

ASAH

African Soul, American Heart

celebrates 10 Years

Protecting, Educating, and Empowering Orphaned Girls from South Sudan



Future

Our goal is to ensure the ASAH students have the background to support themselves in the future. A few ASAH students in Kenya graduated from two or four-year college programs. Our goal now is for the ASAH girls in Uganda to complete secondary school and go on to vocational training or university, based on their abilities.

Thanks

We thank the many generous people, businesses, and organizations who have supported ASAH thus far. In 2018, we continue protecting, educating and empowering these young women who will one day be leaders in their communities. The ASAH girls will change their world.

10
Year
Anniversary
2007-2017

How it Began

2007 Lost Boy of Sudan, Joseph Akol Makeer, dreamed of helping orphans in the village he escaped in 1987 at age ten. In 2007, he met Deb Dawson, who had a heart for orphans. Deb, Kevin Brooks, and Matt McGregor traveled with Joseph to Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya and to the village of Duk Payuel in southern Sudan. They created a documentary.

2008 African Soul, American Heart premiered at the Fargo Theatre to a large crowd, but we needed to do more than make a film to change the lives of orphans.

We incorporated and earned 501(c)3 nonprofit status.. Our first orphans were boys from Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. We covered all their expenses to attend a primary boarding school in Kenya. Local activist Ron Saeger joined ASAH as Director of the Kenya Kids Program, which has served 11 students. Several have graduated from college.

2008-2012 Images of Duk Payuel: Exhibitions of Deb's images from her first trip in 2007 show at galleries in Fargo, Moorhead, Bismarck, and Stillwater, MN.

2010 Deb took the leadership role when Joseph returned to southern Sudan to work. ASAH focused on orphaned girls—kept home from school and vulnerable to become child brides in exchange for a dowry. With the help of village leaders, Deb chose a beautiful site for the ASAH School for Girls.

2011 Jef Foss, ASAH board member and architect, designed the site. Construction began as ASAH started an after-school program with 11 orphaned girls. In July, South Sudan became the world's newest nation. Deb celebrated independence day with the villagers.

2012 The ASAH Boarding School for Orphaned Girls in Duk Payuel welcomed the first 23 ASAH students.

2013 Lutheran Church of Peace in Platteville, WI donated funds to build a kitchen/dining compound to seat 50. Jef Foss planned to oversee construction, but he passed away suddenly in April. In his place, his wife and son traveled to witness the ground-breaking. Villagers paid their respects with a celebration of Jef's life.

War and Change

2014 Civil war broke out in Juba, the capitol in December 2013, spreading to Duk County in February. Our 34 students, home with their families, fled when rebels ambushed. Survivors, including our ASAH girls, ran and hid in the bush for days without food or clean water. Some ASAH girls witnessed the killing or rape of family members.

Our staff located the girls in 11 refugee camps in three countries. We relocated to Moyo, Uganda, renting a compound for our girls, and enrolling them in local schools.

2015 Seven new girls joined ASAH.

2016 ASAH received a donation for a new sanitation system at our compound - nine showers and toilets, two water tanks, and a rainwater collection system.

Kevin Wallevand, award-winning reporter from WDAY news in Fargo traveled with cameraman Devin Krinke to Uganda with Deb and three local sponsors of ASAH students to make a documentary, *Orphans of the Nile*. The film documents the meeting between the sponsors and their students and demonstrates the protection, education, and empowerment they enjoy as ASAH girls in spite of the loss of parents and separation from family due to war.

We Have Two Guns, a poignant, unscripted short film created by ASAH videographer, Jessica Wunderlich, is narrated by an ASAH girl with a message for girls about overcoming challenges.

2017 In February of 2017, we moved our students from our compound in Moyo to attend a top quality boarding school near Kampala. The 43 girls were accepted at St. Noa Boarding School, and the three boys were accepted at St. Lawrence Academy. These schools are providing our students with a higher quality of education than they have been exposed to in the past, and has accelerated their learning of English, the national language in East Africa.

Our most recent video *ASAH Girls Advance to St. Noa's Boarding School*, details the significance of our girls' enrollment in a high quality institution where they play sports, join Girl Scouts, learn computer skills, and go on field trips with classmates.



JANUARY 2018

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DECEMBER 2018

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Contact Us

Contact us to schedule a presentation or a photo exhibit, and for information on sponsorships and ways you can help.

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Photo Exhibition Website:
DebraDawson.com

Newsletter:
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Goal: \$100,000 >> Additional Sponsorships: \$90,000 Medical & Dental Fund: \$10,000



What your donation will do:

- \$5000 Full sponsorship for one ASAH student
- \$2500 Fees and supplies for two students for one year
- \$500 Medical care for two Students for one year
- \$100 Field trips for one girl for one year
- \$25 Toiletries and hygiene for one student for one month
- Other

Pay online at www.ASAHAinSudan.org