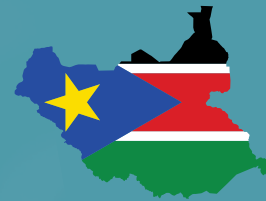


# Seeds of South Sudan NEWS UPDATE



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Seeds of South Sudan  
P.O. Box 232  
Arvada, CO 80001



**These five students left Kakuma Refugee Camp in January and now receive three meals a day (vs. one) and are receiving a superior education at Roots Academy; front row: Mawut Mabior, Aleer Thuch; back row: Apajook Dhieu, Yar Machar and Ajok Chol. The plan is to bring 12 more newly sponsored children in late April to begin the second term (May-July).**

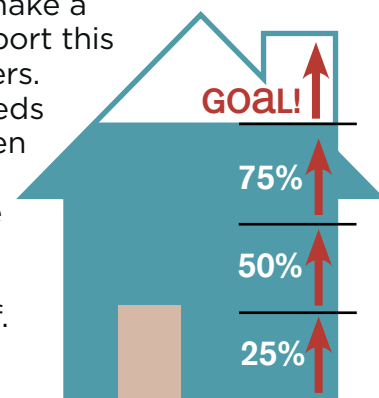
**Mark 9:23 "All things are possible to him that believes."**

## HELP US RAISE LAST 25% TO BUY HOME BASE!

Friends and donors have contributed three-fourths of the funds needed to buy Home Base — the family home in Nakuru, Kenya that the owner wants to sell by June. The SoSS staff lives there year-round, along with our five latest high school graduates who are waiting for funding to continue their education and training. All 76 scholars live there when school is not in session.

Help us reach our goal by donating securely online at: <https://seedsofsouthsudan.org/how-to-help/donate/>. Or send a check to Seeds of South Sudan, P. O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001. You can also donate appreciated stock. See the article on page 3 for more information.

If you are unable to make a contribution, please support this effort through your prayers. Since all members of Seeds of South Sudan have been refugees, the security of a permanent Home Base that they can return to is extremely important to our students and staff. Thanks for all you do for Seeds of South Sudan.



**educate, empower & equip children**  
SURVIVING SOUTH SUDAN'S GENOCIDE

[seedsofsouthsudan.org](http://seedsofsouthsudan.org) / non-profit 501(c)(3) Tax ID# 45-4843694



## SOSS'S YOUNGEST SPONSOR EXPLAINS WHY HE SUPPORTS A REFUGEE'S EDUCATION

My name is Wyatt Terry. I am a 16 year old sophomore at The Kent Denver School. I first learned about SOSS when I was 11. My aunt and uncle had previously sponsored South Sudanese refugees. One of them, Joseph Khot, moved to Colorado after serving in the Army. Joseph and Arok Garang were friends, and Joseph introduced my family and me to Arok. Upon learning that Arok was starting a non-profit, we signed up for the newsletter and, when we received an invitation to attend the first annual luncheon for SOSS, I was really excited to go.

As my parents were unable to attend I needed to arrange for my own transportation. Thankfully Joseph offered to take me and we attended the luncheon together. I was inspired by the presentations and wanted to help Arok achieve his vision; I wanted to make a difference. It was at that moment that I landed on the idea of supporting a student for the entirety of his or her education.

Immediately I started thinking about how to raise significant money for SOSS. My first idea was to collect sponsorships for my participation in athletic events. During my first three years of SOSS support, I raised a little over \$4,000 dollars by bicycling and running events, including the Leadville 10k. It was often grueling and painful - but I was motivated knowing that my efforts were ultimately going to help a child across the globe.

In my most recent year I decided to fund my sponsorship with my own money. In order to meet this goal, I started an entrepreneurial business



***Dut Chol Atem graduated from Roots Academy and now attends high school, thanks to Wyatt Terry.***

offering my services for dog walks, yard work and other household chores. All together I have raised around \$5,500 dollars. I am very proud that this money has gone towards my support of Dut Chol Atem. In the future I would like to increase my involvement in SOSS. Now that I can drive I hope to lend a hand in the office, on social media, or anywhere else my skillset can be utilized. Ultimately I would like to travel to Kenya, meet Dut Chol and teach a summer at Roots Academy where I could experience first hand the thrill of sharing the gift of education. No doubt what I would receive in return would be every bit as rewarding.

I again thank Arok and the SOSS family for providing me with the opportunity to better myself while helping change lives of those who have so much to offer if given the chance.

## Dine at Annie's Café May 9 to benefit SoSS

Annie's Cafe and Bar, 3100 E. Colfax Avenue, will host a fundraiser for Seeds of South Sudan all day on Wednesday, May 9. Please join us to enjoy delicious food while helping SoSS to reach its goal for securing a permanent Home Base for our students. Annie's is donating 20 percent of the food sales May 9 to Seeds of South Sudan. Annie Café and Bar is open 7:00am to 9:00pm, serving a full menu, including all-day-breakfast, lunch, dinner, soda fountain and dessert offerings. Please mark your calendar!

