



Setso Project

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN BOTSWANA

2006 DEVELOPMENTS

NEWSLETTER 2: JANUARY 2007

Dear friends,

This past year has brought exciting developments in our efforts to support community-based responses to HIV/AIDS in Botswana. Here are some highlights:

Kgothatso Orphan Care Programme

In April we added Kgothatso Orphan Care Programme to our list of affiliated organizations. Kgothatso currently provides food baskets, toiletries, blankets, shoes and psychosocial support to 55 children in 40 village families in Gabane village. Kgothatso plans to open a day care facility in 2007 to care for an additional 40 pre-school children. To date Setso Project has raised \$1,440 for Kgothatso to support the construction of the new orphan care center. We want to give special thanks to members of the Junior-High Youth Fellowship of the First Congregational Church of Madison (in Connecticut) who raised an incredible \$963.95 for Kgothatso: Your hard work in support of children affected by HIV/AIDS is incredibly heartening. Thank you.



Wame Mhaphi takes 2nd place for her jewelry

Wame Mhaphi recently won 2nd place (including a generous cash prize) in Botswana's national environmental contest for her paper mache earrings. Wame was one of the attendees at our jewelry-making workshop at Otse Community Home Based Care (OCHBC) in January. Since then she has been ferociously exploring her heretofore untapped artistic energy, creating a small business selling jewelry made from found objects (such as seeds and feathers), tin cans, and store-bought beads. Wame has been asked by a number of institutions, including the Botswana prison system and OCHBC, to teach jewelry-making workshops. Since the first day I met Wame she has been a source of pure inspiration and hope for me and a true testament to the power of grassroots development. Her recent success as a jeweler is, I'm quite sure, only the beginning of what we will see from this incredible micro-entrepreneur.

\$3,300 in donations raised in 2006

Setso Project raised a total of \$3,300 in 2006 for our affiliated organizations and community projects. Nearly half of this total (\$1,400) was given by the First Congregational Church of Madison. These funds have been given to support the following: \$1,110 to finance ongoing sewing and crafts training for clients and staff of our three Affiliated Organizations; \$990 for the building of Kgothatso's orphan day care center to open in 2007; \$550 to buy medical supplies and support operations at OCHBC; \$270 to support Tsholofelo Counseling and Support Centre; \$390 from special fundraising events to be split across all organizations.