DREAMS & MEMORIES
In Words & Pictures

Grand Island, Nebraska

This document contains:

1. The original *Dreams & Memories* notes made by “The Girls of Sudan”.
2. Photos of the quilt blocks that their initial writings inspired.
3. Writings by some of the students about their experiences of the workshop and film project.

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Dreams & Memories

TELL ME A STORY
by Nyakim Wal

Explore the hearts of those young ones
Willing to capture their dreams and memories

There's so much life in them
In their dreams and memories

So much art
So much stories

All shouting and screaming
While quilted together

So much help
So much love
So much support
Let it rain
In their DREAMS and MEMORIES

A great cause
Before their time
In their dreams and memories

A tale of cultural exchange
The affect that led the way

Those flashing lights are a nice touch
Those young ones
Oh how they blush
The beautiful innocence
In their dreams and memories

Laid out for all to see
Name: Nyador Wiyual  
Parents: Sarah Mayiel, Jonah Ruie  

age: 12  
grade: 7th

My dream is that I will be in the  
woman NBA. I play basketball. It fun to play.  

One problem about me is my feet were  
I was my ankle hurt.  

My memory is that my grandpa  
is killing a cow for a celebration  
when I was at Africa in 4th grade.  

If you get to see some part of  
Africa is beautiful.  

Different ta
Hi lady and gentlemen,

My name is Nyadar Wilual and I will be talking about the quilting program and the people that help.

The quilting program was the best thing. I like the people and getting out of school and I am so lucky to do the quilting program. Peggy was the nicer lady. She teaches me a lot of things about Memory and Dream.

The best like is the camera guys they ROCK. When they went to Barr Middle School I was so happy they came and I felt famous when they were there to video tape us. I felt like Rihanna, Tyra, Beyonce.

Again, I like the quilting program. Now I tell you about my memory and dreams. My memory is that my grandpa was killing the cows for celebrated my arriving when I went to Africa. I was in 4th grade in 2006. They were so happy because they saw me in real life instead of hearing my voice on the phone.
On the other hand my dream is being a basketball player or being a doctor. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for hearing my speech about the quilting program and my memory of dream.

By: Nyador Wiyual
Habiba Ghalfan
Ibrahim Georgea & Malea Toto
14 years old
7th grade

My memory is my village of Sudan. My house was made from a mud-like substance kind of like cement. The inside of the house had many beds in one great room. The bathrooms and kitchen were separated away from the bedrooms. We had little food so people were starving everyday. My uncle builds the houses at Sudan and he is a great builder for houses. We moved to America because our family needed a better life to live and more food so we came here. When I was a baby at Sudan my mother put me in the bed and I slept. So visitors came and sat on me accidentally. So I cried and my mother picked me up in her hands.
Habiba Ghalfan
Ibrahim Geberia & Nafsa Toto
14 years old
7th Grade

My dream is to be a doctor because I would like to help people get better and be healthy so they could live a long life. My doctor has inspired me to be a doctor for medication and health care. I would like to be a doctor for little children and adults but mostly is the little children hospital. My job of being a doctor is helping the kids at America and travel to other countries like Africa and India poor countries.
Hey Yall, This is Habiba Ghalfan,

This is a group project called “The Sudanese Girls Quilt Project!” These weeks I’ve learned so many things about quilting. I have really showed some hard work and I’ve learned about sewing our dreams and memories. The girls in my group really enjoyed the quilting too. The girls in my group are Habiba{ me }, Wajdan, Neesha, Nyaireka, and Nya also there’s this girl in the other room across from us her name is Nyapal. So when the last week came we felt very sad because we didn’t get to finish our quilt project and we enjoyed talking to our leaders.

When Peggy Hartwell came my eyes were like amazed because she’s the person that did a hard work on her quilts and inspired her family dreams and memories. She tried her best job to get our project done in time. Well actually she helped us and talked to us about what’s our dreams and memories. We really wanted to do both things { our dreams and memories } so then we felt like coming and working for more than one week. The snacks that we ate were delicious, well some of them. When Mrs. MacKould showed up and I felt so happy because she was the new ELA teacher at Newell Elementary School and she misses my brothers and sister this year because they transferred to West Lawn.

Writing a 500 word essay is really hard because how are we suppose to know if its 500? Well for the elementary kids don’t have to worry they just need to try their best job. Mrs. Morrow, Tracy picked us up at 2:45 from our schools and dropped us at home 5:00 or 6:00. Mrs. Morrow is the ELA teacher at Gate Elementary School and she’s doing the best she could. We love her and everybody that was there to help get our projects done. Some girls didn’t finish their projects because they had to be at their football game or volleyball game so they didn’t make it till then. The girls are Nyakim, Habiba, and Wajdan... Nyakim had to go for her football game because she’s in it and she needs to play for her team and also support her team. Habiba and Wajdan had to be at their volleyball game because the coaches wanted both of them to play and also support their team and that was the second day of the quilting project so we made it through the whole thing.

