



The Lesotho Connection and St. Camillus Centre for Orphans & Vulnerable Children Annual Partnership Report 2016



St. Camillus Centre
A loving home for vulnerable children



December 2016

The Lesotho Connection
Emily Smith, President
Linda Henry, Vice President
Michelle Marsden, Treasurer
Aylie Millar, Secretary
1805 N Lexington St
Tacoma, WA 98406
thelesothoconnection@gmail.com
501(c)(3) (Tax ID# 26-2438807)

Saint Camillus Centre
Joale Tlhomola, Bishop
Sister Juliana Manele, Director
Diocese of Mohale's Hoek
P.O. Box 88, Mohale's Hoek 800, Lesotho
Phone | (0266) 5801-5010
Email | srjuliana@stcamilluslesotho.org
**NGO Constitution Ratified: Societies
Registrar #2011/166, Lesotho**

TLC & SCC Annual 2016 Report

Contents

The Lesotho Connection Introduction	3
The Lesotho Connection Board Member Update	3
The Lesotho Connection Fundraiser Update	3
St. Camillus Centre Introduction	3
St. Camillus Centre Children and staff Census	3
Home-Based Children	5
Health and Nutrition	5
Guests and Donations	6
School	6
Accomplishments	6
Challenges	9
Appendix 1 Income & Expenses	10
Appendix 2 Photos	11

The Lesotho Connection Introduction

In order to increase transparency and awareness of the work of The Lesotho Connection (TLC) we provide for you here an annual report. This report will include our activities as a board and organization, however, the bulk of this report was created by our partner organization the St. Camillus Centre in Mophale's Hoek, Lesotho. We are proud of the fine work they are doing and enthusiastic about sharing their successes.

The Lesotho Connection Board Member Update

As 2016 came to close we celebrate some changes in our board membership. Joel Hellenkamp has resigned from the board after completing his 3 year term. We thank Joel for his hard work and dedication. Aylie Millar has agreed to extend her term as secretary until a replacement can be found. Andrew Lench, while continuing to be an active board member, providing support in many areas including website and social media management, has stepped down from Vice President after two 3 year terms. We are so grateful to Andrew for his dedication and for his continued support and work for TLC. We are pleased to announce that Linda Henry, who has been a board member since 2014 and made several visits to the Centre, is bringing her expertise and firsthand knowledge of Lesotho to the role of Vice President.

The Lesotho Connection Fundraiser Update

Ohio Fundraiser- On March 5, 2016 the we held a successful fundraiser dinner event in Novelty, Ohio. We had about 200 in attendance and raised approx \$58,613.52. We were able to share with our donors a slideshow presentation of the many improvements that their dollars made possible at the St. Camillus Centre.

Tacoma Oktoberfest Fundraiser- On October 22, 2016 the board put together our second Oktoberfest Dinner and Auction at Saint Patrick's School. We had about 220 in attendance and were excited to raise \$34,539.92 for our projects with our partner organization the Saint Camillus Centre. One highlight of the evening was a performance by Will Bentley and Sam Ebert-Collela of a song they wrote inspired by their time volunteering with Sr. Juliana.

St. Camillus Centre Introduction

This report provides a summary of St. Camillus' 2016 census, status, accomplishments, challenges, income and expenses, children's growth chart and graphs and photos.

This year was a blessed one as we have accomplished many things which have made the Centre more recognized locally, nationally and internationally. We would like to thank all who have contributed to helping us fulfill our mission and goals, we greatly appreciate the donors' kind

support and generosity when donating funds for the children we care for. We are more than grateful and hope God will bless you for all your great efforts.

We ask that you continue to keep us in your hearts and minds in the future!

Centre-Based Children and staff Census

The census of the children fluctuated between 23 and 26 throughout most of the year, however in January 2016 the census was 17. During the year we welcomed 15 new children that were brought to the Centre due to abandonment and neglect. According to Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) reports show a large increase in child abandonment and neglect occurring most often among teen mothers. Our reports show that out of the total 26 children we have 21 who are victims of neglect and abandonment, while 5 are orphans. This means 81 % of the children are vulnerable due to neglect and abandonment and 19 % are orphaned.

In the year 2016 we reunited 5 of the children with their family members with the help of the Ministry of Social Development. We also had 2 children who were referred to other orphanages due to different circumstances. The first was referred because she had a sibling at another orphanage, while the second child's referring was due to his health status. The current census (January 2017) is 26.

