

# The Long Road

Sudan's Lost Boys find a mother in Denver.



**THE ORGANIZATION:** *Project Education Sudan*

**WHAT THEY DO:** Work with Sudanese refugees living in Denver (aka the “Lost Boys”) to build schools and deliver health care and clean water in their home country, and to reunite families separated by the country’s civil war and genocide. Last month, volunteers headed to Sudan to build a solar-powered secondary school.

**THE STORY:** It all began five years ago when Denver philanthropist Carol Francis-Rinehart, at the suggestion of her church, donated a bicycle to one of the then-new-to-Denver Lost Boys, Isaac Khor Bher. She took the bicycle in person and ended up spending hours talking with Bher. She was so moved by his story, she soon began volunteering to help the “boys” (ages 23 to 27) adjust to their new Denver lives—taking them to doctors’ appointments, finding them jobs, getting them in school. She and

her husband became “surrogate parents” to many of the men, who called her Momma Carol. One day, when Bher saw a picture of his father in the *Washington Post*, he knew he had to go back to Sudan and find his parents. Momma Carol made this reunion possible in May 2005, flying him to Sudan to return to the village where he grew up for a heartfelt meeting.

**WHY SHE DOES IT:** “The guys have brought me love, courage, and a purpose I was intended for in this lifetime,” Francis-Rinehart says.

**HOW TO HELP:** Project Education Sudan (PES) needs money for schools, teachers, supplies, and travel expenses for the Lost Boys’ reunifications. Contact 303-316-4528, or visit [www.projecteducationsudan.org](http://www.projecteducationsudan.org).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Feb. 3 silent auction and gala. Former American ambassador to Sudan Timothy Carney will be keynote speaker.

—Susan Skog