

Peter Gai Achiek

Age: 27

Region: Bahr al Ghazal

I am from Yirol. Rebels invaded my city when I was six years old. I saw a lot of stuff going on, like killing people. I just ran away with a couple of my age mates. We went to Ethiopia in 1987.

We lived as refugees in Ethiopia. We were to leave a few years later because of war. We went to Uganda and then, in 1992, to Kenya.

I stayed in Kenya for ten years and heard about the resettlement. Our government had paperwork for me fill out. When done, I had to do the process. They had to check your background. They wanted to know things like, "Where are you from?" why did you come to Kenya? Where were you born? Why would you like to go to the U.S.?" It was a successful process. I had to wait a couple of weeks, and then I found out I was going to the U.S.

I haven't seen my family for twenty-one years. It is very painful for me. When I came to America, I found a lady named Kari, who sponsored my cousin. My cousin is John Akujang. Kari taught me how to be a better person.

I like to learn new things. I went to an on-line high school in Atlanta, Georgia called James Madison High School. I also went to Glendale Community College and studied criminal Justice.

I work at Walmart as a department manager. It's really good. I'm looking forward to being assistant manager.