

# Canadian Aid For Southern Sudan

Spring 2013

[www.casscanada.net](http://www.casscanada.net)

## Our Most Vital Project



The Sudanese leadership has placed its highest priority on the completion of CASS's proposal for a secondary school. What has taken years to develop is now approaching its final stages.

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## Ways You Can Help



Development is helped by diversity and CASS's projects are no different.

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There are many ways that you can help. You'll find numerous ideas on page 3. Your donation can spell the difference.

## Arts, Music and Sewing



For 7 years, under the leadership of Denise Pelley and Lucy Ogletree, children get the chance to play. This year over 300 children attended the music camp, while many of their mothers made jewelry to sell in the market, at the women's centre.

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As CASS moves into its second decade of work in south Sudan, **THANK YOU** for your continued support.



## Our Largest Team Ever

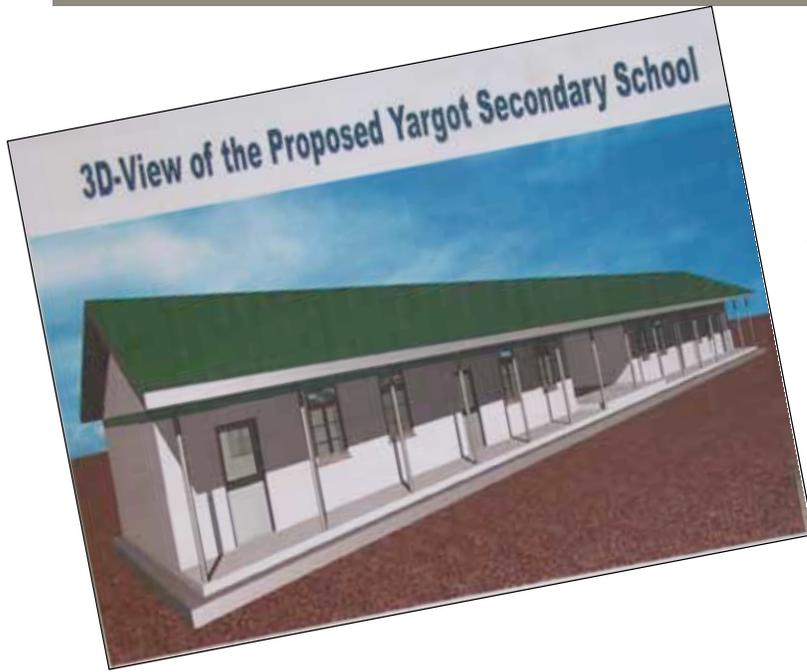
Of CASS's many trips to the region, the 2013 visit saw CASS bring along 17 Canadians to help oversee projects and enhance the link between the two countries.

Team members didn't know fully what to expect as they touched down in what was now a new country. Much appeared the same, as children ran up to the plane and administrators helped to load our gear for the trip to where the team was to be housed.

Yet in it all you got the sense that something was clearly different. The children were their boisterous selves, but the men and women had a look of resolve that said, "We're now a country and we're going to try as hard as we can to make it a success." So much of what we saw during our stay confirmed that they just might pull it off.

The region bustled with energy and excitement, not just to see our team, but with a sense of confidence that the direction of their lives was transforming from war to peace. The southern

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## Eleven Years of Planning

In 2001, during some of the worst years of the civil war, CASS made the commitment to community leaders that it would raise funds to construct a secondary school in the region. It was to be the only such education centre for hundreds of kilometers.

Years of war, migration, peace talks, voting and the referendum on independence intervened and the plans were postponed until community leaders were in agreement as to where the school would be built.

CASS is pleased to report that a southern Sudanese building company has agreed to contract with us to construct the school starting in February. The plans are to have the classrooms and office completed by this coming May using local materials and labour.

The centre will be built a Yargot – the home of the region's important secondary school that was destroyed during the war and abandoned years ago. From that very location the good people of Canada will help a struggling region recapture some of its hope from the past and soon students will be graduating from the school to take on important leadership roles in south Sudan.

This remains one of the key advantages of remaining in one region for the duration. The school will herald a renaissance of learning in a region desperately in need of new leaders, and Canada will have left a permanent reminder of its commitment.

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government is moving quickly to advance educational opportunities and expand its English curriculum. The secondary school CASS is building will be the hinge for moving education up to higher levels.

To be sure, there have been violent skirmishes in certain regions of the south, though none in the area the team visited. In both the Nuba Mountain and Darfur regions fighting continues as tribes fight over borders and resources. But peace has prevailed in our area of Aweil East and development is clearly taking place.

The international community continues to monitor developments in both Sudan and the Republic of Sudan and there remains a sense of hope that the gains made in the last few years will remain, forming foundation blocks for the reconstruction of a new south.

