

Semonkong Children's Centre

The goal of this project is to resuscitate the SCC into a safe, caring and stimulating environment for orphans and vulnerable children in the Semonkong area.

In the 1980s, the Methodist Church built a hospital in Semonkong, Lesotho and the Semonkong Methodist Hospital became a shining star of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in the area of health care. In 1995, due to financial struggles, the hospital closed down.

The Semonkong Children's Centre was started in 2006 when Jill Kinsey, a British Missionary, started work with 21 of the most desperate orphans in the area. In 2015, the Centre was handed over to the MCSA.

There are currently 45 children and sixteen staff members at the Centre. The children are brought there by local chiefs, the police, and social workers. The Centre accepts children from the age of 0 to 18 or when they have completed their matric. The children attend local schools.

Strategic Objectives and Interventions

The MCSA commissioned a Rapid Assessment Audit of the Centre and recommendations include:

1. The building of an efficient new administrative structure including human resource capacity, a clear organogram and a team building process.
2. Applying for grants to purchase medication and other supporting services.
3. Repairing and maintaining the existing infrastructure.
4. Finding sustainable ways of supporting the Centre financially.
5. Getting buy-in and involvement from the local community and formalizing relationships with key stakeholders and interested potential partners.

Key objectives include:

1. Rehabilitating the infra-structure to safe, clean and liveable standards for children and staff
2. Exploring the possibility of restoring a health facility within the old hospital building
3. Fencing the land and starting a sustainable food security and livestock farming project
4. Converting existing empty buildings into affordable tourist and volunteer accommodation

Further Interventions include:

- A formalized reunification process.

- An exit strategy for children over the age of 18.
- Capacity building with regard to childcare and stimulation, life skills and independent living.
- Policies with regard to employment, health, assets, emergencies and risk.
- The leveraging of tourism within the area to provide income for the Centre.

Commitments:

- The Staff and management of the Centre are committed to
- Ensuring that sound financial accountability structures are put in place and are regularly adhered to.
- Mobilizing Methodists in the Lesotho region, NFS & Lesotho District and the Connexion
- Strengthening relations with and involvement of the local community.
- Strengthening relationships with partners, sponsors and donors, including departments of the government of Lesotho. The government of Lesotho and other interested stakeholders have shown the willingness to partner with the MCSA.

Donations and Support

Anyone willing to offer expertise, financial support, donations in kind (non-perishable foods) or assistance through work parties or volunteerism is requested to contact the Mission Unit.

011 615 1616 or mission@mco.org.za

Donations can be made to:

MCSA Relief Fund

First National Bank

Branch Code 251-705

Account No. 50504