



RESPECT

... returns when given away.™

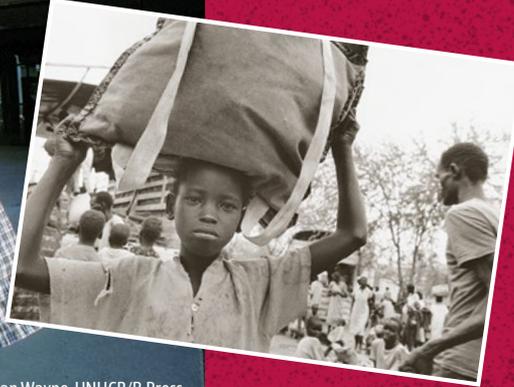
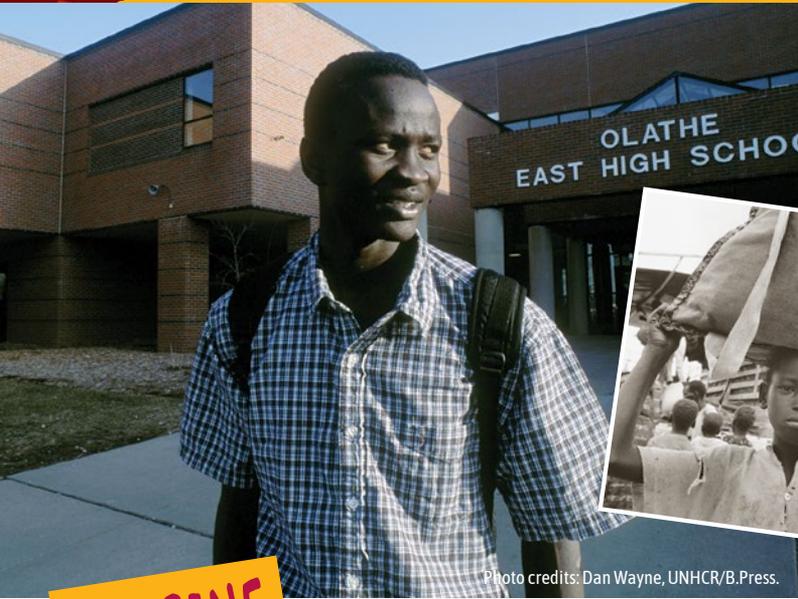


Photo credits: Dan Wayne, UNHCR/B.Press.

LOST BOYS RESULTING FROM LOST RESPECT

IMAGINE

... the life of the “lost boys” in Peter Pan, the fantasy written by J.M. Barrie. The group of boys lived together without their parents and took care of each other. These lost boys have great adventures. They fought pirates and followed their fearless leader, Peter Pan all over Neverland. The lost boys in Peter Pan are fictional characters. But there are a group of real young men who are also called Lost Boys.

In Sudan, a country in Africa, a war raged for many years. This is what can happen when people do not respect one another. A war between leaders and groups of people ended up seriously hurting lots of innocent people. Small, peaceful villages became war zones. Adults were killed and young girls were taken to be slaves. Young boys ran for their lives from the villages. They ran at night to get away in the dark. Most of their escape was through the desert. They were trying to get to Kenya, another African country where they would be safe. Scared and knowing their parents lay dead behind them, the boys ran, walked and starved through a nearly 1,000-mile journey. The older boys cared for the younger boys. They hid from soldiers and fought hunger and thirst. Some died from eating poisonous berries and drinking dirty water that they found in puddles on dirt roads. Sometimes helicopters dropped food and water for them. But with war all around, there were too many people needing food and water.

The fortunate boys who survived bullets, crocodiles and lions made it to refugee camps in Kenya. After living in these camps for years, some were brought to the United States. Churches and other groups gave them places to live, clothing, food and money so that they could settle into new lives. They were safe, but very far from home.

The Lost Boys of Sudan show how terrible things can happen when people don't respect one another. But it is also a

great example of how respect can bring healing.

Some time ago, a group of 100 Lost Boys gathered in Grand Rapids, Michigan for a reunion. They were happy to see one another and the people who had helped them rebuild their lives. One of those attending, former NBA player, Manute Bol, had just come back from a visit to Sudan. He had given most of his NBA earnings to help people like the Lost Boys. Forest Hills Northern High School students in Grand Rapids raised nearly \$23,000 to help the Sudanese people. The Lost Boys thanked those who helped them. They also reminded the group that there is still work to be done. Help is still needed for other refugees. What happened in Sudan is still going on in other parts of the world.

Terrible things happen when respect for others is lost. Wonderful things happen when everyone is treated with respect. By showing respect for others, you too can do extraordinary things and become a hero in your lifestory.

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QUESTIONS LEAD TO UNDERSTANDING

1. What evidence is there of lost respect in the lifestory of the Lost Boys of Sudan? What did they have to overcome because of the lack of respect?
2. In contrast to the situation in Sudan, what did those in Kenya and elsewhere do to counter the lack of respect? What were the benefits of that?
3. How can you learn from the lifestory of the Lost Boys and be more respectful? What specific things can you do to respect others?