

PROFILE OF NEW SOUTH SUDAN STUDENTS AT SUD ACADEMY- 2017

NYANASE KONG GATKUOTH



Nyanase is a class five girl from Nuer tribe. She is happy for the opportunity granted at Sud Academy that would enable her to realize her dream through education. When war broke out in South Sudan, she was still young and did not understand the turn of events that would force them to leave their home, the only place she knew, to unknown destination. Together with her sister, they ran to save their dear lives as their tribe was under siege, especially girls and women. The journey to a safer land was long, tiresome, dusty & snake infested routes and without food and water for many days. They were forced to walk miles devoid of knowing the danger they were subjecting themselves to. Crossing over to Kenya was a miracle to them yet not knowing their destination. Tired and their feet sour from long walks, they asked for a sleep over in a nearby grass thatched houses. They were received by an old lady but couldn't understand their dialect nor did they hear what she was saying.

They had to make their trip to Nairobi with many difficulties until they found Sudanese community in the sprawling slums of Kawangware. Through the Sudanese community welfare, they got accommodation till now.

Life has never been easy. Nyanase shares a small room in Kawangware with other 2 girls and sometimes would go without food. They would rely on the meal served at the school. Sometime the teachers would give them some food for dinner, but not always.

In the entire process of seeking refuge to a safe place, they separated with their parents and she is not sure if they are still alive. She has never known the fate of her family save for the sister whom they travelled together. The twelve years old says it's her sister who heard about Sud Academy from a friend and being that she loved going to school, she joined Sud Academy to achieve the dreams that were almost being shattered. She is however grateful for the people responsible for her safe stay at Sud where they are educated and can have some meals during the day.

LAAT MALOK



Malok hails from Dinka tribe in South Sudan. Dinka is the biggest tribe in that country. The twenty years old young man says he found himself in Kenya after they decided to seek refuge to a safer place as a result of war and ethnicity cleansing. He had seen the effects of war and the fight between clans in state south lake in Sudan left Malok with horrifying images and psychological traumas as he narrates seeing how his own brother could murder people in cold blood. This he says he will live to remember.

He together with other young men, they ran away because their lives were in danger being that young men were being recruited into the forces and child soldiers. He had to escape the forceful recruitment. They found themselves in the unknown territory where they had to survive with wild fruits and very dirty water to make it to Kakuma. Malok later heard from friends about Sud Academy and had to look for means to get to Sud Academy. The school administration enrolled him in 2016 and the boy has found a new home.

The class seven boys have felt the warmth of a family in Sud and the brotherhood he longed to have. He is learning to love, appreciate and recognize the human dignity of fellow students. He is happy and promises to work hard at school. He appreciates the loving environment in school as this has never happened to him.

RUACHKUOTH KONG GATKUOTH



In her twenties, Ruachkuoth who is from Nuer tribe is a happy girl at last. She is from South Sudan. Being in Sud academy is a dream comes true to her as she never knew she would join any school and continue with her education. Sometime back when she was still young, war broke out in south Sudan. This made her seek safety. She had to leave her mother land and seeks refuge somewhere else and that's how she landed in Kenya.

She heard of Sud Academy from a friend. In 2016, Kong was enrolled in the school. Her plan is to get education and go back to South Sudan and work as a social worker for she is aware of the challenges the people from her home are going through.

Ruachkuoth has found a new family in school. She is grateful that besides academic training, they are taught about life skills and the school in partnership with CMA has wonderful social integration programs such as Smart Girl Initiative (SGI). Sud Academy is like her second home where she finds comfort and nourishment. She is therefore grateful for the help offered at Sud Academy and as she joins form one, she look forward to seeing things change for better in her life.