

Abulla Gora Recognized by the Austin Human Rights Commission

Abulla Gora was born to the Anuak tribe in the Sudan in 1976. Along with five brothers and one sister, his life began in a dirt-floored clay hut in a country village. His success in the United States has not been without challenges.

Abulla and his family left the Sudan under oppression of a religious and political war, first traveling through Ethiopia, Kenya, and then eventually coming to the United States where he would live in South Dakota, Utah, and finally, Austin, Minnesota. He not only completed his high school education and became an American Citizen, but he would go on to complete two years of higher education. He also became the local leader of the Anuak people here in Austin. He now works as a fulltime employee of the Hormel Foods Company. His is a story of a community that welcomed him as an outsider and of an individual that became committed to the role of giver rather than a taker.

Since completing the inaugural Leadership Austin Program in 2007, Abulla Gora has also become a successful coach at Austin Public Schools. He is helping others learn how to fit in a culture that is strange to them. He assists the children of African immigrants and provides support to their families in becoming more effective in school and in the community. He helps with both the cultural and language barriers that families face, and provides children with the opportunity to better understand both their native heritage and the nuances of American enculturation. He assists families with home visits and champions those who would otherwise fall behind or fall completely out of sight. He is helping children and parents work together and family members work with a majority community that does not always understand the culture of the immigrant.

Yes, Abulla Gora speaks three languages and is multilingual. Yes, he is a product of Austin's Welcome Center and a graduate of Leadership Austin. Yes, he has overcome the dangers and casualties of living in four countries and three states in his adult life. However, Abdulla's real success is in giving compassion to give to Anuak people, to the children and families of Austin, and to a community that is multicultural and multilingual. He focuses his efforts to help families who are pursuing the American dream. He has established himself as a leader, both among these families, schools, and throughout the Austin community. This is why the Austin Human Rights Commission recognizes Abulla Gora and his commitment to help others.

The Austin Human Rights Commission has the local charge to safeguard the legal and social rights of all members in the area community. It does so in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.