

Friends in Solidarity/ Solidarity with South Sudan Highlights of 2019-2020

- **Catholic Health Training Center** graduated 22 RNs and 15 RMs in 2019; this represents 22% of all mid-level health care professionals in the country. CHTI initiated the first RN program in the country in 2010. 85% are employed in health care. 50% of the incoming class at the CHTI in 2020 are women up from 20% in 2010. This necessitated building a new dorm.
- **The Solidarity Teacher Training College** matriculated 66 primary school teachers by the end of 2019; only 20% are women, in spite of efforts to increase number of women on campus. Teachers in the state system are poorly and rarely paid; pressures for young girls to get married are great. Solidarity Teacher Training College has initiated an **online learning program using smart phones** to continue the education of teachers. There is a need for funding to purchase the phones for the college to loan to students to continue their training. Colleges may not re-open until 2021. This is a stop gap measure open to those with access to internet. Students living in camps are sharing phones and seeking internet where it is found. (less than \$200 per phone in S Sudan)
- **Agriculture Training Project** was extremely productive, employing up to 80 people a day, prior to COVID 19. The government has since restricted hours for workers. Rains were late in coming in 2020. The project is just now in planting phase.
- **Camp of displaced persons in Riimenze** (7,000 since January 2017) supported by Solidarity is gradually closing down as peace returns to the area and people return to their plots of land. Solidarity continues to support elderly and vulnerable who have no place to go and is building more sustainable structures for housing them.
- Solidarity assumed management of the newly built **Good Shepherd Peace Center** in May 2020 and four Solidarity pastoral formators are residing there and planning programming for 2020. They will offer retreats, counseling, clergy and religious renewal/upgrading, catechist formation, trauma healing, etc. Thanks to all who are assisting to provide for local staff and support.
- **All of the educational institutions in the country were closed** by order of the government in mid-March 2020 due to **COVID 19**. This meant evacuating students to all parts of the country. Solidarity continues to support the local staff who rely on their salaries to feed their families. Over 50% of the country is food insecure due to civil war and COVID 19. There are only about 2500 confirmed cases of the virus and 50 deaths. However, the country is last of all nations in preparedness to cope with the impact of the pandemic. Many will die without healthcare or without being tested. World Health Organization is assisting the new government, which took office on February 22, 2020, to deal with the pandemic.
- Ethnic fighting in certain areas of the country continues to plague the people; there is a need for local governments to negotiate peace.

- **Greatest needs of Solidarity:**
 - Continue **financial support** especially during this pandemic so that local staff can be supported; there is no government bail out in South Sudan.
 - Support for the Teacher Training College in face of the loss of significant funding and alternative programming.
 - **Personnel** - many of current staff have finished contracts (3-6 years); this is especially true for the Catholic Health Training Institute which needs an administrator, a principal, and clinical tutors by December 2021. Plan is to turn this institute over to the Bishops Conference or a religious congregation by 2026.
 - Need for an agronomist for the Agricultural Training Project and Project Manager for Juba Office.
- **Friends in Solidarity** is pleased to announce the addition of Sr. Barbara Buckley, RSM, to the staff as **Associate Administrator** as of Sept 1, 2020. She comes with excellent, transferrable skills in administration, development, journalism and is familiar with technology. We are eager to have her join us working from home in Pennsylvania. Initially she will work 30 hours a week as we increase our appeals for funding to support our office expenses. Our hope is to expand our donors to include foundations and corporations. **There is a need for introductions to these groups.** Please contact Joan Mumaw, IHM if you can help on this issue.
- Friends in Solidarity has also contracted with **Susan Oxley** working from Wisconsin for ten hours a week for **communications**. She publishes the newsletter and posts on

social media. She also works for the Sisters of Charity Federation. Friends is present on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

- **2019 revenues were boosted** with the generous contributions of Bon Secours Mercy Health System, Holy Trinity Parish, and several congregational ministry funds (41 women and 3 men) and a couple of generous individuals. Still we were down 10% on 2018.
- **We anticipate a further reduction this year (2020)** although currently we are in the same place as last year, at this time (\$255,000). There is a significant increase in the number of congregational contributions over last year at this time, as well as, in individual contributions. There is an increase in contributions from **men's congregation** in 2020 (6); women's congregations (18).
- **We have transferred** \$240,000 to South Sudan as of August 15th and expect to send another \$80,000 soon. 100% of designated funding goes directly to South Sudan.
- **We are grateful to all who have supported Friends in Solidarity**, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, in our efforts to build the capacity of the people of South Sudan, the newest and poorest country on the African continent.
- For additional information contact: Sr. Joan Mumaw, IHM at jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com or 734 731 3726; www.solidarityfriends.org

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