The team met with the governor of the region, as well as the minister of information. They confirmed that peace has taken hold and that the border has remained peaceful. Infrastructure remains their primary challenge. Everyone wants jobs, trying to find work within the government itself, where there are salaries. As a result, government leaders are attempting to get their people to move out into the regions and start planting crops that can be taken to local markets and sold. The southern region is lush as the watershed of the Nile, and despite all the interest in oil being discovered, the South's main hope still lies in its agricultural potential.

CASS has been in the region for some 14 years and for many of the team this was their fourth or fifth trip. Their faces are familiar, and with each passing year their efforts are having a profound effect.

Because the Aweil East region is still remote and lacking in resources that have been distributed in areas further south around the capital city of Juba, Canadian assistance is still required to build the proper foundations for a successful future.

Challenges remain due to Aweil's proximity to the north, but the border is now opening up, goods are getting through, and the people of the south are getting the sense that a productive future is within their grasp.

But not quite yet. CASS has much still to do in the region in preparation for that day. This past trip has shown us clearly that the change is real and urgent.



## Clean Water: A Necessary Resource For The Future

### The Water School: Empowering Local Women

The annual rains aren't as regular as they used to be and the Sahara is encroaching a little bit each year. What is important is that the water in the region be purified of those impurities that have created ongoing health challenges for families. This year the team assisted in training local women on how to use the sun's ultraviolet rays to purify water as it sits in containers lying in the sun. After 24 hours, the water is fully purified and ready for consumption. One woman, Teresa, has faithfully used the program with her children over the past year and school records indicate that they were far healthier than the year previous and showed much better attendance at school as a result. She has become a champion for the Water Project in her community and is determined, along with other mothers, to educate the women in the area of the need to purify the water their families drink. The team also assisted in digging a latrine for Teresa as a means of helping with local sanitation. Days were spent digging three metres into the earth before the latrine could be completed. Teresa and the other women will continue to campaign for clean water until next year's team returns and researches the results.

### A Chance For A New Start: Our Most Popular Program

Abuk's Herd is one of our most popular CASS programs. For \$60 a goat is supplied to a returning former slave or exile to provide milk or perhaps even to grow a larger herd for the family. Impossible for returnees to purchase themselves, these goats (and also chickens) provided by CASS supporters permit families to become established in their new areas. Canadians have made a difference in more ways than they can imagine with their support of this remarkably personal and practical program.



## Some Ideas:

### Clean Water:

○ \$50 helps a family for a year get clean water (Sodis method in partnership with Water School).

### Medicine and Health:

○ \$10 for a mosquito net to prevent malaria

○ \$50 for one day's worth of medicine at health clinic (a \$500 value)

### Darfur Refugees:

○ \$25 helps to purchase sorghum and maize seeds for a family.

○ \$50 helps with farming tools for a family.

### Abuk's Herd:

○ \$15 for chicken

○ \$30 for baby goat

○ \$60 for goat

### Education:

○ \$10 for a brick to help build a high school

○ \$350 to send a girl to school for a year.

### Women's Empowerment

○ \$50 helps with a purchase of materials (a micro-loan) for a woman starting a business.

### Music and Art Camp:

○ \$25 sends a child to music camp for a week.

# The New Economy

## Women's Micro-Enterprise

A few years ago, CASS assisted in the construction of seven women's centres in the region with money from CIDA. With new arrivals come into the region as a result of peace, the centres form a key training ground from women entrepreneurs. South Sudan's new economy will be just as much based on community businesses as it will on oil production and women will be in the vanguard of new opportunities in both business and leadership. They learn to make clothing and jewelry, sell sodas and tea in the marketplaces, and come together in the Women Centres for support and training. They even have a hotel that they operate. With generators, equipment and secure building structures, the next generation of business leaders is being educated for a prosperous future.



Local women learn to make goods and sell them in local markets thanks to the help of Women's Centres

## Art & Music Camp

Slightly over 300 kids showed up on the very first day of the music and arts camp and the interest remained keen for the duration of the trip. Schools aren't running in January are children eagerly awaited to the team's arrival to embrace the activities.

Denise Pelley, on this her 7<sup>th</sup> trip, led the kids once again the songs of Sudan and Canada – topped off with a parade around the area singing songs learned during the camp.

A dedicated team of Canadian volunteers helped with the various crafts the kids made each day, using pipe cleaners, crayons, egg cartons, paper plates for masks, and the ever-favourite colourful parachute. It all takes place under a giant tree in the Sudanese sun as children learn new songs and skills and the Canadians learned anew that even in the most difficult of circumstances, the joy on a child's face is universal and worth it all 😊



Young southern sudanese children take care of their younger siblings as they work on their "egg carton caterpillars", as part of the Music and Arts Camp.

### Want to Make a Difference?

- Make an online donation at [www.casscanada.net](http://www.casscanada.net)
- Send a cheque c/o CASS- 35 Bruce St., London, Ontario, N6C 1G5

- **Please make cheques payable to CASS**
- **Charitable BN#: 86394 8212 RR0001**