

## **WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT LOST BOYS OF SUDAN:**

"These resilient 'lost boys' moved us out of the theatre--to our peers, to our administrators, and now to Washington--roused to protest. It is an outstanding film depicting personal and collective trauma. Thank you!"

–Becky L, STAND/Wellesley College

"As a direct result of your film and help my wife and I are currently helping 2 Cuban refugee families and there are currently 3 Lost Boys living with us who have just arrived from Kenya 2 days ago. So, thus far your work has made a difference in the lives of nine refugees here in Spokane. Just thought that you might like to know."

–John K., Spokane, Washington

"I walked out of the documentary in tears and knew I needed to be doing something. Now I volunteer with the IRC in Dallas. A friend and I have been mentoring a Sudanese family who came to Texas from an Egyptian refugee camp. Their biggest problems are finances and transportation. I have been amazed at the myriad of things they need help with, like how to tell the difference between oven cleaner and spray starch, how we greet each other on the phone. All the little things we take for granted every day. It's been an amazing experience. Thanks so much for making the film."

–Ann S., Dallas, Texas

"I wish you would make this film available to every corner across the globe. It is a great step forward manifesting Sudan's problems. Please keep the ball rolling for us."

–Beny Abraham, Sudanese Refugee, Kansas City

"*Lost Boys of Sudan* is a great tool for raising awareness on Sudan. We've used it with everyone from junior high students to senior citizens. After viewing the film, people use words like, 'humbling', 'thought provoking' and 'life changing'."

–Darcie Olson, Amnesty International

"It was a great program! We had nearly 400 people attend and it really reinforced our commitment to our mission. We've got a stack of petitions to send and happily raised funds for Oxfam. Thank you for the grant, we were able to do a lot with it."

–Mala Kumar, International Relations Organization, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

"I watched this moving documentary last night and cannot get the images out of my head. The emotional journey that Peter and Santino, along with the others, had to take to find hope and salvation inspired me to start making a monthly donation to the Refugee organization. Thank you for making this film; for bringing their heart-wrenching stories into human form makes it all so real. A reality no one should ignore. Thank you."

–Cheryl P. Chicago, IL

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the documentary. The experiences we had as a result of the film were amazing. Our school which is 99% free and reduced lunch, raised over \$1500!!! The students were asking very profound questions of John and were able to learn a lot about his experiences in the U.S. Thank you so much for providing our school and community with such a powerful experience."

–Jeffrey T, Kelly Miller Middle School, DC

"Thank you for creating this wonderful film. I've shown it to three of my classes. I can easily say that I've never had a film get such a positive reaction from my students. Other teachers I've invited to watch now want to own their own copy. I can hardly wait until next week when we get to discuss it and have the kids write on it. I also plan on putting together with a student team a school-wide (and hopefully district-wide) fund raising activity to benefit refugees in the United States. The story is powerful on so many levels. It has done great things for my classroom."

–Andy Dobbie, High School teacher, Michigan

"The room for the viewing began filling up as people arrived early. By the 6 PM show time, the place was packed. As people continued arriving, we added new rows of extra seats and eventually squeezed dozens more in until people stood heel-to-toe from the last chair to the back wall. Even in this uncomfortable situation, the audience of 250 or more stayed, perhaps because as Jonathan Curiel said, the film was spellbinding. It humanized Sudan's continuing refugee problem. Having Megan here made a big impact. The event was so important for us. It helped bring Southern Sudanese together with Darfurians and other Sudanese interested in understanding the history, the impact on Sudanese here in the US and working together for peace. Your pre-film packet, website, materials and personal calls made the organizing a joy. I mean WOW. Our challenge will be to continue offering such programs and to keep working together to advocate for an end to the violence in Darfur and help the people of Darfur reclaim their lives, livelihoods and land."

–Lou Ann Merkle, Chair, The Darfur Alert Coalition, Philadelphia, PA

"I'm writing to say how deeply moved I was after viewing this program. So often I feel that many people, including myself, place immigrants in a negative category of border-jumpers, or freeloaders. It's very easy in my Midwest current society, to forget what my great-grandparents endeavored to come here from Italy, and what many people go through everyday to accomplish an American life. After viewing this show I can appreciate that there are immigrants coming to our country to benefit from our wealth, much like my ancestors, and that they are doing it honestly and wholeheartedly the way our country had always intended. I found much information on your website and at the refugee council USA and have sent a letter to two of my state representatives requesting their support for the ORR appropriations. I can't explain enough how this really opens my eyes and makes me want to get involved and help where I can. These refugees are trying so hard and have been through so much, and to me their efforts are nothing less than commendable. Their stories embody the true spirit of America and I will show my support however I can."

