

Press Release

Touching Tiny Lives Fundraiser

Saturday, October 24, 2015 and Sunday, October 25, 2015

Contact: Linda Silrum, 612-280-3136

Twin Cities area supporters are hosting two identical fundraising/awareness events on the weekend of October 24th and 25th that include screening of the award-winning film, *The Forgotten Kingdom*, with talks by the film's Director, Andrew Mudge, and social anthropologist Ellen Block. The 90 minute film introduces the audience to the tiny landlocked country of Lesotho, and the cultural and geographical influences that make access to healthcare so challenging in this rural part of the world. A short three minute film from Touching Tiny Lives (TTL) will follow, highlighting the critical difference this nonprofit is making for the children of Lesotho who are suffering from the ravages of HIV/AIDS.

On Saturday, October 24, the event and screening will be held at 6 p.m. at the Minneapolis Photo Center (220 North Second Street #200, Minneapolis, MN 55411).

On Sunday, October 25, the event and screening will be held at 5 p.m. at Riverwalk Square (127 North Main, River Falls, WI).

Tickets are \$25 (advance purchase recommended). The event includes refreshments and appetizers, social time with Andrew Mudge, Ellen Block and a former student intern of TTL, as well as an opportunity to win a beautiful blanket created by an artist from Lesotho. Images from a recent trip to the TTL Safe House by local supporter, Janelle Erickson, will also be shown (including one image recently chosen by David Little - Curator of Photography at MIA - to be shown in current "Portrait" Exhibit at the Mps Photo Center).

For ticket purchases, contact Linda Silrum (lesilrum@gmail.com).

Touching Tiny Lives strives for the healthy development of all children in Lesotho, and envisions accessible health and social services that enable families and communities to care for children affected by HIV/AIDS. TTL was founded in 2004 by a Peace Corps volunteer who responded to the need of a single dying child, and has grown to an organization that is entirely led and staffed by local Basotho, and has served over 1,600 children to date.

Andrew Mudge is a filmmaker based in Brooklyn, New York. He has directed numerous award-winning short films, documentaries and music videos. His debut feature film, *The Forgotten Kingdom*, was selected for the 2012 IFF Filmmaker Labs, and has garnered top awards at over 10 international film festivals (including Woodstock), as well as seven nominations and three awards from the African Movie Academy Awards.

Ellen Block is an Assistant Professor at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University in Collegetown, Minnesota, where she teaches anthropology. She has conducted research in rural Lesotho since 2007 in order to examine how the AIDS pandemic has affected orphan care and the structure and makeup of the family in rural Lesotho. She has worked closely with Touching Tiny Lives in order to understand the challenges of service delivery in this remote rural context, and has helped TTL with data collection and continues to collaborate with them on various projects.

AZ Snyder spent two summers as a researcher and program volunteer at the TTL Safe House during her college career at Notre Dame. Her experiences there led to her to a career in public health. She currently works at Johns Hopkins University affiliate, Jhpiego, managing HIV/AIDS and maternal and child health projects in Lesotho, Uganda, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Laos. She has also held positions at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Catholic Medical Mission Board.

Join us in TTL's efforts to "Save lives, one child at a time". For further information contact:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Touching-Tiny-Lives-Twin-Cities/1493683937591554>

or to make a donation: <http://www.gofundme.com/xyv45c>