

## **Mayor Mayen**

Mayor was born in Southern Sudan in 1983. He spent the first several years of his life running from village to village throughout the Southern countryside, barely evading the enemy that followed closely. It was during one particularly chaotic attack, in 1988, when Mayor was separated from his family, and joined the now famous march towards distant Ethiopia. For 3 months, Mayor was one of hundreds of children who made the trek, sleeping during the day and walking at night in an attempt to avoid notice.



He eventually made it to Ethiopia, but found respite for only a short time, before another civil war forced the Sudanese refugees back across the border. Recognizing the humanitarian disaster, the UNHCR led the twice displaced people, Mayor included, to Kakuma refugee camp in Northern Kenya. There, Mayor lived for eight years, and remembers the hardship of having only one meal a day, often consisting of corn, beans, and wheat bread.

Roughly eight years later, and one bumpy trans-Atlantic flight later, Mayor found himself in Arlington, Massachusetts, living in a group home with other Sudanese immigrants and attending Arlington High School. In 2004, Mayor graduated high school and enrolled in Concordia College in Bronxville. At Concordia, Mayor majored in business and enjoyed participation in the International Club, where he and friends would come together to debate about world issues or watch movies about members' home countries. He even had the opportunity to go the headquarters of the United Nations and speak with representatives about his experiences. Now, a recent Concordia graduate, Mayor is back again in Massachusetts, and has accepted an enviable position with the American Red Cross.