



2017 Annual Report



Savings Lives, One Child at a Time!

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2017: An Overview

2017 was a great year for Touching Tiny Lives. This year let us focus on the programs we had in place and reflect on which direction we want to move towards. At the end of 2016, the Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (LNI) reached out to us about providing Nutri-Plenty meals for the children we serve. In 2017 LNI continued their support and have shipped hundreds of boxes providing thousands of meals for our families. We also started the process of fixing our database and data collection tools to improve how we monitor and evaluate the very important work we are doing. This will continue into 2018 as we improve all our programming data collection tools.

This year brought us many unique cases into the safe home, expanding our reach of vulnerable children. We saw more rain fall, which brought us hope the end of the drought was near, only to have a delay in our rains at the end of 2017. We had a late winter, snowing into December and hurting many crops. We will not see the impact of the late snow for a few months.

A new government was formed in June after parliament fell apart in March. This was the third election since 2012 for Lesotho. Due to the elections some of the outreach health assessment campaigns had to be suspended, specifically doing site visits in new villages, bringing our intake numbers a bit lower than we had hoped for. However, we are very excited to see what 2018 has in store for TTL.



Each Health Centers has a catchment area of at least 150 villages

Each Outreach area has a least 100 villages in that area

A village can be a small area consisting of 4 rondavels to a large area of thousands of rondavels.

2017 in Numbers

893 home visits conducted in 2017

74 hospital and clinic visits funded by TTL

309 children assessed at site visits

183 caregivers (106 female, 77 male) supported by TTL

103 new clients in 2017

104 children successfully graduated in 2017

24 safe home children

177 children supported in 2017

448 children attending nutrition corners in 2017

2,001* children served since 2004



These numbers look
GREAT!

*This year TTL volunteers started work on fixing our database. We noticed our numbers changed in doing so. In our previous database children had been entered more than once, resulting in children being double counted. Please see programmatic improvements for more information



Outreach: Home Visits, Nutrition Corners, and Happy Beaks

This year the TTL Outreach team served 146 clients in Mokhotlong district through monthly home visits and 448 children through Nutrition Corners.

108 of the nutrition corner children had documented gained weight. 89% families reported using cooking demos at home for their families with spinach fritters, chicken carrot stew over papa, porridge with egg and milk, and the WFP super cereal being the popular recipes.

Sentebale has continued funding these nutrition corners until May 2018 with TTL hoping to continue Nutrition Corners after funding runs out from Sentebale.

Most of the outreach staff has completed training in Psychosocial Support through Sentebale to help support the families we serve better.

In 2017, Happy Beaks continued into Phase III with 50 additional families receiving chicks. 41 families still have chickens and report healthy laying trends. 2018 brings a deep reflection on how to improve Happy Beaks with a start at evaluating all 3 phases of the program.

2017 brought another election, disrupting outreach's site visit campaigns. In 2017, TTL outreach was able to do 1 successful outreach campaign. After the election, TTL partnered with the Maternal and Child Health department to do partnered outreach instead of doing specific site visit campaigns. This move has proved successful thus far and will be continuing these joint outreach and mobile health clinic days for 1 month every quarter in 2018.

This year has brought fewer children into our outreach program, which makes us think things might be turning around for the better. That being said, we hope to reach more children in 2018!

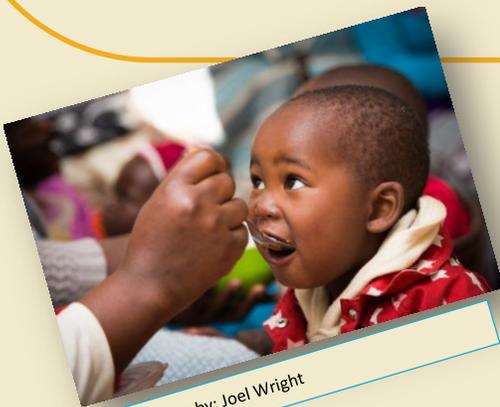


Photo by: Joel Wright





Safe Home

In 2017 the TTL safe home provided nutritional, developmental, and medical support to 24 infants and children. This year we were able to reunify 22 children from the safe home with their families. 2017 ended up being a very unique year for us with many babies being brought to us by the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) of the Police force.