# KIDS CAMP FUNDS BRING WATER TO SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES

Some 50,000 South Sudanese refugees now have fresh water, thanks to Arvada Covenant Kids Camp. The campers raised \$17,000 in 2012 to build a water well in Arok's hometown of Paliu, South Sudan. Due to the Civil War, it was neither safe nor feasible to build the well in South Sudan. However, a large refugee camp operates just over the border in Ethiopia, which cares for a large number of refugees, most from South Sudan.

SoSS volunteers Tom Melander and Arok Garang worked with Serve Globally, the mission arm of the Evangelical Covenant Church (denomination headquarters for Arvada Covenant), to build the well to benefit both the refugees and local residents of Gambella, Ethiopia. Two wells were built: a shallow well, which became operational in December, and a deeper well dug soon after. Rev. Abraham Tuach, former president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan in Ethiopia, spoke at the dedication.



**William Deng, the construction supervisor on the well project for the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan in Ethiopia, speaks last December at the dedication in Gambella, Ethiopia. The Rev. Matthew Jock, president of the ECCSSE, spoke in Ethiopia and came to Arvada Covenant to say thanks and present details.**



**Colorado Academy donated four laptop computers to Seeds of South Sudan for use by our college students. Presenting three of the four computers to Arok are Rory Butler and Jonathan Ender from the CA technology team. With this generous donation, all six of our college students now have high-performing laptop computers to do their school work! Scholars who have received the computers from Arok include: Kuir Mayen Kuir, economics and Dau Atem Dau, accounting; Aleer Jiok, and John Matiop, medical school, all at the University of Nairobi; plus Dau Machar Jok and Garang Maniok Giet in seminary at Africa International University.**

## SOSS CAN ACCEPT YOUR APPRECIATED STOCKS

Seeds of South Sudan can now accept gifts of appreciated stocks from donors. This is a new way donors can help South Sudanese orphans while improving the donor's tax situation. Supporters who have a stock that has appreciated over time can donate to Seeds of South Sudan without incurring capital gains taxes.

Anyone who would like to know more is invited to contact Kent Nelson, at [kent@seedsofsouthsudan.org](mailto:kent@seedsofsouthsudan.org) and 303-931-6186 or John Gonder, [john@seedsofsouthsudan.org](mailto:john@seedsofsouthsudan.org) and 303-949-6890.

# SoSS seeks HELP VIA event VOLUNTEERS

Seeds of South Sudan is seeking volunteers to help organize and plan events so that we can continue to support the 65 students that we have in primary and secondary school, the 6 students SoSS is supporting in medical school, seminary and the University of Nairobi, plus our five high school graduates who wish to continue their education.

If you would be willing to donate your time for a planning committee, securing silent auction items for our 10th anniversary gala next year or inviting your friends to broaden support for our organization, please contact Sue Counterman at 720-218-9302 or at [sue@seedsofsouthsudan.org](mailto:sue@seedsofsouthsudan.org). Please visit our volunteer page on our new website: [www.seedsofsouthsudan.org](http://www.seedsofsouthsudan.org)



***This 1973 Porsche 914 convertible is for sale with all proceeds benefiting the Seeds of South Sudan ministry. It's currently for sale at \$12,000. Details: 44,855 original miles, 1.7 Side Shifter, Starts, runs and drives great! Recent paint job, interior restoration, updated sound system, new battery, etc. Recent tune-up, common areas prone to rust are solid. For more information, contact John Petterson, [Pettersonjc@gmail.com](mailto:Pettersonjc@gmail.com).***

## SoSS Speaks to Schools, Community Organizations

Arok Garang spoke to a number of schools in 2017 and board member Sue Counterman spoke to a community group. Here are recent speaking engagements:

- **University of Colorado at Boulder**
- **Hodgkins Elementary School**
- **Sunset Ridge Elementary School**
- **Skinner Middle School**
- **910am Radio Interview**
- **Sherrelwood Middle School**
- **Skyline Vista Elementary**
- **Westminster Academy for International Studies**
- **Jeffco Open School**
- **Littleton Kiwanis**
- **Cherry Hills Christian School**
- **Mead High School**

Arok and Roger Vadeen were interviewed by KNUS and KRKS radio. You can listen to the 26-minute podcast here: <https://www.podbean.com/site/EpisodeDownload/PB7CD6E3MT2HH>

***Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."***

## SEEDS OF SOUTH SUDAN LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Seeds of South Sudan has launched a more colorful, engaging website at [www.seedsofsouthsudan.org](http://www.seedsofsouthsudan.org). Visitors will find more information about the students and schools as well as the four hard-working staff in Kenya that visit students at school, take care of the students when they are sick and host them at Home Base when schools are not in session. Visit now and in the future as we had more stories of student success via photos and videos.

