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We are looking forward to being with you at our Annual Celebration Dinner this June 9th.
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 9, 2024 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Appreciation – Progress – Dinner – Silent Auction

Adults \$40, Children 12 and under \$15 Kindly RSVP by May 17

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 \$ _____

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Celebrate with us!

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PRE K-3RD GRADE SCHOOL



Our next project is the much-needed Pre K-3rd grade school.

This new school will provide two very important needs. First, the younger students will be in a school of their own and not distracted by the older students. Secondly, there will be more classrooms available in the primary school for more students to attend now that the younger students will have a new school. The bricks, as with all of our schools, have been handmade by the villagers and are ready for construction. As soon as there is funding for this much needed school, building will begin.

Grant Funds Their College

Asunta Akuot Maleuth Deng is in her second year toward a nursing degree.

Amiok Ayuel Ayuel Mayar (at right with Sebastian) is in her second year at the university majoring in accounting and finance.

A Presbytery of Genesee Valley Peacemaking Grant has funded these two women for two years of college. BMISS has applied for another grant for next year. Asunta and Amiok are living out the mission of BMISS, to improve literacy, equality and economic opportunity, especially for women. College tuition is \$340 per year should you wish to sponsor a student.





IN MEMORY OF JIM REES

Jim Rees, a founder of Building Minds in South Sudan and its first treasurer, passed away on January 15, 2024 at home surrounded by his family. Jim was a delight with a wonderful sense of humor and a twinkle in his eyes. He cared deeply about Building Minds in South Sudan and especially for cousins Sebastian and Mathon, who considered Jim their American father. These two Lost Boys had a dream to build a school in their village of Mayen Abun and did so with the help of Jim. Jim will be missed by all of us on the Board of BMISS and by all who knew him. He was a special man who was a thinker and a doer who never backed away from a challenge, according to his son Kevin. We thank Jim for all that he did for BMISS.



Woman-Owned Business A Great Success!

Sebastian and Bill Cook eat lunch at a thriving woman-owned business (photo at right), originally funded by The Laima Project five years ago. The Laima Project gives \$500 grants to help women entrepreneurs start their own businesses.

Doctors Without Borders hired owner Aliai Makuach to feed its employees and patients, a service for which she is paid monthly. She now runs three successful restaurants plus a shop where customers can buy juice or soda.

50 ACRES OF GARDENS!

Our Laima Project gardens have recovered from last year's floods.

They are very lush as you can see. Maize, beans, Okra, tomatoes, green leaves, sorghum, and different types of pumpkin are the crops grown. More women have been given small garden plots and seeds this year so they can feed their families and have some to sell at market.



OUR AMAZING EDUCATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our four schools have almost 3,000 students! Compare this to 2012 when our first school, Ajong Primary, began building its first two classrooms for 249 boys. By the time construction was completed, school enrollment was 959! Here are current enrollments:

- Ajong Primary School (co-ed) 902
- Majok Keen All Girls Primary School 796
- King and Laima High School for Girls 720
- Bill Cook High School (co-ed) 409

Some of our students are refugees from Sudan.

Over 400 students have graduated from our high schools and enrolled in several universities across South Sudan. Thirteen college graduates went to Ajong Primary and two teach at the Bill Cook High School. One graduate works for the Norwegian Refugee Organization in Warrap State, one is in the county survey management department in Twic County, and the rest work for the federal government in Juba, the capitol of South Sudan.



Thank you for 10 years of sharing your story!

Gananda Middle School

Gananda Middle School

Gananda Middle School is very small with about 200 students. For 10 years, Sebastian has been invited to present to the 7th graders. The students then have a fundraiser for BMISS replicating the walk of The Lost Boys. Students are sponsored at various amounts for the miles they walk and have raised over \$1,000 every year. This school is unique for this remarkable tradition and loyalty to BMISS. Thank you to Aimee Campbell, the dedicated and caring teacher who has made this possible for these 10 years!



Meet One of Our Crops

Sorghum was domesticated from its wild ancestor more than 5,000 years ago in what is today Sudan. It is used for human consumption and as fodder for animals. Though you probably do not know much about sorghum, the United States is the leading grower. Sorghum is a basic staple in our village. When sorghum flour is cooked with water, it looks like mashed potatoes.

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