March 2023



A MESSAGE FROM NEIL CORKERY PRESIDENT OF THE SUDAN RELIEF FUND

Dear Friend in Christ.

The healing power of God's mercy continues to bless our efforts to aid those suffering in South Sudan. In this newsletter, I am humbled and delighted to share with you a look at several of the recent successes made possible by your continued generous support of our mission.

I want to personally extend my thanks for the wonderful outpouring of support you delivered to our recent Mother of Mercy Hospital appeal. Your donations allowed us to deliver all the vital medicines needed for Dr. Tom to provide medical care to patients. As we've highlighted before, the hospital serves as the backbone of the healthcare system in the Nuba Mountains—Dr. Tom and his team serve a population of more than 1.3 million people, often treating up to 500 patients a day.

Over the years, your faithful partnership has provided critical medicine, supplies, and staff members to keep the hospital operational. It also expands training for nurses, midwives, and physician assistants to deliver even more lifesaving assistance to the entire region.

But the need for quality, compassionate care remains urgent in Nuba.

Every day, exhausted patients arrive at the hospital after long, treacherous journeys, most on foot. It's heartbreaking to imagine the pain and suffering from these trips alone. You can help expand assistance to village clinics and bring primary health care closer to those making such journeys.

- A gift of \$80 covers one month's salary for a clinician.
- A gift of \$120 pays for a community nurse's salary for one month.
- A gift of \$200 supports a community midwife's monthly salary.
- A gift of \$250 provides medical supplies for 70 patients in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan.
- A gift of \$3,180 pays a registered nurse's salary at the clinic for an entire year.

Every dollar, and every prayer, you can find it in your heart to spare for the people of South Sudan is a true blessing. The generosity of friends like you continues to transform the lives of God's children struggling for survival there.

Yours in Christ Neil Corkery, President



Bringing the Gospel of Christ, and providing food, clean water, shelter and medical care, to the people of South Sudan

The Lives You've Saved In Nzara, Vicki is Surviving—and Thriving—Despite HIV

Little Vicky Alison had a rough start in life. Her family was very poor, and her mother died when Vicky was just two years old. She was being raised by her grandmother when outreach personnel from a local organization in Nzara identified Vicky as HIV positive.

The organization partners with Sudan Relief Fund to provide medical and vocational assistance to children born into HIV. who are often ostracized by their communities and left with no means to survive.

Through the support program, Vicky regularly received nutritional support. which is critical to survival for an HIV positive child. At one point a relative took her to a local practitioner known as a witch doctor, who removed Vicky from her antiretroviral meds. Vicky's condition drastically worsened.

Fortunately, outreach workers checked on Vicky. The organization's tracing program follows up with patients who have lost

MERCY SOCIETY

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touch and no longer come in to receive treatment. When they checked on Vicki, they found her almost at the point of death.

Vicky was immediately rushed to St. Theresa's Hospital, a Sudan Relief Fund supported facility in Nzara. She was treated in intensive care for almost a month. When she continued to decline. she was put on a "last resort" round of HIV medication treatment, which caused disfiguring swelling of her limbs and body.

Somehow this little girl kept fighting back. Remarkably, her health gradually improved. After a long stay, she was discharged from the hospital and moved to a foster home to live under the care of a foster parent associated with the outreach program. Here she is at last thriving in a comfortable and supportive environment.

The Sudan Relief Fund Mercy Society is a group of supporters deeply committed to bringing immediate necessities and longterm hope to the people of South Sudan. If your giving meets or exceeds certain levels, you will be automatically enrolled

as a member. Mercy Society members have a fast, lasting impact in helping meet the needs of those suffering in South Sudan. In recognition of their key role in helping to fulfill our mission, Mercy Society members receive exclusive benefits.

To learn more about the Mercy Society, or to make a one-time contribution to Sudan Relief Fund, visit *sdnrlf.com/ways-to-give*.



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Vicky can attend primary school now, and she even excels as one of the brightest students in her class. Vicky feels valued



and cared for. These days she is often seen running and playing, with a radiant smile across a face filled with hopeall thanks to the miracle of God's love provided to her through the generous donors to Sudan Relief Fund and our caring partners in the region.

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Doing God's Work Aiding Refugees Delivering the Tools for a Brighter Future

The Comboni Missionaries have had a presence in South Sudan for a hundred years and have seen it all. Sudan Relief Fund has been funding programs with this extraordinary religious community because of their commitment to the people of South Sudan. One of the missions located in a border town in South Sudan was witness to a brutal conflict which escalated in 2017.

