



HELP LESOTHO Achieves Accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standards Program

MAY 27, 2014 – Help Lesotho today announces that it has been accredited under Imagine Canada's national [Standards Program](#) – a testimony to Help Lesotho's transparency, accountability, and effective governance. Of the more than 86,000 charities in Canada, fewer than 0.13% have achieved this gold standard of operational excellence. Help Lesotho is proud to join the just over 100 organizations who have obtained the highest recognition possible for Canadian organizations!

"In just 10 years, Help Lesotho (helplesotho.org) has built a strong reputation as a charity of excellence – in its governance, financial accountability and programming. Our donors know without a doubt that their funds are being used as intended to support our work with over 10,000 vulnerable children, girls, youth and grandmothers in Lesotho, southern Africa. For an Ottawa-based charity working in a tiny mountain Kingdom few know about, this accreditation and its high standards is our best way to honour all those who have supported us since the beginning", says Founder and Executive Director, Dr. Peg Herbert.

The Standards Program (<http://www.imaginecanada.ca/>) is a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and nonprofits designed to strengthen practices in five fundamental areas: board governance; financial accountability and transparency; fundraising; staff management; and volunteer involvement. Help Lesotho's policies and procedures in the five areas of compliance were rigorously evaluated by a transparent, peer-review process and were found to be compliant with the Standards Program.

Among the Standards Program's goals are to increase an organization's transparency and capacity, and to strengthen public confidence in individual organizations and the charitable sector as a whole.

John Graham, Chair of Help Lesotho's Board of Directors, says "I am proud to be the chair of such a fine organization – on every level. Few charities, even the biggest and most well-known, have achieved such validation. We have a talented Board of Directors, a local Advisory Council in Lesotho, an outstanding staff in Canada and Lesotho and the passion to do more."

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