Our caregiver on Campus (CoC) program has proven to be very effective. Our outreach team has seen more improvements in children whose caregivers stayed on TTL's campus for a week than those who did not. However, the majority of caregivers did not attend our caregivers on campus project due to weather, personal issues attending, and also due to the large amount of unique cases we had brought to us by the CGPU.

Something new that TTL has done this year was joining the Mokhotlong hospital on their Maternal and Child health mobile clinics. Mme Lehela and our TTLF fellow join the hospital for a month each quarter to help with the nutritional assessments of children under 5. Partnering with the hospital on these mobile clinics has helped strengthen the relationship between TTL and the hospital while also allowing us to assess many more children than we normally would be able to. (In our first month of the MCH clinics we were able to do nutritional assessments for 269 children compared to 40 children done earlier in 2017.)





Success Story

Early November 2016 a young nine month old girl, who looked to be 5 months tops, was brought to TTL's attention for being severely malnourished and HIV positive. After spending a week in the hospital she was brought to the safe home to gain weight and become stable on her ART treatment. Her name was Nkhathi and she had the biggest eyes and smile for such a tiny girl. No matter who walked into the safe home she would greet them with a huge smile and want to hug or play. After a little over 3 months in the safe home staff started to worry. She was not improving at all, even on plumpy-nut. She would eat and then become sick, she was having night sweats, and she had fallen from -3 to -4 on the WHO Z-score. It was time to go back to the hospital to see what was going on. It was discovered that she was not only HIV positive, but was also TB positive. A complication that is all too common in Lesotho. The first week of her hospitalization was hard, as we all had to prepare ourselves for the worst outcome. Not only was the hospital waiting for the TB test supplies, but they also were out of the correct tubes to do a CD4 count to make sure the ART regiment she was on was working. Baylor was involved and luckily was able to drive down to the next district to get tubes to test her CD4 count. After the first week in the hospital she made a turn for the better. She had gained a little weight and when you walked in she greeted you with that big smile, huge eyes, and arms wide open. This was a great sign, the new medication was working. After spending her first birthday in the hospital she returned to the safe home and almost immediately started crawling. It wasn't long until she continued gaining weight and catching up on her milestones. After a few more months in the safe home she started walking, feeding herself, and playing with small words. In June she was returned home after a week of being on campus with her mom for caregivers on campus. She is still being monitored in outreach and is doing incredibly well. She is consistently gaining weight, having great adherence on her ARTs, and has completed her TB treatment. It is great to get to see her smiling face each month at the nutrition corners and continue to see her thrive!

*Name has been changed



2017 Programmatic Improvements

TTL continues to improve, monitor, and evaluate the way in which we collect and use our data. Our biggest improvement this year came in changing our financial data software to PASTEL, which was suggested to us by our auditors. Mme Kefuoe and Mme Nthabeleng went down for training in June 2017 for a couple of days. Our client database continues to be problematic but there have been small improvements made so that we are now able to print out reports from said database, as well as removed duplicate entries throwing off our numbers.

In 2017 TTL's managing director, safe home supervisor, finance manager, and fellow rewrote the HR Manual. Previously the HR manual rules and policies were in multiple different documents so we compiled them all in one document. This was one of the many suggestions TTL followed from our audit in 2017. The majority of the changes made were to try to create a fairer and clearer policy for TTL staff.



Yep, looks good y'all!

Staff Development

Many opportunities for staff development presented itself this year across the board. In March, Sentebale provided a Resource Mobilization workshop that Mme Kefuoe attended. In April Mme Nthabeleng attended a workshop through ELMA in Zimbabwe for a week as part of the Accelerator Program. This workshop led to a trip to Cape Town in November for Mme Nthabeleng and Peace Corps Volunteer Nastassia to visit a similar organization as TTL to help provide ideas for improving how TTL delivers services to clients. May brought part 2 of Trauma training for Mme Nthabeleng Lehela with Sentebale. She has now completed all parts of this training and is a certified Caregiver of OVC's Trainer from the Initiative for Children At Risk in Africa (ICARA). June was the month of workshops and training! Things kicked off when Mme Kefuoe and PCV Nastassia attended the week long Program Managing and Design workshop held by Peace Corps. There they received tools in designing small scale programs that can have a high impact. That was followed by Mme Nthabeleng and Mme Kefuoe going down to Maseru for training in PASTEL, a new software database for our financial record keeping. Sentebale provided training for 3 of our outreach staff in Psycho-Social Support for families we work with. This was a huge training for our team, as it helps us support families in a more holistic way. Lastly, Ntate Thabang went to an Administration workshop in December put on by the BAM group in Maseru. This gave him new skills and information on running the administration side of TTL.