The table below shows our census in more detail for the end of 2016.

Centre Based Census	# Children	Age Ranges	# Children
# Children	26	# Newborns & Toddlers	2
# Male	18	# 3-6 Years	11
# Female	8	# 7-10 Years	10
# Children in School	24	# 11-13 Years	2
# New Children	15	#14-18 Years	1
# Reunited with Family	5		
# Referred to other Centres	2		

Caregivers and Staff	Full time	Part time
Child care	3	1
Washing and gardening	3	1
Office Administrator	1	
Volunteers	0	5
Peace Corps Volunteer	1	
Total	7	2

Home-Based Children

The census of the home-based children (children assisted by the Centre that still live in various homes throughout the community) started at 21 in January 2016 but dropped to 19 by the end of December 2016 as some of the children were then able to be helped by their family members and Ministry of Social Development instead of St. Camillus.

Home-Based Census	# Children	Age Ranges	# Children
# Children	19	# Newborns & Toddlers	0
# Male	10	# 3-6 Years	4
# Female	9	# 7-10 Years	7
# Children in School	19	# 11-13 Years	3
# Children out of School	0	#14-18 Years	5
# New Children	2		

Health and Nutrition

The children's health status has been stable throughout the year. They are growing well and their monthly check-ups and follow-up immunizations are being followed properly. Their weight is being monitored monthly as well. Since January they have been getting healthy and nutritional food especially now that we have eggs, milk, and fresh farm vegetables so easily available for them. Most of the children have been gaining weight at a normal rate for their age, 77%, though most of them hover around the low normal weight of those at risk (5 years and under).

Children Receiving HIV/AIDS Care	# Children	Age
# Children	4	
# Male	2	4 & 7 Years
# Female	2	7 & 14 Years

Guests and Donations

The Centre appreciates the generosity of its donors. The gifts teach the children about the generosity of their community and are a critical supplement to the Centre's limited resources. Due to all its good work, the Centre is a valued and trusted organization within the district; therefore many interested people, NGOs and government officials visit us.

Since January the Centre has received several donations and visits from local, national and international people and NGOs, different church groups, and government officials. The donated items include: clothes and shoes, food, books, school uniforms and stationery, toys, pampers, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. They also received special medical services and supplies from two American doctors; Dr. Ann and Dr. Margie. It was a very special moment when the children received one-on-one examinations by the doctors. We have been very lucky this year!

We also welcomed our newest Peace Corps volunteer, Katie Walker, along with her husband, Sky Brooks, on December 15th as well. She is going to be a great help for the Centre and we are very happy to have her.

Our previous Peace Corps Volunteer, Stephanie Sales, completed her 2 years of service to us at the St. Camillus Centre in August. She brought her talents and gifts of organization and love of children and gave an abundance of each to our Centre. We thank her for her labors of love and service.

School

We had 24 children attending school, 11 were in preschool of which two will be attending primary school this year as they have graduated. The other 13 were in primary school and 1 has graduated into secondary school, this year she will be in Form A.

# Children	Grade	Age
4	Pre-school	2-3 years
10	Pre-school	4-6 years
7	Primary school	7-9 years
1	Primary school	10-12 years
2	Primary school	13-18 years
24 Total children in school		

Accomplishments

The accomplishments we achieved this year were wonderful and plentiful. We are proud to have done so much and these achievements show that not only is the Centre being recognized but also moving towards sustainability. Some of our accomplishments are as follows:

1. Awards

In April this year, our director, Sr. Juliana Manele received an award from the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Matthew Harrington for being the **Lesotho's 2016 Woman of Courage**. This award was given for her outstanding work with vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS since 2002. This shows that the good work that she has done and is continuing to do is being recognised. Due to this award the Centre was also recognised for its good work.

In July she also received an award from the King of Lesotho, King Letsie III, called **The Officer Of The Most Loyal Order of Mhlopi (OMLOM)**, for her work as an outstanding champion of home based care for the victims of HIV/AIDS, and also her care of needy and vulnerable children. We hope to get full support from the community, government and from donors so that we can continue our good work.

2. Farm

Since the Conservation Agriculture project started in 2014, the farm has been doing well and it continues to grow daily. Our big vision is to achieve sufficient yield and sales to reduce our reliance on donations. It is only with great effort and support that we have achieved this. Thus far we have performed well and are continuing to learn from our past experiences.

