

Gifts for Gulu

Dear Kickers Friends and Fans:

I would like to thank those of you who contributed donations of clothes, athletic gear, and/or money to "Gifts for Gulu" over the past two years. On July 12, we will hold our third annual "Gifts for Gulu Night" and will again raise awareness and collect donations at the entrance to the game. Though I did not go to Uganda last year, I am reminded of the plight of the people there, and how a little sacrifice on our end can make a big difference to them.

The money raised at our past events has aided in the purchase of land and the construction of a community center. The center now serves as a safe-haven for many of the children and families that have been horrifically affected by the 20-year-long conflict in Northern Uganda. Your gifts of clothing and athletic gear provided needed protection, comfort, and joy to amazingly appreciative people.

While positive things are happening, and you are a part of them, immense need still exists. About two million people have had to leave their homes and have been forced to live in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps where the basic needs of life are in very short supply. Over 50% of the people in these camps are children under 15 years old--an astonishing number of whom have lost both of their parents to war or disease. This past year has brought rumors of peace, but none has yet come. Children still live in fear of abduction into the rebel armies. Please consider helping again.

When I looked into the eyes of the people there, I saw my own family. The difference between us being that they were born into atrocity, while we were born into relative affluence, peace, and safety. I committed to myself that I would continue to help. Please join me in doing that.

I encourage you to come to this year's "Gift's for Gulu Night" on July 12th. You'll see a great soccer match, and you'll join with the Richmond Kickers, Sports Outreach Institute, and Spring Run Presbyterian Church in helping the children of Northern Uganda. The need certainly still exists, and every gift helps. New and gently used clothes, athletic gear, and monetary donations will be collected. (Please visit www.richmondkickers.com for more information).

With Sincere Thanks,

Kevin Knight #3