



# Loreto Rumbek Newsletter

## September 2019



### A Holiday Break with Fabulous Events

While the rest of the school breaks for holiday, a group of students remain behind. This is due to several factors like poor and insecure roads to far places and financial constraints in families. Some students face early/forced marriage threats and find the school a safe haven for them. During this time, the girls are provided more freedom with the facilities to encourage them enjoy the break without missing home. They all do some light work, some do part-time work and earn money, which helps them purchase a few personal items. After morning activities like harvesting groundnuts, students had ample time for playing basketball, watching movies, and musical entertainment. In the evenings, the students accompanied by staff had an hour evening walks to the villages. It was a great experience for all as they got familiar with the neighbouring environment. Of great importance was the one-week art therapy facilitated by Fr. Joe and students benefitted from this trauma healing session.



### New Faces in the Loreto-Rumbek Development Office

For the past five years, Mr. Benjamin Sprunger and Ms. Candacia Greeman served as Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) service workers in the Loreto development office. In their tireless efforts to make Loreto Rumbek a great refuge for boys, girls and young women, Mr. Ben served as a programs manager while Ms. Candacia served as an educational specialist.

Early this September, students and staff had a great time bidding these two volunteers, Mr. Ben and Ms. Greeman goodbye. It is wonderful that from being workmates, the two fell in love with each other, and the school fraternity wished them well as they prepare to tie knots in December this year.

Mr. Herbert Orwa and Ms. Mercy Muchai are the new faces taking over the development office and we are all looking forward to great days working with them.

### Welcoming primary 8 girls

While at home, the young school girls are burdened with many home chores and lack of electricity in rural areas denies them the opportunity to study at night. In Loreto, our girls face similar challenges and they shared their predicaments with their teacher and mentor, Margaret Athiei, a Loreto graduate. The school management did not hesitate to reach out to these girls and to meet their needs and demands to enjoy a more conducive learning environment. Twelve girls; 11 from Loreto P8 and one from P6(facing marriage threat) were absorbed as boarders for better study time as they prepare for the national exam. To show their support to the program, their parents/guardians signed commitment forms pledging to support their girls and allow them join boarding life. In the beginning of term three of the academic year 2019, the 12 girls from Loreto primary reported to Loreto secondary. The students were happy to receive the girls who were placed in the various Loreto school families for them to feel at home and fit in the Loreto-family culture.



**A Special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek.**

**Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible.**

For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website: [loretorumbek.ie](http://loretorumbek.ie) and our Facebook page [Loreto Schools Rumbek](https://www.facebook.com/Loreto-Schools-Rumbek)