

MIKE'S BIKES & LESOTHO CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Mike's Bikes is a California-based retail company established in 1964. Starting with one store, it has expanded to 11 with their expressed dedication to the sport of cycling. They sponsor numerous events and competitions highlighting cycling. Their mission states that their program is "not only for recreation, fitness, and competition, but also as an ecologically and fiscally sustainable vehicle that can provide freedom and change in the lives of people who need it most."

Since their first container of bikes left San Rafael, California in 2007, 14 containers with donated bikes and equipment have arrived in Ghana, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Lesotho. The bikes are donated by individuals and from the profits of Mike's Bikes organization. Donations to their Africa Project are secure and tax-deductible via the Mike's Bikes Foundation, a registered non-profit 501(c)(3).



In addition to using profits from their company to purchase bikes, the owners provide training in retailing and repair to sister shops in the various countries. In Lesotho, their partner is Mr. Tumisang Taabe, who works with the Lesotho Cycling Association on the outskirts of the capital city of Maseru.

FRIENDS OF THE BIKES

Dave & Jeff have a goal of raising \$20,000 to ship approximately **500 bikes** to the children of Lesotho, many of them orphaned by HIV/AIDS epidemic. All of the donated money to this project will be used to ship bikes & other equipment that are collected by Mikes Bikes. Dave and Jeff will pay all of their own expenses, including buying and shipping the two bikes that they will ride and then donate in country.

All bikes will be from the United States and shipped to Africa in a shipping container. Distribution will be done by the Lesotho Cycling Association and will be given to children. These children and their families will then have improved access to schools, markets, and even racing events held by the Lesotho Cycling Association!

Dave & Jeff will ride across and around Lesotho in our summer, but Lesotho's winter. There will likely be snow on the mountaintops and they expect to have a challenging ride. At the end of their trip they will be donating their own personal bikes.

To participate in this project, make a secure, tax-deductible donation at mikesbikesafrica.com or send a check payable to "Mikes Bikes Africa", 24 Tiburon Street, San Rafael, CA 94901. Include a memo line of "Dave & Jeff for Lesotho".

Mike's Bikes will notify Dave & Jeff of all donations. All donors will receive by email the photo journal of the trip. Also, at Dave & Jeff's cost, all that donate at least \$200 (enough to send 5 bikes) will receive polyester workout shirt with the LCA logo, and all that contribute at least \$400 (10 bikes) will receive a LCA bike jersey!



For more information please contact:

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BIKES

FOR THE

CHILDREN OF

LESOTHO, AFRICA



<https://www.facebook.com/BikesForLesotho>

DAVE, JEFF & BICYCLES

Dave Gorman & Jeff Teppema will bicycle 300 miles across and around Lesotho, Africa in July, 2013. They will travel in winter through mountainous terrain and many villages and towns. Their goal is to raise funds to ship hundreds of bikes and to share the joy of bike riding with everyone they meet.

Their passion for bike riding combines with their concern and care for children in need, especially on the scale found in Africa. They will be donating their personal bikes & equipment at the end of their journey. They are asking everyone that remembers the joy and freedom of bicycling as a child to participate by contributing money to ship used bikes to the children of Lesotho.

Lesotho, Southern Africa, was where Dave spent three years as a project director while in the Peace Corps. He lived in the Seforong Valley and is proficient in the language of Sesotho. He considers Lesotho as his second home. Dave embodied the original concept of the Peace Corps – not only doing his every day job, but also making friends with many Basotho people, with whom he has kept in contact.

Jeff's love of Africa began as a 13 year old who had the wonderful opportunity to visit Kenya. To travel across the world & experience a whole new culture & way of life has stayed with him. To see children of his age in a village compound with no shoes, few clothes, and no material possessions gave him a different worldview.



"A project that speaks to our hearts & will once again enhance our perspective & ties to Africa".

LESOTHO – “The Mountain Kingdom”



Landlocked country surrounded by South Africa
Independence granted in 1966
Mountains and highlands are 75% of the land
Christian country with majority below poverty level
Average daily wage \$1
Unemployment at 26% (2008)
HIV/ADS estimated at 31% of population of 2 Million
Transportation mode – walking and horseback
Literacy Rate of 85%



BIKES FOR LESOTHO CHILDREN

In a developing country, why would an effort be made to provide bikes to kids rather than medicine, food, water, education, etc.? Two reasons: first, many organizations are already involved in providing these needs to the population and secondly, both Dave and Jeff feel strongly that “every child should have a bike”. Wants and needs combine in providing bikes for children. Many who will receive a bike will have this as their only possession – imagine their pride of ownership. Also, as Dave states, “bikes provide a long-term rather than a short-term economic impact.”

Bikes provide:

- Fun
- Sport
- Freedom
- Access to markets
- Access to school, work, clinics, etc.
- Transportation that can be shared with other friends and family members

