



# Village News from *BMISS*

*From Our Village to Yours*

[www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org](http://www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org)

Spring 2014 Vol. 4



## NEW INITIATIVE!

### Pads for Girls

**S**chools for South Sudan, a WXXI documentary about **BMISS**, was screened at the Little Theatre on April 22, 2014 in Rochester, New York. More than 200 people enjoyed the hour-long feature, which tells the story of how Lost Boys and **BMISS** co-founders Sebastian Maroundit and Mathon Noi captured the hearts of many in Rochester. It also chronicles how, together, we have built a school in South Sudan. Discussion followed with Sebastian and Mathon. Palath Thonchar from the South Sudan Village Care Foundation joined them. A viewer described them as, “articulate, brilliant, funny, compassionate and full of hope and love.”

**H**elene Biandudi Hofer, hosted a six-part series called *Schools for South Sudan* which aired on WXXI on Need to Know Rochester. Ajong Primary School is giving hope to those in the village who



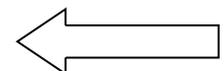
want education and peace.



**P**ads for Girls is a **BMISS** project we initiated to enable girls to attend school every day, especially during their menstrual cycle. In December, 2013 Linda Werts, a Newark Rotarian, joined Sebastian’s travel team and demonstrated how to make the cloth pads. The pads are cotton, washable and reusable. Each girl received a cloth pouch with two pads. Linda explained that the women are clever and understood quickly how to make them. Fundraising has begun to raise money for two treadle sewing machines because the village lacks electricity. Linda brought 200 pads for the girls and women of Mayen Abun.



Made with Love at Temple Sinai in Rochester, NY



### New Initiative!

## Teacher Training via Skype

Sebastian's December 2013 travel team implemented a long distance teacher training with the help of Dr. Joseph Keating of California State University at San Marcos. The Ajong Primary School teachers learned methodology for a science class via Skype while Sebastian interpreted. The travel team then observed the teachers as they used the same teaching methodology with their Ajong Primary students. Our first trial at long distance teacher training was a success.

## 3.5 Miles to School on Knees

Meet Angelina, a teenager with polio, who "kneels" to our school every day. She used to kneel more than a mile to an "Under Tree" school closer to her home. When she heard about our school building (Ajong Primary), she decided to attend despite the 3.5 miles each way. Angelina told Sebastian that she is ineligible for marriage and her parents won't be around forever. Angelina realizes education is her only avenue for survival.



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IN SUDAN INC  
(Building Minds in  
South Sudan, Inc.)  
is a



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## What's Next?

Currently 8 classrooms have been completed with 805 students (50 to a classroom) attending in double sessions. The school administration requests that **BMISS** build three sets of latrines –one for girls, one for boys and one for teachers. Our goal is to build them in January 2015. After that we will build a teacher's office, a headmaster's office and a storage room for supplies.

## Contribute with Ease

You may now donate on a regular basis. Just check the "Recurring" box on PayPal on our website.

[www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org](http://www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org)

Donate to:

***Building Minds In South Sudan***

Go to [www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org](http://www.buildingmindsinsouthsudan.org)

Or send to:

**Building Minds in South Sudan  
5880 Pittsford Palmyra Rd.  
Pittsford, NY 14534-2444**

Make checks payable to: **BMISS**

My gift to help **BMISS**:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

## Ambassador Program

Over the past year **BMISS** is proud to share that Sebastian and Ma-  
thon have presented at more than 85 locations. This includes:

- 23 Rotary Clubs
- 1 Interact Rotary Club
- 1 Kiwanis Club
- 1 Lions Club
- 28 K-12 school visits
- 3 colleges
- 3 temples
- 7 churches
- 5 meetings

Judy Schwartz, our ambassador, would be happy to arrange a presentation for your group. Please call (585) 442-5111.



Local watercolorist, Steve Roe, has generously painted and donated his works of art to our Annual Dinner Celebration. Steve is a devoted supporter of **BMISS**. He arranged for Sebastian to speak at the Rush-Henrietta Interact Club, the high school component of Rotary, and The Children's Discovery Charter School. Steve does these acts of kindness quietly, gently and with sincerity. **BMISS** wishes to say a special thanks to Steve for his support.

## Shout Out!

### Brighton Central Schools

All four of the schools in the Brighton Central School District came together to support Building Minds in South Sudan with their individual fundraising efforts. Many classes had the amazing opportunity to Skype with Sebastian and the students in the village of Mayen Abun.

- ◇ Council Rock Primary School
- ◇ French Road Elementary School
- ◇ Twelve Corners Middle School
- ◇ Brighton High School

## Reflections

from

### Hillel Community Day School

Sebastian's talk inspired the students to write:

#### From an 8th grader:

"Sebastian is doing a huge mitzvah for the world with Building Minds in South Sudan."

#### And another:

"I used to complain about school, but now I'm going to be more thankful for what I have, because I know that a kid somewhere else would happily take my spot."

#### And still another:

"You never really understand how lucky you are to have pencils and schools until you realize what other people don't have. I also have a newfound respect for people like Sebastian who don't give up and turn out to be what they could never think of. Sebastian probably never thought he would be in America someday when he escaped his village. Now he is successful and inspires people everywhere."



5880 Pittsford Palmyra Road  
Pittsford NY 14534-2444

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JUNE 22, 2014**

3rd Annual BMISS Celebration Dinner

Jack's Place

1200 Kings Hwy N Rochester NY

4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Adults \$25 Children 12 and under \$15

Checks payable to:

**Building Minds In South Sudan**

**5880 Pittsford Palmyra Road**

**Pittsford NY 14534**

