

## 4<sup>th</sup> Art & Artifacts Benefit a Success! By Claudia Mettelman

After much planning and preparation headed up by Katherine Burley, Event Director and Korbel Intern and the amazing PESS team, the 4<sup>th</sup> Art & Artifacts event went off without a hitch.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, ArtHaus Art Gallery located in the RiNo Art District of Denver opened its doors to Lost Boys and Girls, former *Journey of Hope* team members, artists and community members to enjoy traditional Sudanese singing and dancing, hand sculpted figures, African artifacts and artwork donated from local artists. Supporters in attendance enjoyed each other's company, took in the rich cultural atmosphere and opened their pockets to purchase the art on display that reflected this year's theme of "*Sustaining Hope*".

Over the years, PESS and it's long-time supporters have worked diligently to help the people of South Sudan by building schools, installing grinders and water wells and creating leadership programs within schools and communities. "Sustaining Hope," reflects what PESS has done in the past and what will be in store for the future.

The artwork was generously donated by over 40 artists including Michael Gadlin, Michelle Torrez, Ron Hicks, Darrell Anderson, Ella Maria Ray and founder of Art & Artifacts Judith Babcock. The beautiful pieces of art were put up for auction, silently and live, through out the night and when combined with the Nile mud sculptures and the other African artifacts for sale and auction, the event exceeded fundraising expectations by raising an incredible amount of \$42,000.

The generated funds will help complete the final "brick and mortar" phase at Tong Pagook Primary School through building walls, windows, doors and a roof on the previously laid foundation of four classrooms, taking 450 Sudanese students out of the hot sun and into classrooms to continue their education.

Art & Artifacts has always been an event where community and art come together to celebrate and support the people of South Sudan. Emceed by Tamara Banks and hosted by co-founders of ArtHaus Michael Gadlin and Aliko McCain, this year's event reminded everyone in attendance that in spite of the unrest and conflict in South Sudan, there is a lot of change and progress to celebrate and even more on the horizon.

PESS could not have had such success without DU Korbel Intern and Event Director, Katherine Burley, Honorary Chairs, Ralph and Trish Nagel, all the artists who donated their artwork, the ArtHaus and PESS volunteers, interns, corporate sponsors and food donors.