–Maegen R., Temperance, Michigan

"Our event last night was a resounding success. We had standing room only in an auditorium that seats 100, and people lined up after to sign the petitions and the one million voices postcards."

–Lynn Yellott, Amnesty International Upper Potomac, Shepherdstown, WV

The screening of the *Lost Boys of Sudan* was an absolute success and having you here was key. We raised \$2,300 for Medecins Sans Frontieres. We had at least 200 people in attendance. We were able to raise awareness in the community, inspire future screenings and a continued effort to help the Sudanese refugees pursue their dreams. None of this would have been possible if you had not made the film, visited our city and helped us to connect with Sudanese refugees living in Richmond. Thank you for your support and for providing such a wonderful and inspiring teaching tool.

–Derek Redmond, Esq., Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond, VA

"We just had our showing of "Lost Boys of Sudan" yesterday and it was an outstanding success. We had almost a hundred people attending--almost unheard of turnout on our campus. Afterwards George Atak who is a refugee from Sudan spoke about his experiences and fielded questions. We also had a mini write-a-thon afterwards about the Darfur region and I will be mailing out around 200 letters in the next few days! Thank you for providing us with this opportunity. This event was everything I dreamed of and it was a great success for our club this quarter, proving that even a small voice can make a difference in this world."

–Reed Harding, Green River Amnesty Club, GR Community College, Auburn, WA

"The results were astounding. The youth accomplished pulling off a rally and creating this new program for hundreds in Tucson. It was so successful that they learned a lot about their capabilities as activists. The film and the program brought this issue home for them and they were able to connect to the refugees in the film. We have received numerous emails and phone calls regarding Darfur and we are able to help people get information or volunteer. As a result, we created a periodic newsletter with updated information about Darfur and refugee issues in Tucson. We have met so many times with the guys from Sudan that we are friends and hope to continue reaching out to the community and giving them the opportunity to meet these guys. Thank you for the opportunity to have this film and to continue our work raising awareness and empowering youth to be activists. The film and the program have done wonders to empower our youth to take action. I went into schools where people cringe when you tell them you are going there and had the most fascinating conversations about genocide. To some extent those youth who have been denied opportunity understand their similarities with the Lost Boys. This helped us move into conversation about racism and discrimination in the US. I have had an amazing time working with this film."

–Sarah Gonzales, Director, Racial Justice Program YWCA of Tucson, Arizona

"I came to the United States from Mexico and my family had to learn a new culture and adapt quickly to our new surroundings. I watched the film awakened a part of me that has laid dormant for many years. I had forgotten how difficult it was to make the transition from one country to another. If I can help by providing guidance to refugees by way of teaching English, helping them get to appointments, etc., I will be happy to do so."

–Sara H., Holt, Michigan

"Obviously - people "got it" loud and clear last night. We brought in nearly \$1,000 and registered lots of new volunteers. During the weeks leading up to our *Lost Boys of Sudan* event, our social workers became extremely concerned that one of the young refugees in our Minors Program was about to lose her foster home. With only a couple of weeks to find the 21-year-old and her baby a new place to live, the CCC staff had exhausted all possibilities. At the screening, our staff made a plea to the nearly 300 guests in attendance. That evening, a wonderful person came forward to take in our precious pair! The event brought all of us at Commonwealth Catholic Charities a moment of joy, hope and faith in our community!"

–Paula Ritter, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, Richmond, VA

"When I heard of the atrocities in Darfur I knew I wanted to do something. There was a moving in my heart that needed to take form. When searching for tools to make this happen I found your offer for Lost Boys of Sudan and knew that it was the key component. I was right! In May a few of my friends and I put together a program entitled 'Remembering Rwanda: a Benefit for Sudan Refugees.' We figured that by recalling the genocide in Rwanda that we would truly be emphasizing that we should never forget and we must never allow for such tragedies ever again. Being a rather small town we had an attendance of about 80 people, but it was amazing. Our main event was the screening. We raised \$600 and while I know this is rather little for the great need of the refugees... I think it is important to note what it started. Many people told me that they donated more later and there are several people now working on doing another similar event... possibly starting an annual refugee benefit. I, personally, am now working on one as a student at Willamette University. My favorite recollection is a comment by an older man named Reckin who has had a long and meaning-filled life, he said, 'Truly wonderful! When I was in that room I knew that's where I was meant to be... it was perhaps one of the most meaningful moments in my life.' Thank you! Thank you to all those who helped us make this bit of difference."

–Benjamin C., Student Democrats Club Flathead High School, Kalispell MT