All staff received two trainings held at TTL. The first was put on by Catholic Relief Services on early childhood nutrition. This helped expand the knowledge of all staff in what is important for early childhood nutrition, especially for children who are already malnourished. The second staff wide training was provided by the Red Cross of Mokhotlong for World First Aid day on September 16th. All staff received training in CPR and First aid!

At the end of September, TTL was invited to attend the First Annual Mokhotlong District Health Review. This review highlighted the need for TTL in Mokhotlong and showed all health partners in the district where Mokhotlong needs improving. The biggest takeaway for TTL was how important our services are to not only the clients we serve, but to keep other health partners accountable.



Special Visitors

Similar to recent years, Gummersbach came to TTL for their annual visit in October. During their visit, they got to see how the happy beaks project was progressing and also were able to attend the net ball tournament that they funded. The men from Gummersbach seemed happy with their visit and intend to continue working with TTL.

Our donor Roses and Rosemary sent a volunteer/videographer to TTL for about a week in December. She was able to capture a lot of the work that TTL does including a training we did for the caregivers on how to make reusable menstrual pads. Roses and Rosemary plans to use the footage that was taken to show at their annual gala that brings in people like Bill and Melinda Gates.

TTL was lucky enough to attract the attention of a couple from New Zealand. They came to TTL and stayed here for about a week. During that time they greatly helped with the babies and in fixing our client database to be able to print reports. They gave TTL a large donation as well as bringing us a lot of disposable diapers for the children.

TTL's only other volunteer this year was a woman from California who got to spend a week at TTL seeing what our organization is all about. She left very happy with her experience.



The beginning of November took Mme Nthabeleng and Nastassia to Cape Town to meet with Philani. This educational trip was sponsored by ELMA and gave TTL insight into creating Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for caregivers and TTL, as well as improved ways of documenting and collecting data, where TTL can grow, and Mental Health training for caregivers. TTL is pumped to put all this into action in 2018.

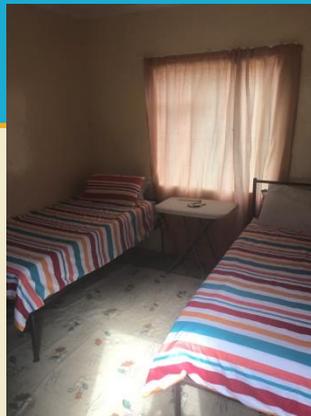


Challenges

The biggest challenge TTL faced in 2017 was organizing a much needed surgery for a child with severe hydrocephalus. Unfortunately, due to challenges outside of TTLs control, we are still working on getting this much needed surgery. Fingers crossed this can be accomplished in the early months of 2018.



All of these above photos taken by Joel Wright



Towards the end of 2017, TTL opened a guest house in a step towards being more sustainable and generating our own income. In the past we would rent out any extra space that we had, but due to a lack of interest and tenants we turned three of our spare rooms into guest rooms. So far, it has been a great success and we look forward to seeing more guests and income next year.



Events

For the second year in a row TTL and Gummersbach held a girls net ball tournament at Malefiloane High School. There was a huge turnout and lots of fun had by everyone. Thanks to Gummersbach we were able to make sure everyone received a meal, multiple snacks, netballs, soccer balls, and uniforms and training gear for the teams that came in first, second, and third place.

For International Day of the Girl Child, TTL held an event at Mokhotlong Hotel for about 50 former female clients and 50 of our supporters and partners. Members of local government and Sentebale all gave motivational and educational speeches to the girls. With the support of our donors, TTL was able to send each girl home with a backpack full of school and hygiene supplies. It was a great event and a very nice reunion for our 50 former clients and the women who took care of them in the safe home.

