

The G.R.O. Foundation

QUARTERLY

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G.R.O. Message



The **G.R.O.** Foundation
 Global - Relief - Outreach

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We hope you are enjoying the onset of spring. In Lesotho, we are entering the fall season which means that the kids are back school and projects are gearing up for the winter.

Thanks to your overwhelming support during the Gifts of Hope campaign, we were able to strengthen and expand our current initiatives.

We've enrolled 9 new students in the new school year, and are supporting our three high school graduates in applying for post-secondary schooling. Academic advisors Mr. Ramabanta and Mr. Mphana, along with Peer Educator and graduate Kenny Mpoteli continue to develop the Family Scholarship Program and support the students. With 15 students and three advisors, our model is now complete at Molapo High School. We look to expand this model to two other schools in 2009. We boast a 100% post-secondary enrollment for our graduates and we continue to strengthen our career guidance program at the high school. Meet our new students on our [blog](#).

As G.R.O. focuses its approach on microenterprise and social entrepreneurship, we welcome The G.R.O. Artisan Collective (formally Thuli's Jewelry). The Collective focuses on supporting HIV positive women artisans in the area. The G.R.O. Foundation is supporting their work through market identification and development, business training, and providing start-up supplies and tools. By mid-2009, their jewelry and crafts will be available for wholesale in both Canada and America. Keep an eye on the blog to watch their developments.

The Grandmothers Support Group continues to develop and expand. G.R.O. has committed to building an eco-sustainable poultry facility in 2009, and continues to provide business development and training. As a microenterprise model, this project remains entirely self-sustainable.

The G.R.O. Foundation Lesotho and its local executive board held their annual general meeting on Sunday. It was an amazing and inspirational meeting. Look for meeting minutes and discussion topics on the blog.

In Canada and North America, we welcome Amy Sandhu who coordinates our volunteers and interns. We continue to look for community fundraisers and project support funds, as well as volunteers both locally and internationally. Please do not hesitate to contact us at director@grofoundation.org to get involved.

We thank you for all your support in helping us get started in a great 2009.

Thank you.

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G.R.O. News

- ❖ The G.R.O. Foundation delivered your **Gifts of Hope** early this year – we distributed food hampers, Grandmother Care supplies, jewelry-start up kits, and student scholarships. See your gifts in action under 'The Mission' section.
- ❖ **The Family Scholarship** has accepted 9 new students in 2009. Meet them on our [blog](#). Our three 2008 graduates are now applying for post-secondary education.
- ❖ **The Grandmothers Support Group** is expanding poultry production to reach more destitute families in the area and with thanks to Verequest they will have a new poultry facility this year. Find photo updates on our blog.
- ❖ Thuli's Jewelry has joined **The G.R.O. Artisans Collective** which supports business training and market development for HIV positive female artisan in Leribe.

Your Gifts of Hope Have Been Delivered

The Grandmothers received their third batch of 100 chicks. 300 more will be delivered this spring.



Mamabula holds the Jewelry Start-Up kit. 15 kits will be delivered in 2009 to unemployed HIV positive mothers.



Nine new students were welcomed into the Family Scholarship Fund this year.



Khotso holds a Holiday Food Basket which contains enough staple supplies for a family to eat for a month. We delivered 10 baskets this year to students and destitute families.



G.R.O. students gather for the end-of-year party.

G.R.O. Scholars: 2009 New Students



Bernedict Mahanetsa
Age: 17 Form: A

Bernedict has six siblings and is taken care of by his grandmother. His family struggles for basic needs such as bedding. He dreams of being a social worker.

[A SPECIAL THANKS]

Many of your donations contributed to Scholarships this year and we thank you for your support. A big thank you goes out to those that provided a full sponsorship of \$450.00 this year.

The Film Buff

Ted Oatway

Procept Associates

Frederick Koenig

Pierrette Lavelle-Hoch

Anne-Marie Zajdijk

Zolton Barzso

Megan Landes

Sharon Oatway

Alice and John Oatway



Sebongile Sebajoa
Age: 13 Form: A

Sebongile lives with her brother and four sisters. Her mother sells fruits in the market and her father is quite ill. She dreams of being an accountant.



Teboho Motanyane
Age: 12 Form: A

Teboho lives with his two brothers and three sisters. His father has passed away and his mother is unemployed. He would like to continue his education and help others.



Phamotse Tlase
Age: 14 Form: A

Phamotse lives with his two sisters and his unemployed mother who is quite ill. His father passed away a few years ago. He would like to study economics at university when he finishes high school.

G.R.O. Scholars: 2009 New Students



Motsamai Makamole
Age: 17 Form: A

Mostamai lives with his three brothers and two sisters. He lives with his father who is unemployed. He is happy to be able to continue with his school.



