

# Refugee Shoe Project

Many of our friends from the Diocese of Lui in South Sudan have moved to the Kiryandongo refugee camp in Uganda, fleeing the civil war in South Sudan. While life is calmer in Kiryandongo, our Moru friends have encountered a new problem: jiggers.

Jiggers (not chiggers) are chigoe fleas (*tunga penetrans*) that live in the dust in Uganda. Jiggers burrow into exposed skin to lay their eggs. When the brood hatches, it produces an open ulcer on the skin of the foot, which can become infected.\* This leads to severe pain, and if untreated, gangrene. In their home in Lui, Moru children and adults often do not wear closed-toe, closed-heel shoes, making them particularly susceptible to jiggers.

Preventing jiggers is as simple as **wearing shoes and washing with soap**, but the people in the camps have no money to buy these items.

**If every family in the Diocese of Missouri bought five pairs of shoes and a few of the other items, we would meet our goal.**



The Companion Diocese Committee is **collecting shoes to ship to the Kiryandongo refugee camp**. We are also collecting antibacterial soap, Vaseline, hydrocortisone cream, triple antibiotic, and gloves for the nurses who are treating the infections. We've made arrangements to ship a whole container to the refugee camp.

We are asking the people of the Diocese of Missouri to begin collecting these items. **We have set a very ambitious goal.** We would like to collect *a minimum* of 10,000 pairs of kids' shoes and 5,000 pairs of adult shoes, and lots of the other items. **Please begin collecting these items at your congregation.**

**Picking items up in the store.** Go to the customer service counter at any Walmart<sup>†</sup> store and ask for the registry for **Veronica and Sosthen Amin** We've entered needed items on the registry. **All items must be as exactly shown on the registry as tariff numbers into Uganda must match the item.** Items that do not match the tariff numbers will be donated to local closets. The registry shows only one size of shoes for men and women, but we need all sizes: they must be the same brand as shown, but any size.

**Ordering online.** Go to Walmart's wedding registry (<http://www.walmart.com/cp/Wedding-Registry/1229486>) and enter names **Veronica Amin** and state **Missouri**. Have items mailed to Advent Episcopal Church, 9373 Garber Rd, Crestwood, MO 63126 and we'll get them to the packing site.

**Donate cash.** Online at [www.diocesemo.org/donate](http://www.diocesemo.org/donate) or send a check to Diocese of Missouri at 1210 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103, with memo line "Refugee shoe project".

Final packing for the container will be at the Historic All Saints' Church in St. Louis. Drop-off information will be available shortly, and we can help you get your items from churches to All Saints, if needed. Our goal is to get the container on its way by August 20.

**The need is very great!**

If you have any questions, contact Deb Goldfeder at 314-484-9940 or Dan Handschy at 314-843-0123 and we will be happy to clarify any confusion if we can.

\*For those of you who are curious and have a strong stomach, you may Google "Jiggers Uganda" and go to images.

†We understand not everyone likes to shop at Walmart, but it is one store with all items in stock that is close to everyone in the diocese.

[www.diocesemo.org/shoesproject](http://www.diocesemo.org/shoesproject)



*Veronica treating an infected foot.*

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