

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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November 2017

Dear Friends,

This year, 2017, has proved to be the most challenging by far in the twelve years that The Wai Foundation has been awarding scholarships to young women in Kajo Keji County, South Sudan and northern Uganda. Before this year, the intense fighting since 2013 between South Sudanese government and opposition forces had never reached as far south as Kajo Keji. As 2017 began, 63 girls were anticipating continuing as Wai scholars in grades S-2 to S-4, and new first-year scholars were about to be selected. That all ended with a crash when the warfare arrived in Kajo Keji in full force.

The immediate effect was a mass evacuation of almost all of the county's population into Uganda, the neighbouring country. Some 97% of the county's population abandoned their homes to seek refuge in the UNHCR camps there. By February 2017, all the schools in Kajo Keji had closed. Towns are now mainly ghost towns.

Since then, our South Sudanese operations have been confined to funding tertiary-level scholars in the capital of Juba, north of Kajo Keji, where life goes on despite rampant inflation, extensive crime, and aggravated food and fuel shortages. In Juba, we are continuing to provide scholarships for eight young women to study at the Health Science Training Institute in Juba. They are assiduously watched over by Lily Grace Akedi of the Comboni Missionary Sisters. Sister Lily is also responsible for the five-other tertiary-level scholars who are studying in Uganda.

But what had become of our secondary-school scholarship program in South Sudan? Incredibly, despite the fact that all of our former scholarship recipients were living in refugee camps in another country, that program is continuing. This is due entirely to our dedicated staff on site, who managed to shift all of our operations to northern Uganda.

Given our increased costs and the increased demand for our scholarships, we are hopeful that the generosity of our current and new donors will enable us to continue supporting as many of these ambitious, hard-working South Sudanese and Ugandan young women as possible. Nearly every dollar you give to The Wai Foundation goes directly toward a secondary- or tertiary-level scholarship for a young woman -- someone who is desperately seeking an education, and someone whose talents are desperately needed by her country.

Your support is needed now more than ever. Please give as generously as you can.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Jaycox", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward (Kim) Jaycox, Chair
Board of Directors
The Dunstan Wai Memorial Charitable Foundation