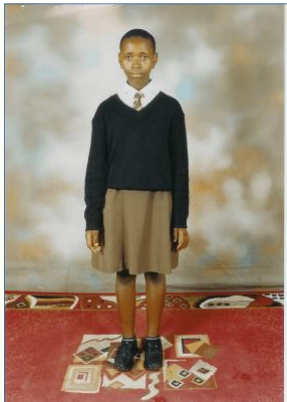


# Educare Update 2005

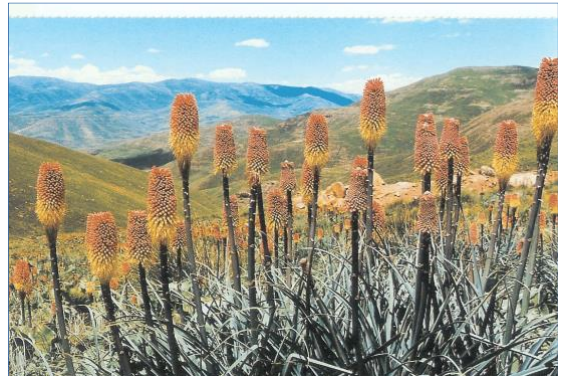
## This year's update

Welcome to the 2005 newsletter of Educare, an organisation set up to support the education of young women in Lesotho (southern Africa). Educare helps pay school fees for bright pupils whose family circumstances would otherwise prevent them from finishing high school.

The newsletter keeps you up to date on the progress of the young women supported by Educare. It also fills you in on the various fund-raising activities the members are involved in.



Every year we receive letters from the schools attended by the young women, letting us know how they are getting on. We also hear from the pupils themselves. We publish a selection of this year's



letters here.

If you're unfamiliar with Educare and would like to find out more, please get in touch with us. You can find our contact details at the end of this newsletter.

## Award for excellence at JC

The Educare committee has recently agreed an annual award for the young woman with the best results in the previous year's Junior Certificate (year three of the five-year high school programme). 2005 is the first year this award has been made available to our cohort of JC finishers. This year's winner is 'Majobile Mpata of Dahon High School.

MAHOBONG SECONDARY SCHOOL  
P O Box 332  
MAHOBONG, LERIBE  
LESOTHO  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

18<sup>th</sup> /October/2004

The Secretary  
EDUCARE  
58 Staples Road  
U.K.

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to certify that Lineo Bernice Teko is a current student of Mahobong Secondary School. This year, 2004 she is in Form A class. Lineo is a very capable student but she is also very poor. Her father died long time ago and her mother is very ill.

I strongly recommend that her application be considered so that she may be able to further her studies.

I have attached her record of performance in two quarterly tests results of 2004.

Yours Sincerely

*N.C. Mphahlele*  
HEADMASTER

MAHOBONG SECONDARY SCHOOL  
2004-10-20  
P.O. BOX 332  
MAHOBONG LERIBE LESOTHO

Dahon High School  
P.O. BOX 10  
Mapoteng 250

Dear Sir/Madam

I, 'Majobile Mpata would like to pass my gratitude to you for the due help that contributed to my academic progress. I did receive the sum of M1800 last year and it indeed helped me to make a transition from form C (2004) to form B (2005).

My J.C. Symbols are attached at the back of this letter.

I am looking forward to working very hard in these academic years 2005 and 2006, and your assistance would be warm-heartedly appreciated to fulfill my looming dream of passing my C.O.S.C. with flying colours.

Yours faithfully  
Majobile Mpata



The award, worth R1000, goes towards paying the fee for the final-year exams, the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (the current body for the GCSE exams in Lesotho). 'Majobile will be taking her GCSEs next year.

On top of the basic school fees, the COSC exam fees present another hurdle for students at high school. Many families find it difficult enough to find the money for the basic school fees, let alone for the extra exam fees. The overall burden of fees in the final year of high school is almost double that of other years.

At present the annual award is only open to those girls who are already getting support from Educare. We hope this award will inspire girls to do well in their Junior Certificate exams in the future.

