Dear Generous Friends and Donors,

Everyone has acknowledged that living with Covid has meant both challenges and changes in our lives. For us here at the Fund it has meant reassessing where and how our winners go to do their public service, and a significant drop in the number of applications this year. We, the Board, have had many discussions about this new life, and come to some conclusions: First, we would always want our winners to be safe wherever they choose to do their projects – here or abroad – and second, we know that given the uncertainties of life under Covid, choosing to take a year off to do public service is much harder.

On the first point, last year's winners did an amazing job from Liberia to Nigeria to Philadelphia. We heard from them regularly as they adjusted their projects when needed, and kept themselves safe.

On the second, although we did not receive as many applications as usual, we were still able to choose two outstanding seniors with the vision, enthusiasm and excellent plans to make a difference in our world. One in health care (West Philadelphia) and the other in education (Tanzania). We will tell you more about these exciting projects in our next newsletter. Also, with your help, we have raised the award to $30K, starting next year, hoping that it will be a more realistic award in today's tougher world, and that Covid will have receded, allowing more young people to think about public service.

As always, we look for students who embody the heart and soul of this award: attention to a pressing problem, innovation, and sustainability. Many of our prior winners' projects are still on-going many years after the winners moved on to graduate school or careers in service. The number of people around the globe whose lives have been made more hopeful as a result of this work is almost incalculable. We could not continue without your on-going support and generosity. So, on behalf of our winners thank YOU, our generous donors, AND we are very proud of the recipients for their dedicated work.

Jennifer Huntington
Chair
Update on 2021 Award Recipients

As happens each year, the Huntington Award recipients find new challenges and opportunities when their projects move from imagination to implementation. This year is no different. As Wainwright Acquoi reports, “building a startup is not an easy adventure.” The following reports summarize this year’s adventures of our three 2021 winners.

Gbagada Primary Health Center, Lagos, Nigeria

Tolani Yesufu’s project illustrates the problems and opportunities that are presented when projects move from proposal to practical. Tolani, a graduate of Cornell, originally planned to return home and build a primary health clinic with the aid of and in a building provided by her local community. Because of practical problems, she looked for and found another opportunity. A church in Lagos offered a better building and more support. She completely renovated the building provided by the church and expanded it from two rooms to six. She has also purchased all required equipment from local sources, if possible. The result is a much better facility at a much lower cost than originally estimated. The savings are being applied to expand the clinical operations of the facility. Tolani is hiring staff and beginning outreach to the community by partnering with a local health organization to provide free tests for eyes, blood pressure, HIV, and malaria. She feels that her new partnership has “met and exceeded the prior expectations from the local government.” A remarkable success by a remarkable Award winner. She has proposed to call the new center “The Samuel Huntington Primary Health Center by Balm of Gilead.” We are honored.
Reimagining Secondary Education in Liberia

While at Lynn University, Wainright Acquoi founded an organization called TRIBE, which is designed to bring entrepreneurial education to the high schools in Liberia. Specifically, he proposed to design and implement a program to equip high school students with entrepreneurial and digital skills and help them enter the workforce or go on to higher education. He is making excellent progress. He has rented and furnished office space, and created a team of four full-time and three part-time employees. The team began by designing an entrepreneurial program for local high schools, called RE-Novate. They then contacted nineteen high schools, evaluated six in detail, and selected two for a pilot program with the expectation that two more schools will be added in the near future. RE-Novate will be offered as an elective with three hours of in-class and three hours of on-line education each week in the current school year. In addition, Wainright has partnered with several other organizations to design programs that increase youth employment, facilitate business startups by young people, and aid young women developing their own business opportunities.

Support for Incarcerated Philadelphians

Carson Eckhard, a graduate of Penn, focused her proposal on prisoners incarcerated in Philadelphia. Working with the Liberation Foundation, her project, called Project HOPE, is designed for two purposes. First, she assists prisoners who may be wrongfully convicted in the review and reopening of their cases. And second, she is implementing a comprehensive re-entry education program for those prisoners who are about to be paroled or released. She and her team of Penn undergraduates have made progress on both fronts. They began with an outreach to lawyers, reentry organizations, and the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. With regard to the review of prior convictions, Carson is now working with eight lawyers and a team of students reviewing the original case records of participating prisoners. Her team has successfully vacated the conviction of one prisoner (Jehmar Gladden), and was well on the way to helping a second when he suddenly died before the review was completed. The team is now pursuing four more cases and has received requests for assistance from 80 prisoners. The reentry program, Carson’s second objective, is also well underway. She has collaborated with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to build a sixteen week interactive education program for upcoming parolees that includes a broad range of speakers such as local ministers, junior college representatives, human resources executives, and a former Secretary of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons. The course focuses on financial skills, housing, and a “home plan” for living in the community. The Program now has 50 participants with more anticipated in the following sessions.

Members of the Project HOPE team at a celebratory dinner following Jehmar’s return home.
Thank you to our supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 85 Public Service Awards. Please keep the Fund in mind as you consider your charitable giving. You can make a tax deductible contribution at any time by visiting our website (www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org), our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SamuelHuntingtonFund/) or sending a check to:

The Samuel Huntington Fund  
c/o Ms. Amy Stacy  
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For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you for your consideration!

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