

Setso Project

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES IN BOTSWANA

NEWSLETTER 1: JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2006

Dear friends,

I'm very excited to be writing the first ever Setso Project Newsletter, just two months after the launch of our website (www.setsoproject.org) in late December 2005. Our first two months of operation brought developments that far exceeded my expectations. The site collected a total of **\$1060 in donations**, \$585 of which was designated to support Special Projects, \$300 of which was given for Tsholofelo Counseling and Support Centre and \$175 of which was given for Otse Community Home Based Care. Additionally we received **in-kind donations of arts and craft supplies, toothbrushes and toothpaste, teddy bears, and \$170 worth of jewelry making supplies.**

Special Projects

Setso Project kicked off the year with a Special Project aimed at introducing jewelry making skills to staff of [Otse Community Home Based Care \(OCHBC\)](#) and to members of the local support group for people living with HIV/AIDS. After brief instruction, the **nineteen women, ranging in age from 32 to 64, set to work making beautiful beaded necklaces for themselves and their children.** Many of the women had time to make extras, which will be given away as gifts to OCHBC clients.



The event was a big success. The women who participated were so enthusiastic about learning something new and being part of an **activity that has the potential to open doors** for them. It was a great starting off point for Setso Project as well, to offer a learning opportunity to a group of energetic



An OCHBC volunteer shows off a necklace she made at our jewelry making event. See Special Projects below.

women, many of whom have no source of income and are looking desperately for ways to support themselves and their families.

On February 28th we followed up the jewelry making event with a second meeting for support group members interested in pursuing **jewelry making as a means of income generation**. We discussed product development, materials, marketing strategies, and pricing. The women worked for hours designing samples that they will now take to town to explore the market. We will continue to meet once a week to develop the business.

The jewelry making project has thus far been made possible by a donation of \$170 worth of jewelry making supplies.



Members of the support group for people living with HIV/AIDS charmed the crowd with a song about ARVs

On February 18th Setso Project sponsored a party to celebrate the clients and volunteer staff of [Otse Community Home Based Care \(OCHBC\)](#).

Gifts of toothpaste, toothbrushes and washcloths were handed out to the 94 adult clients and teddy bears were given to the 7 child clients. Additionally, we had enough funds to give each of the 11 volunteer staff 100 Pula (\$20 USD) to supplement their monthly government stipend of 150 Pula (\$60 USD).

The local support group for people living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom are current or former clients of OCHBC, charmed us all with original **songs about living positively with HIV/AIDS**, including a song encouraging adherence to anti-retroviral treatment. The party ended with a wonderful meal prepared by the support group. The party was attended by Otse's village Chief, a local Pastor, colleagues from nearby Otse Clinic and a member of the press, all of whom expressed their joy over seeing so much vitality at the Center.

The party was made possible by \$585 in donations to Special Projects.

Featured NGOs

Tsholofelo Counseling and Support Centre received \$300 in donations through Setso Project in January and February. The Centre plans to use this money to support its new youth group, which met for the first time in January and has already attracted more than 20 out of school youth.

The first activity the group organized was a tour of craft businesses in Gabane village. Five members of the group visited a glass craft business, a pottery studio and a sculpture gallery and workshop. **The youth**



Zachs, one of the youth group members, listens to valuable advice from the owner of a pottery studio

group members absorbed valuable advice from the entrepreneurs on starting small businesses.

Otse Community Home Based Care (OCHBC) received \$175 in donations through Setso Project in January and February. OCHBC plans to use the money to support its current activities, to buy much needed gasoline for the vehicle that transports the nurses to clients' homes and to buy lunch food for clients who come to the center during the day. Adequate nutrition is essential for keeping patients' CD4 counts high and for many of OCHBC's clients the mid-day meal they receive at the center is the only nutritious meal they get in a day.

Other News

Setso Project is pursuing Non Profit status in the US. We will keep you informed of our progress.

We're hoping to add one or two orphan care programs to our list of Featured NGOs in the next month or two, so check in with us often to see our list of NGOs expand.

We have a few new Special Projects started (and many more in the pipeline), including:

1. An income generating sewing project that will hopefully involve 3 different support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS.
2. A food drive organized by the Youth Group at Tsholofelo Counseling and Support Centre.
3. Fundraising to supply various home base care centers with incontinence pads, which are difficult to obtain here and much needed among the terminally ill.

Please see our [Special Projects](#) page for more details.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported Setso Project thus far. Please spread the word and keep in touch. Your feedback is always welcome.

Sincere thanks,

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