After successfully writing grants to several organizations which were; Peace Corps Grants, Slow Food (Italy), and from The Lesotho Connection's fundraising efforts we were able to raise enough money to fund the projects listed below relating to the farm:

- **Borehole Drilling-** this works in addition with our previous, but older borehole (water well) that we have and it helps us to have enough water for the farm and for use by the children. During times of drought we have experienced water shortages, but now that we have the second borehole our farm has always had the necessary amount of water available.
- **Green House and Nets-** these help the Centre to have vegetables all year round as they keep warmth in during winter and keep plants cool during summer. In the Green House we can plant any crop and it have it grow during any season. The nets serve as protection from strong wind, rain, or hail that can damage plants.
- **Sign-** now that we have a sign on the roadside we have been receiving more visits from

locals, it is one way of marketing ourselves to our customers. We hope to build more of these signs so that we can attract more people to buy from our farm, hopefully including local vendors.

- **Chickens and Cows-** the children get the protein they need from the eggs and milk that we collect on the farm. We are also selling the surplus and the sales that we get add to the limited resources that we have. Since we have had the eggs, milk and vegetables from the farm the children's health has been improving, along with being cost effective.
- **Increasing Farm Sales-** the sales improved after we built relationships with the schools, and supermarkets. We learned that most of our customers need us to deliver to them but those are the customers who buy in large quantities.

3. Grants and Sponsorships

The funds from the following grants and sponsorships helped us to achieve many things which include: helping the needy to pay for school fees, buying farm supplies, buying a vehicle for the Centre, etc. Details follow below.

- **E-Schoolview-** funded school fees, rent, boarding fees, uniforms and other school supplies for 4 high school students, 3 of which only needed the help for one semester, though we continue to pay for 1 and hope to sponsor more students when further funds are raised. We received \$1000 from eSchoolview.
- **Peace Corps Grants-** with the funds we received from Peace Corps, we installed the borehole addressing the serious water shortage caused by the drought at that time. We also installed the nets and green house with these funds.
With Peace Corps' TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) Grant we were also able to pay fees for 5 home based students whom Sr. Juliana supports. We received the amount of M 20,092.50 (US \$ 1,255.78).
- **Slow Food-** we received the amount of M 20, 699.12 (Euros 1338), from Slow Food in Italy. Their mission is to promote food that is good, clean and fair. Good, because it is healthy in addition to tasting good; clean because it is produced with low environmental impact and with animal welfare in mind; and fair because it respects the work of those who produce, process and distribute it. With the funds provided we bought seedlings and seeds for our gardens, pesticides and fertilizers, and tools for the farm. The project has not been finished as we will continue buying seeds for the coming year.
- **The Loyola Foundation-** we are in the process of purchasing a multi-seat vehicle suitable for transporting children and adults to and from school, the clinic, trips, and church. The vehicle will be safe and legal for transporting the children.
- **The Lesotho Connection Funds-** the funds donated from TLC helped us to achieve a lot, including the purchase of our chickens for eggs, and a large fund that helped us a

purchase our truck. Moreover, we received funding from individuals for projects such as sports, to pay for fees, and also to hold workshops and events at the Centre. Most importantly we appreciate and rely on the monthly stipend for the children's day to day needs, especially now that the census is increasing.

- **Ministry of Social Development Funds-** their funds also helped us, especially for the children's school fees. Though it takes some time to be deposited, we appreciate what we receive from them, and we hope they will continue providing for us.

4. Workshops

All of the workshops that we attended and held this year were very important to the Centre's staff and children, as well the community. Among the workshops was Girls for the World which was held for the girls in the community by Ms. Karen from America. The girls were thrilled to experience such a workshop and to gain the skills of self-awareness as a woman, confidence, being independent, etc. We also had Paleng Library give a workshop for the Centre's staff, as well as staff from other orphanages and pre-schools. The facilitators taught us of the importance of reading and a library in particular. They helped us to set up a library for the children and showed us the best way to care for it.

Another workshop that we attended was called "Nurturing the Hearts of Orphans and Vulnerable Children". It was held by Mrs. Patrice Penny from ICARA. It was a very inspirational workshop and we continue to touch on its teaching in our weekly meetings with our matrons.

Note: Please find financial information and photos below.

