

Friends in Solidarity, Inc.

Friends in Solidarity is an initiative of US Catholic religious men and women in support of religious working in South Sudan and beyond. It was incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in November 2015 as an outgrowth of interest in the work being done by Solidarity with South Sudan, a project begun by the International Union of Superiors General and the Union of Superiors General in Rome in response to a request of the Sudan Catholic Bishops Conference in 2006. It is listed in the Official Catholic Directory under the Archdiocese of Washington, DC.



Teaching practice for students of the Solidarity TTC

Science class in Yambio

Members of the Corporation

Major superiors of the founding congregations: Bon Secours of Paris, Comboni Missionaries, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Missionary Franciscans of the Immaculate Conception, Religious of Jesus and Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame (Atlantic-Midwest Province), Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Monroe), Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati

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Tax deductible contributions may be made online or by check made out to *Friends in Solidarity*, and sent to:



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www.solidarityfriends.org

U.S. Partner with Solidarity with South Sudan



Projects Supported

Solidarity Teacher Training College

26,000 teachers are needed in South Sudan! Sixty years of civil war have stalled all attempts to educate people and to train teachers. Most teachers in the schools have about four years of education! Only 27 % of the population is literate. *Solidarity with South Sudan* is committed to raising the level of literacy by training primary school teachers. The Solidarity TTC in Yambio was dedicated in early 2013. A two year residential pre-service program is held from January to November. Graduates are nationally certified by the government through the University of Juba. In 2016 and 2017 this college was the only TTC in the country to graduate new teachers! 226 students have graduated from the STTC since 2013 and 72% have indicated they are employed as teachers. First term 2019 there are 108 students on campus, 20% of whom are women.



Sr Agnes on teaching practice in local school.

Catholic Health Training Institute

The *Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI)* in Wau is one of the only centers in South Sudan training registered nurses and midwives. Three year programs lead to certification and graduates have annually taken top honors on state exams. Since 2013, 190 health care professionals have graduated from CHTI. 88% are employed or in further studies. *Friends in Solidarity* provides operational support, the equivalent of scholarships for the CHTI where students from all areas of the country are subsidized to attend this residential facility. There are 126 students currently on campus, 40% of whom are women. A new women's dorm is under construction and will accommodate more women.



Students practice life saving techniques

Pastoral and Catechetical Training

The Solidarity Pastoral team, based at the Good Shepherd Peace Center near Juba, is working with the National Pastoral Coordinator to build the capacity of diocesan pastoral teams and catechists. Training of leaders of Small Christian Communities is a ministry welcomed by all who participate in these workshops. In addition, the team is working with the Church and with the Religious Superiors Association of South Sudan (RSASS) providing trauma-healing and peace and reconciliation workshops.

Model of Ministry

Friends in Solidarity affirms the model of ministry adopted by *Solidarity with South Sudan* which is one of collaboration between congregations of men and women with different charisms coming from a variety of countries. It is inspired by the call of the *Congress on Consecrated Life – Passion for Christ, Passion for Humanity*, held in Rome in 2004. The Congress invited religious to search for “a new paradigm...born of compassion for the scarred and downtrodden of the earth - around new priorities, new models of organization and open and flexible collaboration between men and women of goodwill.”

Friends in Solidarity is inspired by this call and the collaborative model.

Sustainable Agriculture

Training in sustainable agricultural methods is provided to nearly 50 families on 30 hectares of hand-cleared land. In the past year fruit trees and trees to be harvested for timber were planted providing for long-term sustainability for the project.

Currently, the area is also a camp for 6000 displaced people fleeing conflict in Riimenze. *Friends in Solidarity* is providing humanitarian aid and staff support to help this community.



Sharing the common pot in Riimenze IDPs camp