



## December 2022

Dear Friends,

*Lumela!* Thank you dear ones for all the ways you have supported my work and ministry for the benefit of orphaned and vulnerable children in Botshabelo, South Africa. As we joyfully close the month when we celebrate adoptions, I offer Peter's story. This is just one of many stories of children adopted by their family members through Setshabelo's Kinship Foster Care and Adoption work.

Peter Thami Tsomile had a stroke at age 4, which left him with a physical disability. His biological mother, unable to provide for his special needs and pregnant with another child, abandoned him at an informal settlement. Peter's biological father died in a car accident in 2015. Peter was then adopted by his paternal grandmother.



Ms. Mmabatho Sarah Thamae, Peter's paternal grandmother, works as a domestic worker and earns a salary of R3000 [176.50 USD] a month. She has been taking care of Peter since he was abandoned by his birth mother. Wanting to provide a permanent loving home for her grandson, she applied to adopt Peter. She contacted a social worker from SFCS who conducted a home study, prepared all relevant assessments, and presented the adoption case to the court, which was subsequently approved.

Peter is now 13 years old and his left limbs are not fully functional. His speech and body movement are affected by the stroke as well as his cognitive functioning, making it difficult for him to cope in a mainstream school.



Peter's road ahead is a difficult one but he will always have his grandmother by his side giving him the love and warmth necessary to heal his trauma. Instead of dreaming of a forever family like others who have been orphaned in Botshabelo, he dreams of someday becoming a lawyer and a DJ.

Strong kinship ties can be crucial to the development and good health of children. The social workers at Setshabelo Family and Child Services work hard to locate, train, and license safe and loving family members so orphaned children can have continuity as well as permanency within their own families when possible.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kjilmore@rca.org](mailto:kjilmore@rca.org) to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.*

## **Kinship Statistics for 2022**

- 10 Kinship Adoptions from Foster Care
- 10 Completed Home Studies for Kinship Placements
- 9 Kinship Families with Intent to Adopt
- 13 Kinship Adoptions Finalized
- 0 Disruptions in Kinship Placements

As always, I invite you to continue to participate with God, RCA Global Mission, and SFCS in Prayer, Purse, and Presence.

## **Prayer**

Loving God, please open the hearts and homes of biological families to kinship adoptions. Use them to heal the wounds of separation, loss, and trauma in the lives of orphaned children in Botshabelo, South Africa. Help mothers and fathers who have felt helpless enough to abandon their children to look to you as their source of help, hope, and reconciliation in your time. Thank you for Setshabelo Family and Child Services whom you have entrusted to do the faithful work of placing orphaned children in loving families. May your name be glorified. Amen.

## **Continue to pray for:**

- The SFCS staff and their families
- Local churches in South Africa and North America
- Healing and wholeness for South Africa

## **Purse**

Did you know that some families are unable to adopt because the subsidy they receive for foster care is more than the one provided after adoption? It's true. The foster families receive R980 per month [58 USD] while adopted families receive R420 per month [25 USD].

7,200 USD would provide a grant for one child to move from foster care to adoption and be provided for from birth to 18 years old. Consider providing a one-time gift above your current gifts to support families with a heart for permanency to adopt without financial barriers. You can give three ways:

**Online:** Visit [www.rca.org/give/sponsor-an-adoptive-foster-family-south-africa/](http://www.rca.org/give/sponsor-an-adoptive-foster-family-south-africa/)

**By phone (U.S. only):** Call Terri Boven at 616-541-0835

**By mail:** Please send your check, made out to "Reformed Church in America," and designated "Sponsor an adoptive foster family South Africa" to Reformed Church in America, Attn: Finance Dept., 4500 60th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, or, in Canada, to Regional Synod of Canada, PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1, Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8.

## **Presence**

Let's Go!!! I am super excited to be traveling back to Botshabelo, South Africa, in 2023 and I want you to come with me. Our dates are as follows:

- Feb 27-March 10, 2023 includes Soweto, Lesotho, and Cape Town
- July 13- 24, 2023\* includes Soweto and Game Drive
- November 6- 17, 2023\*
- February 26- March 7, 2024\*

*RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.*

Price Range: Approx. \$2,200, does not include flight.

*\*These dates are subject to change based on rates and availability.*

***Sala Hantle [Be Well in Sesotho],***

**Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier**

**RCA Global Mission**