



*Dear Friends,*

Greetings from the land of sunshine! I have officially moved down to Florida to begin the long road to my medical career, so I will continue to run The MOSA Project with the help of my mother, Bettina Laidley, in Vermont, and our sponsor organization in Maine, Aid for Kids.

I want to share with all of you the wonderful experiences I was able to have during a month spent in Lesotho on a mission trip made possible by all of your help and support, and also to update you on some new projects we are working on.

Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful summer as folks in the highlands of Lesotho prepare for a brutal winter! Khotso (*peace*),

*Belinda*

# News and Events

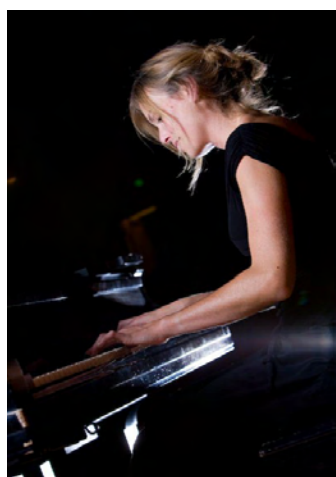
**A Successful Mission:**

Special Report on page 2 about the 2010 Lesotho Trip



**Attention Vermonters!!** →

Annemieke Spoelstra, a concert pianist, is performing a benefit for The MOSA Project and other good causes on Friday, August 20th at 7:30 pm at the Richmond Free Library. Please show your support by attending and enjoying an evening of beautiful Chopin!



**Montsi School Construction Project**

Montsi Primary School is located in a village which is nearly a two-hour drive from Mohale Center along a rocky dirt road through the mountains, where more than half of the children in the community have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS—the small, 3-room school provides 7 grades (multiple classes cram into the tiny rooms together, often sitting on the floor). Belinda has worked for several years with the principal, Joseph Lethobane, to help the school in small ways and he has proven himself to be a dedicated advocate and caregiver for these children.

Aid for Kids, The Michigan Reading Association, and Tabitha's Light Outreach Ministry provided funds for new chalkboards, chairs, sports equipment, gardening tools (the school garden, maintained by students, provides the only daily meal for many of the children), and other school supplies.

Plans were also drawn up for our exciting new project—to build classrooms and a library for Montsi School! Local materials and labor from the village will be used to reduce the cost of the construction, which will begin July 25th!

Graduates from Montsi Elementary School become candidates for our Flying Eagles High School Scholarship program—MOSA's mission is to improve their learning experience every step of the way and encourage them to pursue higher education and quality of life, one of the ways in which we are trying to remediate the devastating effects that HIV/AIDS and poverty have wrought on these rural, mountainous villages.



← Left: Montsi's grade 7 students stand with Belinda behind their school, which overlooks the Mohale Dam.

Right: The entire student body of Montsi School (about 200 children) stands outside for morning prayer. More than half of these students are double orphans coming from child-headed households. →





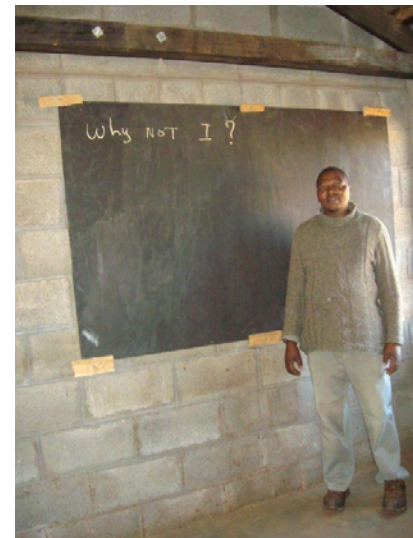
## A Successful Mission: 2010 Lesotho Trip!

We were able to initiate some great new projects during a month spent in the cold Mohale mountains...**Take a look below!**



**(Left)** We travelled with the Mohale HIV/AIDS Task Force, a group of community volunteers, on overnight expeditions into the most remote, mountainous villages to do HIV/AIDS education and prevention workshops, and to identify needy children for our family-to-family sponsorship program.

**(below left)** Pre-schoolers from Montsi School in their new chairs!  
**(below right)** Mr. Joseph Lethobane, principal of Montsi School stands beside one of the new chalkboards the school received.



**(Below right)** A happy reunion with the Flying Eagles Scholars who received new backpacks from Aid for Kids as well as gifts and needed items from their American Sponsors. **(Below middle and left)** Some of the children who will benefit from our new family-to-family sponsorship program.



### A Little Angel Remembered...

Some of you probably recognize this photo from the letter I sent last month when I received the sad news that Thato, the 9-year-old girl pictured here with her grandmother, had passed away after three years on antiviral treatment. She was a favorite among the nurses and staff at the clinic because of her vibrant, outgoing nature, and her death came as a shock to all...it was a harsh reminder that the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Lesotho is far from being solved, especially when these little ones are already disadvantaged due to malnutrition and poverty.



In Thato's memory, I have been working with Sister Mary Tsukulu, Mohale Clinic's public health nurse, to establish the family-to-family sponsorship program to prevent more early deaths by assisting children affected by HIV with food, vitamins, and warm winter clothing.

Please consider helping one of these little ones through a monthly or one-time donation...Your support of as little as \$20/month could save a life—fighting against HIV is a difficult battle for a small child who is already struggling to eat and stay warm without a parent's care.



## Big Thanks to all of our Sponsors and Friends Who Made the Trip a Success!



Pajama Program in New York donated warm PJs for the HIV Children's Clinic



High Mowing Organic Seeds of Wolcott, Vermont gave over 700 packets of seeds to orphans, families and support groups to start gardens!

Leslie Nuttelman of New England Oral B donated over 100 toothbrushes and toothpaste which were distributed on our outreach trips!



Middle Schoolers from Georgia, Vermont donated medical supplies, toys, and these fun home-made masks!



★ The Michigan Reading Association partnered with Tabitha's Light Outreach Ministry to raise over \$1000.00 for the Montsi School construction project...In addition to the items purchased for the school during this trip, funds have been set aside to build new classrooms and a library! The construction begins July 25th. Kim Fox of the Washtenaw Reading Council has donated over a thousand new elementary level books for the library! These Michigan fundraising efforts were all initiated by my former kindergarten teacher, Pat Gallant, who is now a professor at University of Michigan and President of the Michigan Reading Association! THANK YOU ALL!

*Last but certainly not least, gratitude to two special people who have kept The MOSA Project alive...*



Ms. Dawn Degenhardt, the founder of Aid for Kids, has played more than one role in my life...back in 1996, she placed my little sister Phoebe in our family when she was running an adoption agency. Now, she has adopted The MOSA Project under her foundation and provides huge amounts of support, guidance, and wisdom from a lifetime spent helping the world's children.



Ms. Tankie Sekese, my right-hand woman, has worked overtime to keep the MOSA Project running smoothly in my absence, and has been a teacher, leader, mentor, and mother to the Flying Eagles Scholars. Our successes and sustainability are largely due to her unwavering dedication and



For more info or to make a donation, please visit us on the web at [www.mosalesotho.org](http://www.mosalesotho.org) or email [Belinda@aidforkids.org](mailto:Belinda@aidforkids.org)

*The M.O.S.A. Project is sponsored by Aid for Kids, a 501(c)3 charity licensed in Maine and approved by the Combined Federal Campaign. Donations are tax-deductible.*