It is really fun doing these projects. I hope when I grow up I’ll help my mom do some quilting. The schools that the girls went to are Walnut Middle School, Barr Middle School, Grand Island Senior High { GISL }, and the elementary kids came with someone else. We, the middle schoolers came with Tracy Morrow in the bus. She had to go all the way from Barr School to Walnut School. The camera people as in the cameramen came too. They even came to our schools, but at first we felt embarrassed and shocked so we just stood there and not look at the cameramen. It was a little funny looking at Reang dancing that was hilarious. I finally think that 500-word essay is not that hard at all... easy if you’re a fast typist maybe? Now I’m thinking it’s hard…. WHAT???? I’m confused right now. Later after the music class, we thought the cameramen were going to follow us to the classroom but later we figured out that they weren’t going to. I was hoping that people wouldn’t say, “Why is the camera men here?” and “Why are they looking at you the whole time?”

I really enjoyed meeting with Peggy Hartwell! We really had a great time doing our projects and I can’t wait till we go to the Omaha Trip… so excited!!!!! Thank you Peggy and the other helpers!!!! WE LOVE U!

By: Habiba Ghalfan
Wajdan Yusif
Daniel Duna & Huna Tutu
14
7th

My memory is playing soccer with my siblings and friends. In fact, soccer is the most popular sport in Africa. I enjoy playing soccer because it's fun and I like the idea of running. Unlike here in America, they actually have real goals. In Africa, we would use our shoes or sticks for our goals.
Wajdan Yusif
Daniel Duma & Muna Tutu
14
7th

My dream is to become a doctor. The particular doctor I want to be is a pediatrician because I like working with little kids. I want to help them out and make them healthier. Especially in Africa because a lot of people are sick and have diseases. I would like to start my practice here in America, and travel back to Africa to help kids.
The Quilted Conscience

During the week with John and other Sudanese girls I enjoy spending time with them and making the quilts. It’s been a really fun experience doing the quilt project about my dream and memory. It was great working with everyone and the ladies that helped us out sewing and picking which designs we wanted for our quilt. One of the ladies would be Peggy Hartwell. I think she’s amazing and a great inspiration to me. She helped me a lot like on which fabric to use and things like that. I learned so much from the project we did. I learned how to sew and new techniques I never knew about sewing like how to double stitch. I thought it was a fun way of expressing our ideas of what we wanted to become in the future and the dreams we had in Africa. My dream was to become a doctor or nurse for young children. I chose that because I want to help out people especially young kids mainly because I work well with them. I would also want to someday go to Africa and help people there. There are a lot of people with health conditions and they can’t afford to go to see doctors. So I think it would be great to help them out.

The second quilt was of my dream. My dream was of my siblings, friends, I playing soccer, even though I didn’t get done with it. I used to love playing soccer in Africa but not that much now. Matter fact, many people in Africa play soccer and it’s a very popular sport there.

At first, when I heard we were going to do this project. I was all like no way I was not going to do because it would be embarrassing. After few days I thought it wasn’t a bad idea after all and just have fun. I also liked it because we got to get out early from school. So I was lucky to get out Language Arts class because that wasn’t my favorite class. That’s why I wanted to be a little bit longer. Everyone was great to work with. For example, Sam the camera guy, was really nice and a great person to work with. When they came to our school in music class I was literally going crazy. I was so shy and when we had to sing I would put the paper over my face. Then Bruce, the other camera guy would tell me to remove my paper so they can see my face. So I did and I got use to it so it wasn’t that bad at the end. The other girls were excellent. I liked seeing their designs and what they wanted to become. We worked well and helped each other out.

Everything was awesome and a great opportunity. If I could I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Someday I would like to do this same thing again because everything about it is terrific. I would like to thank John Sorenson, Tracy Morrow, Peggy Hartwell, and everyone else for this experience. Word can’t describe how happy I feel. I enjoyed every moment of it.

By: Wajdan Yusif
Dream. There's a heart on top of the hand because I love to sing and I want to be a singer. The design on the block represents me wanting to be a designer as well. The microphone is under the hand because I am touched by singers.

My memory is the beautiful country of Africa. Memories. My favorite flower is getting wet so it can grow bigger.
Hi my name is Yomaz Dau. I am going to tell you the story of my life and my experience with Peggy Hart and the quilting project I did when I was 13, which was in 2002 around September.

I was born on March 5, 1995 in Sudan. I came to the United States in 1999, when I was 4 years old. My family members are Niajol Mayorum (mom), Joseph Dau (dad), Dina D. (step brother), Nhokla D. (oldest bro.), Yohana D. (2nd oldest bro.), Butris D. (4th bro.), Silas and Tadrus D. (twins bro.) and the last of all of us Bel D. (my little bro). I am the only girl/sister out of my brothers. Enough about my life, now let me tell you about my experience with Peggy Hart. Peggy is just an awesome person to be around. She has taught me some of the different type of stitches in quilting. Peggy is a great quilter and has a great personality. My dream block is about me being a singer and designing my own clothes line when I grow up. My memory block is about one of my favorite flower (white rose) getting rain on so it can grow more taller. My experience with the quilting project was amazing. I got to meet other girls from different school in this town. It was fun. I wish the girls good luck. I’m not goin to be hear next year because I am moving back to Omaha in the summer.
My memory of Sudan is that people cannot go outside at night or go to the bathroom after dark. There are many wild animals like hyenas, tigers and cheetahs that could hurt or even kill you. Sometimes the hyenas play tricks on people. They take things that we would need.
Nyamuoch Thiyang

age 9
grade 4th

Parent (mom) Nyadhuony Her

My dream is have a dog.
I would name her cuddles.
The dog would see something
run by and the dog
says "Rough-Rough! Go Away!"
I need my treat or I will
be punished."
Chol Thiyang 11yr 6th grade
Mom - Nyadhuong Her