Looking for safety, people there found refuge just across the border in Palorinya, Uganda. To continue their missionary work and to support the people that were now refugees. Sudan Relief Fund provided funding to construct a new mission in Palorinva.

Construction of the mission was completed in 2019. In October of 2022, SRF funded the development of a refugee skill-training center in Palorinya. This funding will be utilized to build halls, purchase teaching materials, and provide teacher salaries for the program.



This newly built skill training center will provide education and economic empowerment to those whose lives have been upended by the ongoing struggles in South Sudan. The goal, ultimately, is to equip them not only



with the skill set to provide economic independence but also skills that will facilitate the rebuilding of their communities when they return to South Sudan.

The program will also offer much-needed counseling services to a population that has been ravaged by war, poverty, and famine. The refugee communities include more than 20,000 women, many of whom have been victims of rape and other atrocities.

By providing for the professional, physical, and spiritual needs of these children of God, the Comboni Missionaries – in conjunction with SRF and its donor network – are building the foundation for a brighter future across the region.

LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE REMEMBERED FOR GENERATIONS

The dire situations for the needy and poor in South Sudan are a reality for the foreseeable future. But your love for these desperate and sick people can live on when you join the Sudan Relief Fund Legacy Society.

You can keep their communities thriving by specifying a legacy gift be made to Sudan Relief Fund as part of your estate plan, in your will or trust or by consulting with your investment advisor, accountant or lawyer.

You can also support them through a donor-advised fund. By contributing to the fund, you receive an immediate tax donation for the entire amount of your contribution. Over time, those proceeds are distributed to SRF as the fund continues to grow tax free.

At Sudan Relief Fund, we are blessed to have such generous donors. Please remember the poor of South Sudan in your legacy planning or by opening a donor-advised fund today. Contact Matthew Smith, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Development, at 617-604-3042 or visit *sdnrlf.com/legacy-society* for more information.



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Strengthening Educational Building Blocks Through the Catholic University of South Sudan

Inspired by the values of the Gospel and the social teachings of the church, the Catholic University of South Sudan has delivered invaluable education to the people of the region for over a decade. To date, the university has graduated thousands of students, raising up thousands of virtuous leaders in one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

Sudan Relief Fund has proudly partnered with the Catholic University to meet its ongoing needs and was able to respond to several emergency requests in 2022 to provide critical assistance in multiple areas.

SRF provided funding in tuition scholarships for displaced orphans, single mothers, and other enrollees who have lost their sources of funding due to the worsening economic crisis in South Sudan.

SRF also provided funds to pay—and feed—staff. The University offers feeding programs for its full-time staff because the salary

Emergency Relief in the Face of Ebola Delivering Food, Transport, and Hope to St. Martin de Porres

The congregation of St. Martin de Porres in Nebbi delivers God's grace by working to assist many of the 1.4 million South Sudanese refugees who fled to Uganda amid the ongoing violence and desperate conditions in their home country. This blessed work faced major obstacles, first with the Covid-19 pandemic and then. in 2022, with the outbreak of fast-spreading Ebola.

Rev. Bro. Samuel Hakim Alberto, Community Superior and Project maize, beans, Manager for the St. Martin de Porres Brothers, reached out to SRF sorahum. rice. in October. "In this region, deficiency and poverty come every year cooking oil, salt, and onions, as well as firewood and transport in differing degrees," he wrote. "This year has been seeing a more for the refugee camps operated by the Brothers. major change. Without the help and support of Sudan Relief Fund, life would be unbearable given the needs of our young children, Rev. Alberto reports, "The contribution that Sudan Relief Fund has street children, and orphans." made is real encouragement to the poor children in the region. Your gift has enabled us to carry out the love, care, and compassion of "In such conditions, poor families can't afford to buy food to keep Christ to those in dire distress and urgent need of help."

their children healthy and eventually, they need emergency aid and become totally dependent on providential or external help."

they earn is not sufficient to provide for all of their dailv needs.

Funds were also allocated toward maintaining the operational costs of the University.



including generator maintenance and repairs, office supplies. utilities, and vehicle maintenance, as well as procuring hygiene and sanitary items and daily necessities for those who board at the school.

Catholic University Vice Chancellor, Fr. Matthew Pagan, wrote, "The Catholic University is delighted to Sudan Relief Fund for supporting us. We wish to express our appreciation for your kind consideration."

SRF was able to provide \$25,000 to meet this urgent need. The money was used to purchase food items such as



"Your support means a chance of health and happiness, perhaps even the difference between life and death. We are greatly humbled and promise always to pray for you that God may always bless the work of your hands."