

Fall Newsletter 2024

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERVICES

The Southdove Training Services Inc. initiates and funds the clergy and youth empowerment and training projects to impact practical skills on the future generations of young leaders.



Your Opportunity for:

- Service
- Mentorship
- Inspiration
- Partnership
- Experience

Contribution and Support

You can support Southdove Training Services by:

- Sponsoring a child to attend Dinka language instruction summer camp annually at the beautiful Camp Harding. The cost for the camp for each child is \$400 for a week.
- Providing the youth an imperishable gift of university or high education in Kenya, Uganda, or Rwanda.
- Empowering the clergy for the mission of God by donating to construction of Bishop Nathaniel Garang Training Centre in Juba.
- Funding and volunteering on Event Planning Committee for youth empowerment in Canada and training centre in South Sudan.
- Sharing our projects with friends and family and praying for the work that God is doing through you to love and empower youths.

Charitable Mandate of the Southdove

- To advance education by building, establishing, and maintaining a training centre, and by providing leadership and literacy training, and Christian theological training for church and community leaders in South Sudan.
- To advance education of youth by providing training in the Dinka language, and by providing financial support to those who cannot afford to attend language training camps in Canada.
- To address and prevent problems faced by the youth, such as delinquency, by providing mentorship and community engagement opportunities in Canada.
- To connect refugee youth to educational and sponsorship opportunities in Canada and carry out the activities ancillary and incidental to above charitable purposes.

Acknowledgement of support from friends, partners

Most of our projects in Canada are supported through in-kind donations from Board members and friends and through application for grants in the cities. Thanks to board members Rev. John Machol Chuol and Mr. Simon Ajack Chuol who paid a total of \$839.76 for youth graduation event in Calgary on April 20, 2024. About 60 people

Southdove Training Services Inc.

Address: 811 McCarthy Blvd North Regina SK S5X2Y1 | Phone: 306-716-6380

Email: southdove@southdove.org | Website: www.southdove.org

attended the celebration for the 12 Dinka youths who graduated from high schools. We also express great gratitude to St. Paul Dinka Anglican Church that provided the hall.

The project for the construction of Bishop Nathaniel Garang Training Centre has started with great momentum with funds from fundraising event by Southdove and two Lenten appeals from our supporting partners, the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in Canada and the Diocese of Ross, Moray and Caithness in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Diocese of Qu'Appelle highly subsidized the Dinka language instruction summer camp on August 11-18, 2024. We also received grants from Saskatchewan Association of International Languages (SAIL) and SaskCulture Inc.

We connect students in Africa to sponsorship opportunities in Canada because we believe education is a fundamental human right. Pastor John McGregor and his wife Roberta McGregor have sponsored a student (Tabitha) to university in Kigali, Rwanda, since her admission to Mount Kigali University in Rwanda in September 2023. Tabitha is studying a Bachelor of Business Management, and has started second year on Sept. 16, 2024. Rev. Nathaniel Athian Deng Mayen currently sponsors a student (Alaak) to high school in Nakuru, Kenya.

Despite the great efforts and support from friends and partners, we continue to experience great financial constraints. Thus, we request for commitments for membership and legacy contributions to the organization to sustain our projects. Your support for any of the four projects will be highly appreciated.

Bishop Nathaniel Garang Training Centre

The Bishop Nathaniel Garang Training Centre aspires to accelerate empowerment by providing quality education and leadership training to the South Sudanese leaders in their local communities. An uplifted clergy and church leader is a great vessel through whom God fulfills his mission for the world.

Youth appreciation and engagement

The youth community engagement and appreciation projects and events encourage youth involvement in their local community. We organize graduation and appreciation events to celebrate youth achievements and resilience, and reduce the number of barriers that the South Sudanese youth may encounter in their participation in community and social activities.

Educational connections for youth in Africa

We connect students in Africa to sponsorship opportunities in Canada. We believe education is a fundamental human right. An empowered youth is an empowered society that sustains its future leaders.