Liekae Ntsalong
Age: 16 Form: B

Liekae lives with her father and her brother. Her father is a watchman and earns less than \$40.00 a month. She dreams of being a doctor.



Likeleli Ramahapu
Age: 13 Form: A

She lives with her mother who is unemployed, her four brothers and one sister. She would like to become a nurse to help people in need. Her siblings weed gardens to help buy food for the family.



hoaisanyane Letsekang
Age: 16 Form: C

He lives with his mother with two sisters and three brothers. His mother is unemployed and father is not around. He dreams of being a doctor or an engineer.



Mamoletsane Lekitlane
Age: 18 Form: C

Mamoletetsane lives with her mother, brother and three sisters. Her father passed away and her mother is quite ill and unable to work. She wants to further her education to take care of her family.

What is included in a G.R.O. Scholarship?

Our students receive:

- ☆ Full tuition, books, and exam fees
- ☆ Extra weekly academic tutorials by our Academic Advisors
- ☆ Weekly Peer Education sessions which focus on 'life skills' such as communication, goal planning and healthy lifestyles
- ☆ Senior level students receive extra career guidance sessions, university site visits and job shadow experiences
- ☆ University application, registration and medical fee support

G.R.O. Artisans

As Thuli's Jewelry grew in size, 'Mamabula wished to provide more HIV positive women artisans with opportunity. **The G.R.O. Artisans Collective** was formed in early 2009 and in April will issue a call to artisans in the area. Focusing on a microenterprise, sustainable model the Collective will accept 15 new artisans and expand its local market to 5 locations in Lesotho and South Africa. G.R.O. supports their work by providing business training and marketing support, as well as project management assistance and grant applications.

In mid- 2009, we will have an international catalogue available with items for sale in Canada and the United States. Please contact artisans@grofoundation.org if you are interested in getting involved.



Thanks to those that purchased a Jewelry Start-Up Kit during The Gifts of Hope campaign, all new members of the Collective will be provided with a start-up jewelry kit and training.



G.R.O. Grannies

The Grandmothers received 400 new chicks in early 2009 thanks to your overwhelming support. With a focus on microenterprise and community development, their poultry project initiative which supports the chronically ill and destitute in their community.

The Grannies will be building a new facility in 2009 using an eco-model with solar panels and water catchment systems.

The Grandmothers also provide home-based care. Please contact The G.R.O. Foundation if you are interested in contributing non-pharmaceutical supplies or funds to buy them in South Africa.

A special thanks to Verequest, a company that donated funds to help build a new poultry facility for the Grandmothers as part of their social responsibility plan.



G.R.O. Movement

A WARM WELCOME!



Amy Sandhu

An alumnus of Queen's University in Political Studies and Université Jean Moulin (France) in Sciences Politiques, Amy also holds a MSc in Development Management from the London School of Economics. She has worked as a Junior Professional Consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, Switzerland focusing on west African youth unemployment issues. In addition, she has undertaken development field research in India and serves on the Board as Gender Issues Coordinator of Aegis Foundation for Development, a Canadian NGO with child protection-related projects in Sierra Leone, Burundi, DRC and Kenya. Currently Amy works for the United Nations Association in Canada in Ottawa as a Project Officer for projects related to youth-based awareness of sanitation issues, as well as the engagement of Aboriginal youth in northern Canada into sports activities. Her dedication and passion for the development ethos of G.R.O. has led her to support its work in the capacity of coordinating and managing G.R.O. volunteers and interns on the Canadian front.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Online Community Volunteer: Supporting The G.R.O. Foundation of managing and updating our online groups such as Facebook and MySpace.

Computer Programming and Design Volunteer: Supporting The G.R.O. Foundation in developing Adobe Flash and shopping cart programming.

Fundraising Advisor: A volunteer with non-profit fundraising experience who can advise G.R.O.

[WHY I WANTED TO BE A PART OF G.R.O.]

- *Jayne Wilkins*

G.R.O. Intern and volunteer

2008 - current



I'm an archaeologist. My research has brought me to southern Africa for three field seasons – a total of 9 months. I love the research that I do there. I uncover stone tools and other artifacts that were created by the ancestors of all of humanity. The people we meet are kind, generous, and excited about the work we do and want to help out. And then we leave. The field season comes to an end. We drive away in the Land Rover with the artifacts and information we have gathered. It hurts to leave and do nothing. With the memories of Africa comes the sadness. There are so many individuals and communities suffering from poverty and disease. People die every day secretly in their homes for fear of the stigmatism associated with AIDS. Children who want to go to school can't afford to. Adolescents are raising their younger siblings because they lost their parents. People suffer from malnutrition and parasites and lack the medical supplies, clothing, and footwear that we take for granted. People have the same big dreams we do, but the struggle of everyday existence prevents them from ever becoming a reality.

