



AID SUDAN APRIL NEWSLETTER

Last Tuesday night, Aid Sudan held its Annual Gala event, hosting a packed house at First Presbyterian Church full of over 300 friends and supporters.

It was a great time of fellowship and an amazing time to share Aid Sudan's continued growth. Over the years, we have taken many strides and are now ready to begin long-term work and projects in southern Sudan.

As Sudanese and Americans came together at the gala, each of us was reminded of a country in great need and of a MUCH greater God ready to intercede for each and every need of the people in southern Sudan.

Thank you for help making all of this possible through your prayers and support!

The team at Aid Sudan

Moses Project **Mission: Education**



Children in south Sudan have the least access to primary education in the world and the lowest primary school completion rate (2%)*. While the adult literacy rate has been estimated to be as high as 24%, in most areas it actually ranges between 3-10%. The people are willing - the children are eager to go to school and the adults are ready to be trained as teachers.

Many of you may not be familiar with Barbara Crossman as her arrival to Aid Sudan is relatively recent, but her work in education certainly is not. Before her arrival to Aid Sudan, Barbara conducted a week-long teacher training workshop in south Sudan and assigned a unique homework project. Her students were to create a teaching aid, based upon what they learned, from materials available around them. What they brought in was amazing: an abacus made from an old flip-flop, pieces of metal, and battery rings; numbers carved out of an old plastic jug with pieces of bamboo to represent each number; a math game created out of used bottle caps and a picture book drawn by one budding artist.

As Director of Education, Barbara focuses on the education element of the Genesis Project - providing the tools necessary to further education in the villages of southern

Sudan. With the return of our Moses Project missionaries to Sudan on the horizon, Barbara spent a week in Houston introducing Agook, Maker, and Jengmer to concepts and teaching methods that can be used to train teachers in southern Sudan. They learned about different learning styles and investigated their own preferred style of learning (oral, visual, or kinesthetic); explored how children learn and were exposed to the basics of teaching children to read and write.

While Aid Sudan works to provide basic educational supplies such as pens and paper, many basic materials are not yet available in rural southern Sudan. Barbara and the missionaries concentrated on honing creativity – for example, using music or natural resources to enhance the learning experience. The goal of the week was to give the missionaries creative ideas and a basic knowledge of how to encourage teachers.

Currently, Barbara is producing a series of teacher training DVDs using the Wilson Foundations® phonics curriculum as the foundation to train teachers in southern Sudan. The Moses Project missionaries are set to return to southern Sudan in June for three months.

To learn more about the Moses Project, visit the Moses Project section of www.aidsudan.org.

* New Sudan Center for Statistics and Evaluation in association with UNICEF

Houston Runs to Support Aid Sudan

The first ever Aid Sudan 5K Fun Run/Walk with the theme “Run a Mile, Save a Village; Walk a Mile, Save a Child” drew an overwhelming turnout! On April 5th, over 370 Sudanese and Americans ran to raise funds in support of the southern Sudanese community.



The event was hosted by Houston’s First Baptist Church and Memorial Hermann Health Network Providers and took place in Bear Creek Park. After runners completed the race, everyone gathered together to hear Executive Director Peter Swann and Moses Project missionary Maker Manyak speak about the work at Aid Sudan both in the local Houston community and in southern Sudan. To close a beautiful and encouraging day, a group of local Sudanese filled the air with traditional Sudanese songs.

We are extremely grateful for all who helped put this event together! Special thanks to First Baptist pastor Gregg Matte for joining in the festivities, KSBJ’s Liz Jordan for promoting the event on-air throughout the preceding week and all-star baseball player Lance Berkman for his great support. Congratulations also to first, second and third place in the Sudanese group – Mohammed Babiker, Rafael Daniel and Paul Dol.

To read Agook’s blog on his experience at the race, visit the Moses Project blog on www.aidsudan.org. To view photos from the event, visit the main photo gallery of the website.

Nashville Boutique Pairs Fashion with Compassion

When shopping at Philanthropy Fashion in downtown Franklin, TN, buyers get a little something and give a little something at the same time. The cutting-edge boutique makes socially conscious shopping its mission by donating a portion of profits to a number of philanthropic causes. We are honored that Philanthropy has adopted Aid Sudan as one of its two, current recipient organizations. To support Aid Sudan, they are raising \$35,000 to dig two water wells to meet the water needs of a village in southern Sudan.

There are a number of ways to get in on the fun! Designer Jeff Garner and his Prophetiks spring collection donates \$1 from the purchase of each garment to Aid Sudan. Additionally, Philanthropy Fashion created an Aid Sudan t-shirt with \$10 from the sale going to Aid Sudan.



Philanthropy Fashion is located in downtown Franklin, TN at 432 Main Street and specializes in apparel, accessories and gifts with a mission to give back to local and global causes. Details on purchasing Philanthropy items online will be available shortly.

We are so grateful for Philanthropy Fashion owners Christina Martin and Marianne DeMeyers for their ongoing support of the work at Aid Sudan!

Houston Sudanese Community Center Set to Open



An amazing volunteer team from the Woodlands spent the day at the Sudanese Community Center to help prepare for the official opening. The group of 10 volunteers was tasked with organizing the many clothes donations from Aid Sudan – there were more than 20 garbage bags and boxes full of clothes! The group transformed the mound of clothes into a neat and organized clothes closet for the Sudanese.

The Sudanese Community Center will also host a variety of classes for the Sudanese, assisting them in their continued acclimation into American culture. Currently, Aid Sudan is offering an in-home English as a Second Language (ESL) class specifically for women led by Bridget Fernandes, a certified ESL instructor with vast experience working with refugees in Houston. Additionally, a computer class will take place after the opening of the Sudanese Community Center.

The Sudanese Community Center is set to open within the next month. To donate books, furniture, and other items OR to inquire about classes, please contact Houston Director David Humphrey at david@aimsudan.org.