My memory is of my mother picking and gathering food for the family. She often would pick berries. My mother would make food from the berries and from spinach. The men would kill cattle and the women would prepare the food.
Chol Thi Yang 11 yr
Nyaduong 6 yr
6th

My dream is to become a musical artist. I like to sing. I want to make people happy by listening to music. I would tell my family’s story of leaving Africa and coming to America for a better life.
Memories

This is me and my Grandma riding on the elephant in Africa when I was two years old.

Nyakwoot Luai
6th grade 12 years old
Ngadeng Pal + Peter Luai

Nyakwoot Luai

NYAKWOOT LUAI
BAER LONG
Dream

This Quilt is about my future what
do I want to be. So I wrote
that I want to be a doctor when
I grow up and I'm in the hospital
in a room. In the room there is
red and black squares on an orange
floor. The bed has an orange pillow
cover, is purple and the bed is two
different green. The door is beautiful.
It has my favorite colors on it.
The blue rectangle is the counter.
That is my second picture.

Nyakuent Lual
6th grade 12 years
Nyakuent Poi and Peter Lual
Nyareka Kier

Marina and Daniel Kier

II
0th

Memory: My parents and sister were walking on their long journey from Sudan to Ethiopia. My mother is caring. Neesha, my older sister. They traveled hundreds of miles with little food. They drank water collected by rain.

© The Quilted Conscience
Nakinka Kier
Daniel Kier and Martha Kier

6th

Dream I wish I could be a judge because I like to work with people and their problems.
Neisha Kier, Danielle, Martha Kier
11th Grade

This quilt represents me and my mom. When me and my mom were in Africa, it was very hot, that’s why the sun is so big. We would walk everyday and see water from the lake. I was a baby, and I had to stay on her back. I just represent how much my mother and I sacrificed just to get water for social everyday.
My dream is to have world peace. I doubt it will happen in my lifetime. But my quilt is earth surrounded by a big heart. The heart is divided into two different types of love. One is good love and the other is bad love. Good love leads to fair friends, and the positive after life and bad love leads into fire for a negative after life. You always learn with the very thing on earth that's why that path. The earth has two types of love: good and bad. In my belief, you choose which way you want your life. Choose the path you choose, and you can choose either path.
Nyabuom Chuol
Mom - Sarah Nyang
age - 11
5th

Memory

My memory is my mom sharing her story of traveling to America for a better life. In her arms, she holds my big brother, Grapan, wrapped in a blanket. She rode in a big giant airplane. My mom felt sad because she had to leave my oldest brother in Africa.
Dream

Nyabgum Chuol
mom - Sarah Nyang
11 yrs old
5th

My dream was an actual dream. I was walking around by some trees picking apples. A big anaconda snake came up on the grass and bite me on the leg. It bleed a lot. The sun was bright and shining in my eyes.
Working on both of these stories was a complete blast. I love to work with some new and innovative ideas that I never felt so good, but most of all, working with new people. I really love to work on these stories a lot.

The story I liked working on the most was my memories. I enjoy working on it because I like to tell people about where I’m from.

And the kind of things I’ve been through in my past life. So they can get a bit idea of the kind of person I am. I told my memories of the church because my life back home was all about church. My name Nyapal means pray. My mom took me to church when I was just a baby and had the church pick my name. My wanted a different name for me but mother said “no way I’ll have the church name her.” Dad said okay but I’ll still call her Sunday around the house. That’s how I got my name from there. I just became a church girl like my mom. And when I came to America church was a lot different.
Then I remember back in Africa. Although my mom is trying her best to get kids to church and learning our language because most of the kids that have been in America for a long time or that were born in America don’t know half the things about Africa. The most part I remember is church because I was raised in church.
My dream story

My dream kind of tell about me because I'm into sports and I would really like to keep doing that in the near future and become a high school track coach for FISH in few years from now.

Running track to me means a lot I love running track. The bird in both of the pictures represent Church my mom tells me about the dove all the time. She said "yes you will work hard to get what you want and dream about in life but there will be two people that will look to make sure your not falling and you know who those people are? She asked no mom who are they?

"Me and God but most of all God because he will always be watching over you and I" "But you keep this in mind this dove and this story will always be with you because he is"
My hope would be to see me become a high school track coach when I see that my dream come true. And that my mom is proud of me even though she is already but I want to help her with my little brother and sister. I want them to also follow my footsteps well on somethings in life. Some day I want to also go to Africa and see how much things change.