This year TTL did not host an event for World Aids Day but were invited for an event put on by Partners In Health at their Tlhanyaku clinic in Mokhotlong. The day was full of speeches, songs, and performances that all raised awareness or provided HIV/AIDs education. One of TTL's outreach workers was asked to speak about our work with children and HIV/AIDs so that we could educate the hundreds of people in attendance on TTL's work.

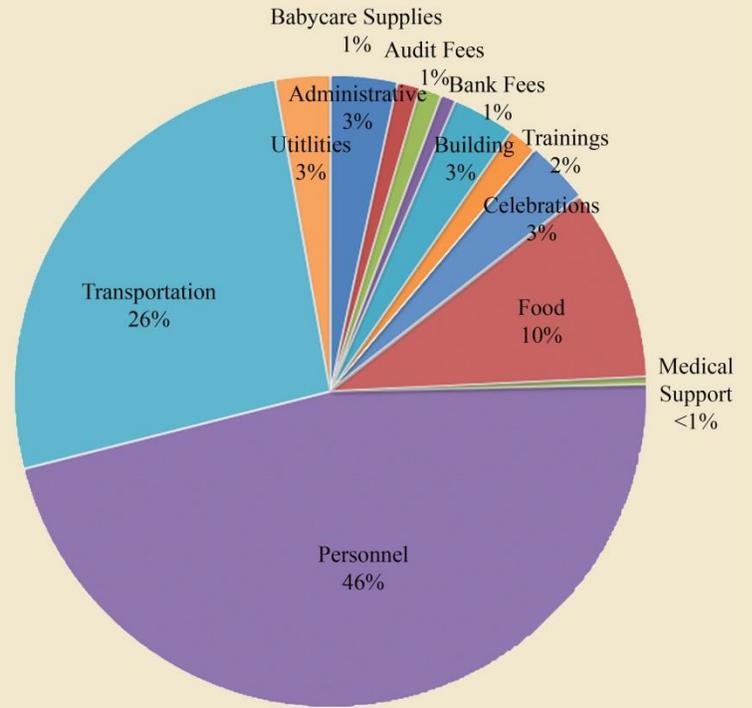
This year has brought us many babies from unique situations, but two of the children came from circumstances that we have not dealt with before. Within six months of each other, TTL received two children who were abandoned by their mothers and left in school latrines. The first child we received was a girl named Mpho. We had her in the safe home for about 6-7 months. During that time she received plenty of love and good nutrition. Towards the end of the year she was reunified with her birth mother who is in custody at the Mokhotlong Correctional Facility. Her mother greatly regrets what she did and has been taking excellent care of Mpho ever since they were reunited. Our second client from similar circumstances was brought to us at 2 weeks of age towards the end of 2017. Her mother is also being held at Mokhotlong Correctional Facility and we are waiting to hear of her sentence to see what the future may hold. In the mean time she seems healthy and will be in our care until there is a solid plan put in place.

*All names have been changed



2017 in MONEY

Budget Line Item	Expenditure
Administration	M 95, 480
Audit Fees	M 32,797.80
Baby Care Supplies	M 32,001.08
Bank Fees	M 21,404.26
Building	M 89,582.53
Trainings	M 42,300.26
Celebrations	M 91,716.35
Food	M 274,971.35
Medical Support	M 11,082.81
Personnel	M 1,300,810.71
Transportation	M 733,040.21
Utilities	M 78,529.12
Total:	M 2,803,662.35



In 2017 1USD = approximately M13

FUNDING PARTNERS

Touching Tiny Lives Foundation

ELMA Foundation

Sentebale

Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (Government of Lesotho)

Aktionsgruppe Gummersbach für die Welthungerhilfe/Initiative für Kinder in Lesotho

Roses and Rosemary

Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (LNI)* see blurb below



This year we have partnered with Lesotho Nutrition Initiative (LNI) which is an Ohio based non-profit organization that supplies us with extremely nutritious meals for our clients. The meals provided by LNI are a blend of 21 vitamins and minerals that have been proven to alleviate and reverse the effects of micronutrient malnutrition in young children. The meals are also very easy to make, requiring only a pot of boiling water. 330 boxes (71,000 meals) have been handed out in 2017 saving TTL approximately 46,150 Maluti.

REA LEBOHA HAHOLO

