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ROCHESTER, NY

We are looking forward to being with you at our Annual Celebration Dinner this June 25th.
We will celebrate at Glendoveers on 2328 Old Browncroft Blvd.
 (Please see the dinner reservation form below.)

Building Minds in South Sudan Celebration Sunday, June 25, 2023 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Appreciation – Progress – Dinner – Silent Auction
 Adults \$40, Children 12 and under \$15 Kindly RSVP by June 8

Please cut out the response form below and mail together with your check payable to
Building Minds in South Sudan, 175 Willowcrest Drive, Rochester, NY 14618

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Yes, I/We will attend. Number of adults (\$40 each) _____ Number of children (\$15 each) _____

No, I/We are unable to attend, but wish to donate \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Another New School
 Enrollment has been growing and our schools are bursting. To make room for more students and to separate the youngest from the oldest, this winter we will begin building a Pre-K through 3rd grade school.

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 Our accomplishments made possible with your support
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Celebrate with us!
 Please join us at our Annual Celebration Dinner.
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THE KING AND LAIMA BECK GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL



King and Laima Beck Girls High School is off to a great start!

The entire village celebrated the opening of our newest school with a joyous ceremony including raising the flags, dancing, and feasting on goat and other special dishes. As you may recall, this is the only all girls public high school in South Sudan. Classes began in February with 382 students filling the nine classrooms. Our interim principal will remain for another year after a female principal is hired to ensure a smooth transition. Six of the teachers are not from the village, therefore beds and sleeping spaces have been provided. There are also cooking pots and pans so that they can make meals there. It takes a village!



Our College Students

Eleven high school graduates completed their first year of college thanks to scholarships from donors like you. We'd like to introduce you to two of these students. Asunta Akuot Deng is 25 years old and majoring in accounting and finance. She is pictured with BMISS President Sebastian Maroundit and Vice President Mathon Noi. Amiok Ayuel Mayar is 32, a mother, and studying nursing. Both were funded by a Presbytery of Genesee Valley Peacemaking Grant. The \$340 annual tuition is now 40% higher than last year.





From Lual Marakol

It's an honour and privilege to register my heartfelt appreciation to Building Minds in South Sudan (BMISS) for constructing Ajong Primary School at a time when the community was in dire need of a modern school.

The ground-breaking ceremony was in early January 2012 for the foundation stone. This deeply brought back hope to the entire population in the area. Before BMISS, Ajong Primary School was an under-tree school near a grass-thatched hut, a harsh environment that does not encourage pupils to keep to their studies. It was the worst situation ever to cope as rain and storms interrupted our lessons. Despite all this, we did not forgo schooling due to our resilience to survive with no other alternative. The community tried its best for so long, but at last used the grass-thatched hut school. It was much better than under-tree, but we still felt the helplessness given its conditions and limited capacity.

After BMISS intervened and successfully constructed Ajong Primary School, the environment became one that encouraged schooling. I'm extremely proud to be one of the products of Ajong Primary School.

I write this message and appreciate the entire leadership of BMISS in general and Sebastian Maroundit, president in particular, for the tireless support to the vulnerable population in the war-torn country, South Sudan. Words can never describe my happiness to the Americans who tirelessly support BMISS. You have humanity at heart, special thanks goes to you for your constant support.

In addition, the construction of Majok-Keen Girls' Primary School and Bill Cook High School add up to the tremendous achievements being made by BMISS.

As a product of Ajong Primary School, I currently study medicine at Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. In my journey to becoming a medical doctor in the near future, I'm so determined to go back home and establish a clinic that would save lives of vulnerable mothers, children and the entire population. It will surely translate the meaning and importance of education to the community.

Yours sincerely,
Lual Chol Bol

The Laima Project Update

The first part of The Laima Project was the granting of \$500 to women who presented a simple business plan to a panel of three people. One of the first businesses was a restaurant which became very successful. Just this past winter, it was patronized by Doctors Without Borders and even the patients.

Through another aspect of The Laima Project, women have been given small garden plots. What once was hard, baked, barren soil is now farmland lush with tomato plants and many more crops. The gardens have grown in more ways than one and supply families with nourishing food while at the same time give women the opportunity to sell some of their crops at a market which then produces income for their families. It is truly miraculous.



YOU did it!

You, our amazing donors, have increased your contributions every year through our Annual Appeal since 2019. From just 2019-2020 up until 2022-2023, the amount of contributions doubled! and this was even during COVID! This speaks volumes about your caring, compassion, and loyalty to BMISS. You are very special people and your generosity is greatly appreciated. We hope that you are gratified by knowing that you are enhancing the lives of thousands in the remote village of Mayen Abun, South Sudan.

