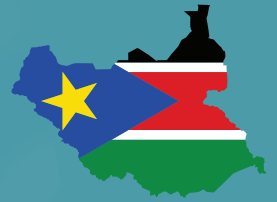


Seeds of South Sudan news UPDATE



OCTOBER 2018 | Volume VII, Number 3

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

Home Base Purchase Update

Seeds of South Sudan is continuing with the purchase of Home Base. Our Colorado SoSS attorney is drafting a contract for review by the SoSS Board before submitting it to the seller.

Seeds has sent a check for three more months rent to guarantee that the students and staff can live at Home Base while the paperwork is proceeding. The board is being especially careful to ensure things go well with this international transaction.

Thank you to all supporters whose donations are making this purchase possible.

Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

advanced education FUND needs YOUR SUPPORT

Our hard-working Seeds of South Sudan scholars are progressing through the Kenyan education system and more are graduating from high school. All want to continue their education or training to help their country of South Sudan. Five SoSS high schools students graduated in 2017, including our first female graduate, Awan Mawut Mapior. Another nine will graduate in December 2018. Some may pursue a trade through a certificate program, such as becoming a plumber, carpenter or electrician. Others may pursue a community college degree in nursing or other fields. Still others will aspire to attend a university in Kenya.

We are raising \$50,000 to pay for higher education for our new graduates. You can support this effort by attending our Jazz Soiree November 8 or by donating online at seedsofsouthsudan.org. Or you can insert a check and return the self-addressed envelope enclosed with the print version of the newsletter. Thank you!



Awan Mawut Mapior, left, graduated in 2017. Adut Aluong Atem, Yar Lual Deng and Ayak Mabil Atem are three more female scholars who will graduate this year.



educate, empower & equip CHILDREN
SURVIVING SOUTH SUDAN'S GENOCIDE

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

YOUNGEST SOSS FUND-RAISER INSPIRED BY THE LOST BOYS



Twelve-year-old Ava Berger was so inspired by the Lost Boys she met, Ava has raised substantial funds and committed to support SoSS students for years to come.

Ava had met Arok Garang through “Mama Jean” Wood, who has been a mentor and supporter of the Denver Lost Boys since they arrived in the US in 2001. One of Arok’s closest friends, James Biar, died suddenly of a rare condition. Lost Boys came from all over the US for his funeral.

“I was inspired by what Arok is doing for education,” Ava said. Her class was reading *Long Walk to Water* about the Lost Boys journey in Africa. Ava emailed her teachers and Arok spoke to all 49 sixth graders at Alexander Dawson School.

“The whole sixth grade class and teachers were really moved by Arok’s presentation,” said Clove Berger, Ava’s mother. “There were tears. The students formed groups to raise money.”

Ava spoke to the 5th through 8th grade school classes at Dawson, a private K-12 school in Lafayette. “I made the point that this education (through Seeds of South Sudan) would help a lot of people; that it is important to give back to others.”

A team at Dawson raised money through bake sales, a Dollar Day and flyers. Ava reached out to her grandmother in California, who also raised funds. In all, \$4,164 was raised last spring. The funds will sponsor one student in 2019 and contributed to buying Home Base, which houses our staff year round and students during school breaks.

Ava hopes her sixth grade class can sponsor a student each of their remaining years at the school. The refugee orphan they sponsored will start at Roots Academy in January 2019.

“You can really do anything,” Ava says to other children. “It does not matter how old you are. People can help more than they realize.”

Consider Donating Your Required Minimum Distribution to SoSS

Supporters of SoSS who are older than 70½ are required by the government to take annual distributions (withdrawals) from their retirement account. This provision, known as the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), may be made tax-free as long as it is directed to a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, such as Seeds of South Sudan.

Up to \$100,000 of this annual distribution from IRAs may be distributed directly to a 501(c)(3) public charity, enabling you to avoid paying income taxes on that amount. This option is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The QCD applies to traditional, rollover and Roth IRAs. SEP and Simple IRAs also qualify (as long as the donor is no longer actively receiving employer contributions).

The 501(c)(3) tax ID number for Seeds of South Sudan’s is 45-4843694. To make a contribution, make your check out to Seeds of South Sudan and put “2018 RMD” (or the applicable year) on the memo portion of the check. Mail it to Seeds of South Sudan, P.O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001.

Donors may wish to consult with a tax advisor before taking any action. Please note: the RMD is not tax-deductible because this donation already represents a tax advantage. Questions may be directed to SoSS Treasurer Kent Nelson: kent@seedsofsouthsudan.org.

JAZZ SOIREE at BONACQUISTI NOV. 8 BENEFITS OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Come enjoy wine, food and great jazz Thursday, November 8th at Bonacquisti Winery, 4640 N. Pecos Street, to support Seeds of South Sudan scholars to continue their education in Kenya.

SoSS needs funds to support of our new and upcoming high school graduates to earn certificates for skilled trades and attend universities in Kenya. They are the future of South Sudan and we need to ensure that they can achieve their goals.

What you can expect Nov 8th: A evening of great jazz from the Jazz Hands Foundation Band featuring Tom Capek on keyboards, Rick Brough on bass, Deon Kuhl on drums, and Brian Counterman on sax. Their clean jazz and blues is sure to delight.

Your first glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres are covered with the admission price. Additional drinks will be at your own expense. Cost: \$40. Payable at the door.

Please join us Thursday, November 8th or make a donation at seedsofsouthsudan.org.



Brian Counterman on tenor sax leads the band.
Photo courtesy of Barry Staver



John Matiop Mayen on campus in London, Ontario

Matiop Wins Full College Scholarship in Canada

Seeds of South Sudan's first university student, John Matiop Mayen, has won a four-year scholarship to study medical sciences at Western University in London, Ontario. The 4-year scholarship covers tuition and accommodation through a World University Service of Canada scholarship.

John was the first Seeds of South Sudan scholar to gain admittance to a university in Kenya, having scored among the top high school graduates in Kenya who completed graduation exams in 2015.

He has completed two years of study at the University of Nairobi. John began his studies at Western University in August and is working towards a Bachelor of Science degree in medical sciences.

Galatians 6:2: Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.



Seeds of South Sudan

P.O. Box 232 • Arvada, CO 80001

501(c)3 -Tax ID #45-4843694

THANK YOU

Thank you to the three organizations who conducted fund-raisers for SoSS in August and those who supported them: Arvada Covenant Church, Steubens Restaurant and R Taco Restaurant.

Arvada Covenant Church held a garage sale to benefit SoSS and raised more than \$2,600. Many church members and other supporters donated goods and many volunteered at the event.

Steubens Restaurant in Arvada donated a percentage of sales purchased August 7 to the college education of David Mayen Kuir, who is studying economics and statistics at the University of Nairobi. R Taco donated a percentage of sales August 19. Thank you to all who helped these fund-raisers succeed.

Thank you to all who helped these fund-raisers succeed!

Jazz Soiree November 8 At Bonacquisti

Come enjoy wine, food and great jazz, November 8 to benefit SoSS high school graduates seeking more education or training for an important skill.

When: Thursday, Nov. 8, 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: Bonacquisti Winery,
4640 Pecos Street, Denver, CO 80211

Cost: \$40. Payable at the door.
Includes food and first glass of wine

Who: See story on p. 3 for more details