That's why I got involved with the G.R.O. Foundation. I am indebted to Africa for allowing me to conduct research there, for giving me the life-altering experiences I have had there, and for welcoming me as a traveler, researcher, and guest. I have to give back

Poverty and disease is a global issue. Every country is affected by it in some way. I don't know if there is a way to end all the suffering in the world, but I do know that small acts of kindness can change somebody's life. And that changing one person's life can affect hundreds of others. If one student in Lesotho gets to attend High School because of the time and money I have volunteered, then I know I have had made a difference. And, if I the experience I gain doing this internship with the G.R.O. Foundation and use it to ensure that I am always conducting fair and socially responsible archaeology, even better. (Read more volunteer experiences on our [blog](#).)

G.R.O. Vision



G.R.O. Board Members at the 2009 Annual General Meeting

G.R.O. Focuses on a Microenterprise Model

In line with the popularity of microcredit and microenterprise models all around the world, The G.R.O. Foundation seeks to move away from the traditional model of development or 'foreign aid' that often creates project dependency on external support. We are moving towards the new model of development, microenterprise. Microenterprises focus on internal sustainability, long-lasting project growth and community ownership. As we revisited our own vision statement which focuses on supporting community-based and locally-initiated solutions to local problems, we find ourselves moving to support local small enterprise projects.

Take the Grannies chickens for example. The Grannies witnessed the poor, the hungry and the sick in their community. In fact, many of them house the orphaned and the critically ill. As a support group, they bonded together and purchased their first batch of chicks. With those first chicks, they distributed the full-grown broilers to the sick and to the orphaned, sold the remaining and used the profits to buy home-based care supplies. Built on a small business model of raising poultry but with a non-profit mentality, this small-scale community project highlights the success of their initiative.

Many initiatives like this exist all around the world. G.R.O. believes in supporting them. The role of NGOs and other aid agencies in supporting microenterprise projects is providing start-up capital and equipment, and providing training and capacity building. Long-term aid dependency has been cut out of the equation – what remains is a small project capable of running itself and ultimately meeting the needs of the community.

G.R.O. Mission

Fundraising Priorities

As we grow and expand in 2009, we are focused on raising funds for these specific initiatives. If you are interested in holding a community fundraising event, or would like to know how your group or organization can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact us at director@grofoundation.org.

- ❖ **Student sponsorships** for expansion of the Family Scholarship Fund to two other high schools in Leribe (\$400.00 per student or \$7,000.00 annually per school).
- ❖ **Monthly food parcels for orphans on AIDS treatment** (\$80.00 a month)
- ❖ **Winter Care Kits** (blankets, coats, socks, mittens ar hats) for the Hloeheng Orphan Project (One Kit – \$50.00).
- ❖ **Eye examination fees and eye glasses** (\$2,000 for pairs of eye glasses) for students and orphans.
- ❖ **University application fees** for high school graduates (\$20.00)



Students dance at King Moshoeshoe's birthday celebration in Hlotse.

- ❖ **Crisis Kit** (\$50.00 for one family) includes food, paraffin, vegetable seeds, and soap for one month.
- ❖ **Home Care Health Kits** (\$200.00 for one community) for the Grandmothers Support Group which includes non-pharmaceutical supplies like gloves, vitamins and pain relief medication.

THE G.R.O. FOUNDATION

SPRING 2009

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WHO WE ARE | The G.R.O. Foundation is a grassroots international development organization that supports and empowers vulnerable global populations through the provision of sustainable social, health and education initiatives. We are a collective group of advocates contributing to positive change in the developing world.

THE MISSION | Our projects strengthen local initiatives by targeting locally expressed needs and focusing on existing strengths, ultimately leading to lasting personal and community growth.

THE MOVEMENT | Since 2005, The G.R.O. Foundation has worked to engage people of all talents or beliefs to assist us in supporting poor and vulnerable populations around the world.

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION!

Your contribution is sent directly to our projects in Lesotho through our transparent partnerships with OHAfrica in Canada and International Humanities Center in the US. Learn more on our homepage.

As we operate as a board of volunteers we currently incur minimal Toronto operational costs. Make a secure, online donation at:

www.grofoundation.org

Canadian and US citizens will receive a charitable tax receipt.



Just as we commit to promoting a positive future for the people we work with, we also believe it is important to create a sustainable world for all of us to live and grow in. The G.R.O. Foundation is committed to protecting our world by adopting a Green Policy. We hope you will appreciate the delivery of electronic materials instead of paper sent by mail.