

Help a Basotho Student Complete their training

The average cost of an individual student's fees, including examinations, books and/or tools is £350 a year.

With a regular donation, you can help ensure stability in these young peoples' lives and make it easier for them to plan for the future. You can set up a standing order on our website – www.basothoeducationaltrust.org – or make a one-off donation using the form below.

Donation Form

I would like to help the Basotho Educational Trust support a technical student:

Full Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Email _____

I enclose a one-off donation of:

£ _____

Please make cheques payable to "Basotho Educational Trust" and post to the address below.

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- I am a UK tax payer and want BET to claim the tax on my gift. My tax bill this year will be more than this gift.

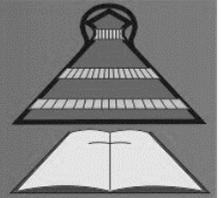
Trustees

Ms Philippa Bird TSSF
Dr Rebecca Chandler Wilde
Ms Wendy Edwards
Sr Monica CHN
Sr Jean Mary CHN
Mr Graeme Shaw

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Basotho Educational Trust is a registered
Charity No. 285541

Basotho
Educational
Trust



Annual Report 2017

Khotso!

While we've been experiencing heavy rain and then warm weather, Lesotho has been hit - literally - by giant hailstones resulting in one person being killed.

Current newspapers are focusing on a new initiative to manage HIV and AIDS. This is something all our students are likely to be touched by; having the skills to earn a living is vital for those on medication or caring for sick relatives.

At the BET we now have 50 students and look likely to have the same number starting in June/July when the new academic year starts. For that year we are looking into giving leavers an appropriate tool(s) when they finish. For example an electrical tool kit or a sewing machine.

We hope you enjoy reading this annual report. If you haven't already done so, please return the consent form so that we can continue to send them. This is necessary under new legislation.

With all good wishes for the summer.

Philippa Bird

Chair of Trustees

PS We are now legally required to get or confirm your consent to send you these newsletters, so please don't forget to return the enclosed consent form so we can continue to keep you updated with BET news. Many thanks.

Number of students supported

School or College	Number of students
Sisters of the Holy Names CC	10
Technical School of Leribe	5
St Mary's Home Economics School	10
Makhahliso Dressmaking	10
LOIC	10
BEDCO Leribe*	5

*BEDCO courses are only half a year so another 5 have been recruited to start in January 2017, taking the total to 51 students – one over our target for the year.

Financial Accounts

Policy on reserves: All BET's income is unsecured. The Trustees therefore hold in reserves sufficient funds to support all sponsored students to the end of their course in the event that income from donors ceases.

Restricted funds: All covenants and funds from one off donors were received for the purposes of sponsoring the selected students. The figures represent the independently examined accounts of the Basotho Educational Trust for the year ending March 31st 2017.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		RECONCILIATION	
Fundraising				Prev. Balance yr end March 31 2015	69250.03
Covenants	6045.00				
Give as Your Earn	0.00			Surplus on yr end March 31 2016	1658.89
Legacy	0.00			Balance	70908.92
Gift Aid	1070.50				
CAF	1700.00			Represented by	
Churches	500.00	Bank chgs	0.00	Current a/c	70908.92
1 off donors	3176.12	Admin.	246.66		
Trusts	0.00	Lesotho costs	10645.6		
Interest	59.53				
TOTAL	12551.15	TOTAL	10892.26	TOTAL	70908.92
		OUT-TURN	1658.89		

The cost of living in Lesotho



I'm endlessly interested in what different sums of money, in different times and places, really mean in terms of lifestyle and wealth. Jane Austen made £684 13s from her books during her lifetime – but this doesn't mean much until you translate it into 'modern' money – it's equivalent to about £45,000. In contrast, Mr Darcy's yearly income was a massive £10,000 (£658,000).

From a UK perspective, costs in Lesotho are a little more modest. But this doesn't mean much until you compare the cost of daily expenses against incomes. For example a litre of milk in Lesotho costs about 13 Rand (78p), a kg of chicken 50 Rand (£3), a pair of men's shoes 1,000 Rand (£60) and monthly rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in the city 6,266 Rand (£376). These compare to typical British prices of a litre of milk – 80p, leather shoes - £40-£60, and rent in central Manchester for a 1-bed flat - £400-£800, obviously London would be a lot more.

But salaries? In the UK the average salary in 2015/16 was £27,600, a take home pay of £1,827 per month. Minimum wage in the UK is £15,268 per annum, in Lesotho it is £491. In addition, in Lesotho nearly half the population is unemployed and 57% live at or below the poverty line of \$1.25 per day. So everything is significantly more expensive in comparison to local incomes, and as a percentage of salary, the basics cost a lot more.

Lesotho is a poor country but encouragingly literacy is high and Lesotho's GDP is forecast to grow by 3.1% over the next year. National policy to link entrepreneurialism and industrialisation, as a key instrument to job creation, means that the work of BET in building skills is key to the development of the country.

Rebecca Chandler Wilde – Trustee

Please use the donation form on the back to support more students in Lesotho to meet their living costs.