

Seeds of South Sudan HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

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seedsofsouthsudan.org

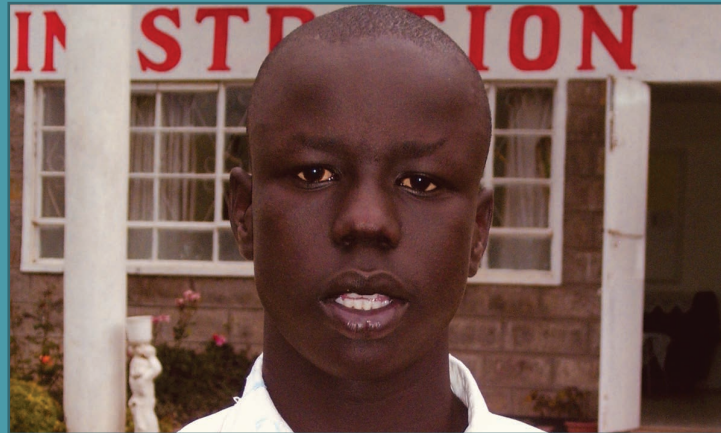
A SEASON FOR GRATITUDE

In this Holy Season, Seeds of South Sudan Founder Arok Garang, as well as board members and volunteers wish to thank YOU, Seeds' many sponsors and supporters, for your generosity this past year. New sponsors and some current supporters helped Seeds rescue 13 more refugee orphans in 2019: seven started their studies at Roots Academy in January; another three left Kakuma in April and began the second term in May and three more left Kakuma in September. Thanks for our sponsors, Seeds in 2019 passed founder Arok Garang's initial goal of educating 100 refugee orphans! Our mission has now expanded to help students attend higher education, technical training and to start their own businesses. **Come to our annual luncheon November 17, 12:30pm, at Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia Street in Denver, to learn more!**

New also in 2019, Seeds supporters paid travel expenses for our 13 high school graduates from 2017 and 2018 to volunteer at the Kakuma Refugee Camp and South Sudan. Those in South Sudan were able to connect with relatives and see their homeland near Arok's hometown of Paliau. The other half went to Kakuma and served as volunteer teachers. Our high school graduates are more highly trained than most volunteer teachers at Kakuma. This was an opportunity to give back while awaiting funding to continue their education.

Asante Sana – thank you very much!

HELP SEND DENG DAU ATEM TO BUSINESS SCHOOL!



Deng Dau Atem, age 19, graduated from top-rated Koelel High School in 2017. He traveled to Kakuma and taught primary students math and science at Kakuma Refugee Camp for many months. Deng wants to study business administration, so he can start a business in South Sudan. Seeds has received donations to cover Deng's first year of community college. He needs \$2,400 for tuition and fees to receive his diploma. Please donate to Deng's education or Seeds' Advanced Education Fund via seedsofsouthsudan.org or by sending a check to P.O. Box 232 Arvada, CO 80001. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AS A FAMILY

Because our Seeds students spent their early life as refugee orphans, it is especially meaningful for them to come together as a family during the holidays. As in the United States, a big part of the celebration includes food! South Sudanese Christians celebrate Christmas for an entire week. Arok says they will purchase a goat or beef, which will be a special treat that will be eaten at multiple meals. The students learn new songs, which are sung at evening worship services. The university students arrive just before Christmas. During their time at Home Base, each university student prepares a talk about leadership for the younger students. One student speaks each night. **It is a joyful time to celebrate their faith and being part of a family.**

MEET SEEDS OF SOUTH SUDAN'S 2019 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Fifteen of our outstanding South Sudanese young people are graduating from high school this December. The five females and 10 males will travel to South Sudan with Arok Garang to teach as volunteers in South Sudanese schools. For many, it will be their first trip there since early childhood. For others born in Kakuma Refugee Camp, it will be their first trip ever to their home country.



Thuch Mawut, 18

I spent most of my childhood living under the trees in Kakuma, looking after my sick mother. She passed away in 2008 when I was six. I was adopted by Rebecca, an 86-year-old woma who took care of orphans. She cooked for 10 of us, but her life was difficult due to her age and sickness. One day, she told us to start preparing ourselves for lives on our own because her health was deteriorating. Within a month, she died, we became orphans again and our hearts were broken. Luckily, four of us were adopted by Seeds of South Sudan in 2010. I will graduate from Koelel High School in December. My hope and aspiration is to be a political science teacher. I would like to teach English as a volunteer in South Sudan.