Dinka Language instruction classes

The Dinka language instruction program employs the Dinka language cultural teaching approach of storytelling to impact knowledge and enhance cultural learning and cultural retention, thereby increasing the capacity for youth leadership and community engagement by raising the youth who are self-aware about their cultural identity and values and who are willing to increase their interpersonal communication skills to share their challenges in school with their parents at home.

Southdove Training Services Inc.

Address: 811 McCarthy Blvd North Regina SK S5X2Y1 | Phone: 306-716-6380
Email: southdove@southdove.org | Website: www.southdove.org

Dinka language instruction camp.

About 23 youth attended the Dinka language instruction summer camp on August 11 - 18, 2024. We held classes twice daily during the week and enjoyed different afternoon recreational activities, such as horseback riding, wall climbing, mini-golf, disc-golf, swimming, and the viewing of the setting sun at the highest lookout point in the park.

We express special appreciation to Dinka language instructors, Nathaniel, John, and Simon, and the support staff and cabin leaders for volunteering their time and skills to cultivate a positive culture in the growth of youth and intimate engagement with their culture through the language.

We are also indebted to the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, the Saskatchewan Association of International Languages (SAIL) and the SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Lotteries which funded our summer camp. The primary challenge is financial instability. The cost for the camp is about \$398 per camper. This budget includes cost for the food, kitchen staff honoraria, cabin leader honoraria, rental vehicles, fuel for drivers, Program Director mileage, activity fees, and plan to protect training. The Diocese of Qu'Appelle covered the majority of the costs.



Figure 1: Youth leave the camp for horseback riding activity.



Figure 2: A group photo after the games.



Figure 3: Students learning Dinka lessons at the camp.

The positive interactions among the youth increase their engagement and involvement in their community as they long to see each other and interact. The youth and teens return home after the camp with a renewed interest in learning about themselves, their identity, their culture and their language. The evening campfire programs explain some of the everyday cultural aspects.

“The Dinka language instruction summer camp brought out the best for the young people. They were like a chicken let out of the nest to enjoy the sunshine and its freedom.”

Southdove Training Services Inc.

Address: 811 McCarthy Blvd North Regina SK S5X2Y1 | Phone: 306-716-6380
Email: southdove@southdove.org | Website: www.southdove.org



Figure 4: Tabitha is enrolled in the university in Kigali, Rwanda, through the assistance of her sponsors John and Roberta McGregor of Regina.

The hearts meet at the dream for a training Centre.

The construction of Bishop Nathaniel Garang Training Centre started with blessing and laying of foundation stone on April 21, 2024. We raised about \$14,843.05, including fundraising from the Southdove (\$5,169) and contributions from two Lenten appeals in the Diocese of Qu’Appelle (\$4015) and the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness (\$5659.05). The College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, the Diocese of Qu’Appelle, and the Diocese of Calgary in Canada and the Diocese of Ross, Moray and Caithness in the Scottish Episcopal Church have teamed up with Southdove to provide gift of education and enable the clergy and church leaders to achieve their dream of education in South Sudan.



Figure 5: Bishop Daniel sits with other bishops during the launch and blessing of foundation stone for the Centre. Attendees stand behind with T-shirts for the Centre.



Gift of education for the youth in Africa (Rwanda)

John and Roberta McGregor are the first sponsors under the Southdove program to connect the youth in Africa with sponsors in Canada. Thanks to the McGregors, Tabitha wrote the following email to express her gratitude to the kind hearts that enable her achieve her dream:

I am excited to share that my first academic year at Mount Kigali University (MKU) was a tremendous success. I have built strong relationships with both my colleagues and lecturers. The university fosters a supportive and positive environment, making it a joy to be a student ... I am thrilled to be starting my fourth semester on Monday, September 16th, officially becoming a Year 2 student! I am incredibly grateful for your unwavering support over the past three semesters. Your generosity has made this journey possible, and I deeply appreciate it ... I remain dedicated to giving my all in my studies. I want to ensure that your investment in my education is worthwhile. Thank you again for your continued support. It means the world to me. Sincerely, Tabitha.

Southdove Training Services Inc.

Address: 811 McCarthy Blvd North Regina SK S5X2Y1 | Phone: 306-716-6380
 Email: southdove@southdove.org | Website: www.southdove.org