## School results 2005

This year will see three young Educare-supported women taking their high-school leaving exams: Lebohlang Seipati, Itumeleng Nthoko and Sephewe Pompe. Next year, it's the turn of three more. On current form, we

Thetsane High School  
P.O. Box 1949  
Maseru 100  
16th May 2005

Edu-Care Fund  
57 Staples Road  
Loughton ESSEX  
IG10 1HR, UK

Dear Sir/Madam


RE: APPLICATION FOR MA SCHOOLING SPONSORSHIP

I hereby apply for the schooling sponsorship. I am in Form B (Grade 11) in pursuit of Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC). I am a very hard worker and to assure you, I have obtained merit in my JC final exams. I am strongly fond of being a medical doctor after my studies and with your help my wishes will be turned to success.

I am a paternal orphan and aged nineteen. I am a second born of five sisters and two brothers and I am a Mosotho girl. My school expenses are based on my mother who hardly gets part-time jobs in Thetsane Industries. Settling all school expenses is the obstacle which seems to hamper my further studying because she cannot afford to pay tuition fees and buy me books.

I am really determined in studying and fulfilling my dreams. I have started to work as effective as possible so that I can be one of the top ten students in COSC next year. I hope you will help me so as to brighten my future. I am therefore looking forward to receive your reply.

Yours faithfully  
Teboho Tjakata

 **Thetsane High School**  
P.O. Box 1949  
Maseru 100  
Lesotho  
Tel: (09226) 22321614  
Fax: (09226) 22310653

16-05-2005

Edu-Care Fund  
57 Staples Road  
Loughton ESSEX  
IG10, 1HR, UK


Dear Sir/Madam


RE : TEBOHO TJAKATA'S FINANCIAL AND FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

The above student is a full-time student at Thetsane High School. She joined our school in January 2002 in Form A class (Grade 8) in pursuit of Junior Certificate (JC). She passed JC in Merit in November 2004. She is now in Form D class (Grade 11) in pursuit of Cambridge Overseas School Certificate (COSC). She is due to write her final Examination in November 2006.

The applicant comes from a seriously disadvantaged family of a widowed mother. She is the second born in the family of seven children. Her eldest sister is in final year of COSC. Her three younger sisters and two brothers are still in Primary School. One girl is in Class 7, the other two (a boy and a girl) are both in class 6, the last boy and girls are in class 4 and class 5 respectively.

Their widowed mother, 'Mateboho Tjakata is unemployed. She is unable to pay the fees her children. I strongly believe that Teboho deserves to be financially assisted. She is dedicated in her studies. Teboho may not complete COSC if she does not get assistance somewhere. I therefore strongly recommend that she be assisted as requested.

Yours faithfully  
  
Rats'ame Khampene  
PRINCIPAL



expect all of them to be successful. We wish them all a very bright future.

Both our year-three students have passed their Junior Certificate and are going into the penultimate high school year. The best results were achieved by 'Majobile Mpata, who attained a first class pass. We take pride in working in partnership with such brilliance.

Four new girls joined the Educare scheme this year. Three are in their first year of high school: Lineo Teko, Limpho Masunyane and Lineo Qomu. The other, Teboho Tjakata, is in her penultimate year. According to her school principal, she would have no chance of finishing her studies without extra help. Hers is not a unique story.

We include some of the letters we have received from school principals. They state the case for the young women much more clearly than we could ever do.

## Letter to all the Educare girls

This is an open letter from Educare to all the young women who have done us the honour of accepting our support.

Bo-ausi,

Thank you for all your letters over the years, keeping us informed about your progress at school, your future dreams and any problems you have. We very much appreciate hearing from you.

On behalf of the committee and all the supporters of Educare, we'd like to take this opportunity to let you know that the support we provide is given freely and is not intended to make you feel in any way beholden to anyone. The best way you can show your appreciation of our efforts is for you to put all your energies into your studies. If you are successful, perhaps in the future you in your turn will be in a position to support someone else.

