnerable children in the rural, mountainous districts where we work.**

Despite the many challenges, TTL continues to provide support for clients affected by HIV/AIDS, and has expanded to the widely neglected area of child development to ensure that all our clients are not only able to live, but able to grow, develop, and thrive. TTL strives for the healthy development of all children in Lesotho, and envisions accessible health and social services that enable families and communities to care for their children.

TTL relies on funding from TTLF, a network of communities and individuals in North America dedicated to supporting TTL's life-saving work. By raising funds, spreading awareness, and providing technical support, TTLF seeks to empower our Basotho partners in their response to these health crises. TTL's operations in Lesotho are entirely managed by Basotho men and women, from the Managing Director, to the safehome caregivers, to the outreach workers in the field. TTL's staff are from the communities they serve and are uniquely qualified to understand the risks and needs of these children and their families. The team has created a deep trust locally that will support sustainable services well into the future.