



CHANGE STORIES



"I hope to be a better person who will help those in need. If life goes well, when I graduate, I really want to compassionately help my people."

ANIUE AGNES, CHTI, MIDWIFERY STUDENT



Aniue Agnes makes intricate, multi-colored hand-embroidered bedsheets for clients including staff members at the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau where she is studying midwifery.

“I appreciated and cherished the work done by my grandmother, a midwife, though of course she was a traditional birth attendant. I admired how she helped people and was respected in the community. I felt that I would have to be the next to take up her position. After completing secondary school which was only possible because I got a scholarship, I stayed at home for three years but then I started doing voluntary work at a hospital. When I heard about the CHTI’s call for applications, I applied because it would give me the chance to live my dream, which would not have been possible because I come from a poor family, and they would not have been able to afford to take me to medical school. I lost both of my parents. My father died when I was only three years old. I don’t know him. My mother died when I was 15 years old so I knew her only for a few years. It was difficult to get the transport money to travel to Wau, CHTI. I have very little support from my extended family. Whenever I call them for help, they tell me that they already have a lot of responsibilities. I almost failed to travel. God did a miracle for me because I got some money from some good Samaritans. It was only enough for transport. Since it was rain season, it had been raining a lot and the roads were flooded and blocked. I could not afford a flight from Yambio to Juba and from Juba to Wau. It took me three days to get to Wau.”

“Since I came to CHTI, I have never gone back home. It’s been two years. I would not have the money anyway to take me back home and neither can my family afford to pay for the fare to take home. I thought that because the school is accommodating us during the holidays at no cost to us, it is better to be here.”



So as to survive, I make bedsheets for people. Supplies I need to make them are expensive, so I cannot afford to buy everything. I ask my clients to provide the items including the cloth, the thread, etc. and then I charge them for labor. When they pay me, I use the money to buy the school requirements including sanitary pads, books, pens and other material. If I don't have money to buy those pads, I use a re-washable one that I made. Life in college is good because they give us enough and good food and once you have all other basics, you can concentrate on studying."

"I hope to be a better person who will help those in need. If life goes well, when I graduate, I really want to compassionately help my people. I will help who I can so that they can have a little that is better than the one that I've had."



THIS CHANGE STORY IS SIGNIFICANT because it highlights a profound transformation within the church's youth community, shifting from despair to hope. Through trauma healing, peacebuilding, and related sessions, young individuals are addressing the deep-seated impacts of lifelong exposure to war. Notably, these youths are now extending support to others in need, exemplified by Mary's initiative, which brings hope to female juveniles who might otherwise be overlooked by their communities.



STAY CONNECTED

Aniue's story is a testament to the power of education coupled with personal determination. Want to learn more about how we're making a difference? Stay connected with us! Follow our journey on social media, explore more stories, and discover how you can get involved. Together, we can help create more opportunities for lasting change.



CONTACT US:

Friends In Solidarity
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Spring, MD 20910
(937) 271-0977
info@solidarityfriends.org
www.solidarityfriends.org

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: [@solidarityfriends](https://www.facebook.com/solidarityfriends)
Instagram: [@fis_ssudan](https://www.instagram.com/fis_ssudan)
Twitter (X): [@FIS_SSudan](https://twitter.com/FIS_SSudan)
LinkedIn: [@friends-solidarity](https://www.linkedin.com/company/friends-solidarity)
YouTube: [@FriendsinSolidarity](https://www.youtube.com/FriendsinSolidarity)

← **SOLIDARITY IN MOTION** →