Once you have been accepted onto the Educare scheme, your award will be paid every year until you finish high school, as long as you keep up the good work and continue to get good results. So you can relax, enjoy your school days and concentrate on your studies.

At the end of each year, your school will be asked to report on your progress and confirm that you are still attending. You should check that this information has been sent to Educare, to ensure that your award is renewed for the following year. Without the information, we will not know whether you are still at the school and still needing our support. A short letter from you would also be very much appreciated.

Many of our supporters are not from Africa and are curious about Lesotho. So we'd be grateful if your letters included information about your country, what living there is like, and what makes it a special place for you. Who knows: your letters may help inspire some people to come and visit.



Yours sincerely,  
The Educare  
team

## Wendy's loss, Educare's gain

Wendy Greenhalgh is a new member of the Educare committee. She is now half the woman she used to be, thanks to her decision to do a sponsored slim and donate the money to Educare.

Wendy had decided she wanted to lose weight. So she asked family and friends to sponsor her and support Educare at the same time. OK, there may have been a bit of coercion here and there. I recall her saying that those who demurred were in danger of dropping off her Christmas gift list. In the end, she didn't have to push anybody too hard. People turned out to be more than willing to support the venture.

It is a pleasure to confirm that she succeeded in shedding the 28 pounds she had set herself as a target. In fact she lost an extra pound in the final week. Thanks to her perseverance, Educare stands to benefit to the tune of around £800. At the current level of award, that's enough to fund eight young women for a year. It's the sort of amount usually raised by eight people annually. We are very grateful to Wendy for her generous effort and to her supporters. We hope she enjoys her new slim figure. We also hope she enjoys shopping for new clothes – and that's not just because we're thinking ahead to next year's car-boot sale.



## Other fund-raising activities

It has now become an Educare tradition for the committee to hold an annual car-boot sale. Bobby, Chris, Wendy and Monica set off for a

field in deepest Essex, laden with unwanted goods – some ours, some kindly donated by friends and neighbours.

You'd think Monica's house would be less cluttered now than before. You'd be wrong. The seasoned car-boaters among you will know just how hard it is to come back empty-handed from a quick troll round the other stalls. Monica usually returns with at least one item she couldn't resist – almost certainly doesn't need.



Bobby seems to be the only committee member who never succumbs to the temptation.

The Greenhalghs were out in force for this occasion. Wendy's daughter, Clarice, kept our energy levels up with a supply of cup-cakes she had baked. What was left of them was snaffled by John Harris (for a fee of course). David Greenhalgh showed up on his bicycle, somehow avoiding the £3 entrance fee he would have had to pay if he had been walking. (Not clear how that system works.) He did a great job of making sure Wendy got the best offers for the goods she was selling.

Janet couldn't attend this year's event but was kind enough to make a donation that matched the amount raised at the sale. This turned £120 into the quite respectable sum of

£240. At the current Educare award level, that's enough to support two young women for a year. Certainly enough reason for the committee to get up early again next year and queue to get into that field. The pictures show the Educare gang applying themselves to the business of de-cluttering and re-cluttering people's homes.

## Websites on Lesotho

Some of our supporters have indicated that they would be interested to find out more about Lesotho as a country. We are aware that the newsletter only gives a few snippets of information about the country, but here are a few websites to get you started:

<http://www.answers.com/Lesotho>  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/africa/lesotho/>  
<http://www.lesotholondon.org.uk/>  
<http://www.ltcd.org.ls/>

## Contact

If you'd like to join the band of Educare supporters or just find out about Educare, contact either Monica or Helen:

Liphethiso Monica Harris  
57 Staples Road, Loughton,  
Essex IG10 1HR, UK  
(+44)-020-8508-2244  
[khotsong@nildram.co.uk](mailto:khotsong@nildram.co.uk)

Helen McLachlen  
112 Sierra Woods Drive, Carp,  
Ontario K0A 1LO, Canada  
(+1)-613-839-2692  
[sparks@baklen.on.ca](mailto:sparks@baklen.on.ca)