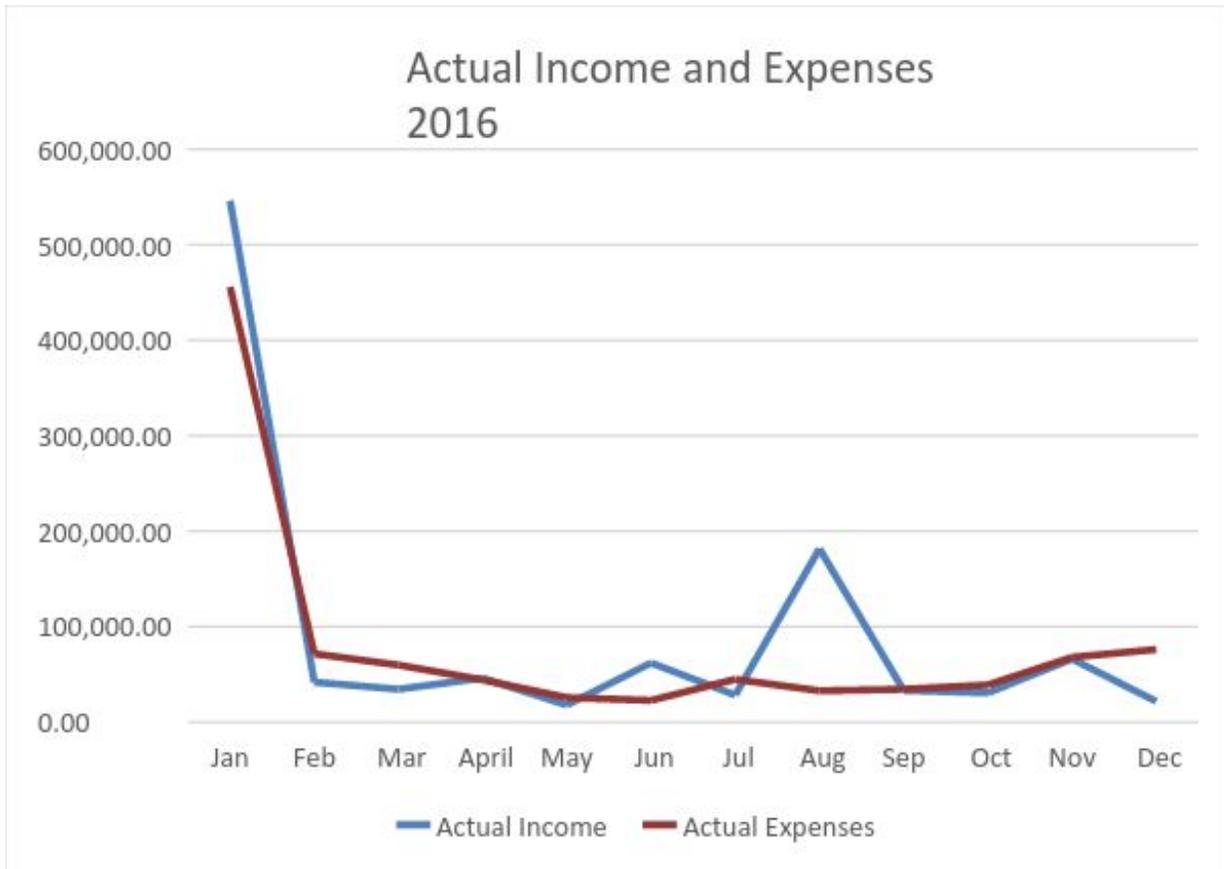
Respectfully,



Sr. Juliana Manele

The Director, St. Camillus Centre

Appendix 1 Income & Expenses



Appendix 2 Photos

Dr. Ann and Dr. Margie's visit.



Dr. Ann and Dr. Margie doing one on one check-ups for the children, they also provided tooth paste and teeth brushes to the children. They taught them About the importance of washing hands and brushing teeth.

2016 Annual Report

Sr. Juliana's 2016 Awards.



Sr. Juliana's awards; Lesotho's 2016 Woman of Courage and The Officer Of The Most Loyal Order of Mohlomi (OMLOM)

Improvement of the farm



Accomplishments of the farm, we working are working hard to feed the children and trying to work on reducing dependency on donations by commercial farming.



Girls for the World and Paleng Library Workshops