Amach Awai, 18

Teach Reading and Writing
Goal: Be a writer



Deng Mayen Deng

Koelel Boys High School



Bior Wek, 18

Teach Physics, Biology and /or English
Goal: Medical doctor



Arok Garang, 18

Teach History and Chemistry
Goal: Pharmacist



Jok Machar, 18

Teach Biology and Chemistry
Goal: Medical doctor



Atem Jima Atem, 20

Teach Science and Math
Goal: Be a leader



Amou Mamer, 18

Teach Social Studies
Goal: Biology teacher



Arok Thuch, 17

I was born in Paliau, South Sudan. Due to insecurity, cholera outbreak and shortage of food, many people from my village, including my mom, left for Kenya. After six months of walking across South Sudan, we arrived at Kakuma Refugee Camp. After two years of chronic malnutrition and sickness in Kakuma, I was selected by Seeds of South Sudan.



Thuch Kuir, 19

Work with the United Nations



Kuang Deng, 20

Teach Chemistry
Goal: Surgeon



Amour Mamer

Nakuru Girls High School



Abit Dau Kuang

Mary Mount High School



Adut Aluong Atem, 18

Teach Biology and Chemistry
Goal: Lawyer



Chol Mayen, 18

Teach Geography
Goal: Engineer

SEVEN STUDENTS COMPLETE ROOTS ACADEMY



Seven Seeds students have graduated from Roots Academy and will start high school in January. The government of Kenya determines which high school each attends, depending on how well they score on exit exams.

The four female Roots grads are: Achol Dau Kuir, Yar Dau, Apajook Dhieu and Alek Mawut. The three male grads are: Deng Mapior, Aleer Deng Aleer and Deng Garang.

2019 ROOTS ACADEMY GRADUATES



Achol Dau Kuir



Yar Dau



Alek Mawut



Deng Garang



Deng Mapior



Aleer Deng Aleer



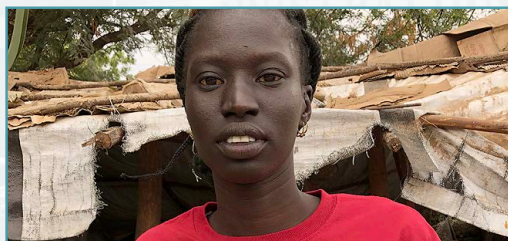
Apajook Dhieu



Apajok Lual Lueth



Arok Mayen Mapior



Nyandeng Jima Atem

THREE MORE REFUGEES JOINED SEEDS IN SEPTEMBER 2019

Three refugee orphans interviewed by the Seeds team this summer joined the program in time for the September term. They were selected based on health concerns or their age.

Because all our students start at Roots Academy (K-8), we try to "adopt" the children as young as possible. The new students are Apajok Lual Lueth, 15; Arok Mayen Mapior, 13; and Nyandeng Jima Atem, 17.



Seeds of South Sudan

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DON'T MISS SEEDS' ANNUAL LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 17!

Join us to celebrate the progress of our Seeds' students and all our achievements Sunday, **November 17** at 12:30 pm at **Montview Blvd. Presbyterian Church**, 1980 Dahlia Street in Denver. Once again, Relish Catering is donating a beef brisket buffet with trimmings. The serving line will open at 12:15 pm. For those coming from other churches, 12:30 pm will be the official start. You'll be inspired by the stories and photos. Meet other Seeds of South Sudan sponsors and donors.

Date: November 17, 2019

Time: 12:30 pm to 2 pm

Place: Montview Church, 1980 Dahlia St.
Denver, CO 80207

RSVP: Not required, but helpful:
info@seedsofsouthsudan.org
(970) 587-3853

HONOR A LOVED ONE WITH A GIFT TO SOSS

Need a gift idea for that special someone? Giving a gift to Seeds of South Sudan solves the problem of sizes and colors! When you give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one, SoSS will send an attractive card as an acknowledgement to the person honored, or to a family member of the person designated in a memorial.

The government of Kenya recently reduced the third school term by one month, so SoSS must now feed and house students for four months during the year when school is out: April, August, November and December.

Your gift can be any amount.

Please make your donation securely online at seedsofsouthsudan.org or send a check to Seeds of South Sudan, P.O. Box 232, Arvada, CO 80001.



Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

