



Amuor



Garang



Mary Akuien



Bol



Chol



Akuien

"I was a stranger and you invited me in," Matt. 25:35

What can one person do?

When you hear of the terrible plight of so many people around the world, you may think, **what can one person do?** This is an opportunity for you to help six individuals directly. They are part of a large family group, desperate to escape the trauma of life in a refugee camp and eager to rebuild a future in Canada.

MHART (Medicine Hat and Area Refugee Team) is an initiative of six local churches which began in 2015 to sponsor a family from Syria. Now a non-profit society, MHART invites you to help us rescue six members of this South Sudanese family from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya (pictured left) & settle them in our community.

Opportunity

What is the need?

In 2018, William and Akoi Garang, along with their three children, came to Canada from the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. William and his wife had lived in the refugee camp for 21 years prior to coming to Canada. Separately, both had fled Sudan when southern Sudanese groups were fighting for religious and personal freedoms (See historical summary attached).

Because of his leadership and determination to preserve the lives of tribal children, William's father was killed, and his entire family fled for safety. Tragically, the same political violence followed William to Kenya, where he was attacked in 2017, almost losing his life.

Now William is concerned daily for the safety of his mother, siblings, and their families. The urgency has grown in recent weeks with the announcement that the Kakuma Refugee Camp will be closed by July 2022, and this has created much confusion and distress. (see news link below). Where will these 500,000 people go? William's family would be in grave danger if they were sent back to South Sudan. This crisis provides an opportunity for us to act together to protect the lives of an entire family, and reunite them here in southern Alberta.

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/apr/15/un-refugee-agency-plan-close-dadaab-kakuma-refugee-camps-kenya>

What Can we Do?

MHART plans to sponsor six of William's relatives, including his mother and five educated young people, eager to work and contribute to our community. The Government of Canada will bring these family members to Medicine Hat, provided we can raise **\$15,000** per person to support their first year of settlement.

MHART is able to receive contributions toward this goal of \$90,000, offering **charitable receipts** at year-end for donations over \$25. 100% of your gift goes to assist their settlement. For more information, contact office@stjohnsmedicinehat.ca. Donations, clearly marked for **MHART**, can be sent to: St. John's Presbyterian Church, 504 2 St SE, Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0C6



William and three
of his children