

THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award was established as a memorial to Samuel Huntington who was President and Chief Executive Officer of the New England Electric System (now part of National Grid) until his untimely death in July 1988. The first award was presented in May 1989 and as of 2026, 98 awards have been granted.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient/Project</u>
2026	Cynthia Amoaba will enable women shea butter producers in Northern Ghana to obtain a stable income through a combination of new production equipment, fair-trade market connections and financial literacy training.
2026	Lacey Ngo is developing a low-cost, above-the-knee prosthetic and fitting the device on underserved amputees at a clinic in Guatemala .
2026	Hemza Tarawneh will install permanent shade structures in outdoor spaces at refugee camps in Jordan .
2026	Blen Yohannes will develop a family support center where new mothers and their children can stay and receive healthcare support during the period when a newborn child is hospitalized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia .
2025	Alyscia Batista empowered remote Amazonian and Andean communities in Peru by providing health education workshops while preserving traditional healing practices.
2025	Diana Naiyanoi Kimojino is improving maternal health, providing sexual and reproductive health education and addressing menstrual hygiene challenges in the Maasai community in Kenya .
2025	Jack Rothacker is building a seventh-grade classroom for a school in El Salvadore to help close an education gap and to create a consistent and safe environment for students.
2024	Grace Anne Clinton has constructed a center for the holistic development of women in Kgalagadi, Botswana through community-based programming that targets post-partum care, education and occupational training.
2024	Logan Alexander Danker is providing direct assistance and guidance to high school students across Rhode Island in order to promote community engagement amidst new statewide civic education requirements.
2024	Laith Awad Mohamad is implementing a community health worker program in rural Puerto Rico to address the critical shortage of healthcare access and the management of chronic diseases.
2023	Seungwon (Lucy) Lee is leading community-based maternal and child-health education programs in the villages of Jinja, Uganda to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.
2023	Alexandra Potter is implementing a multi-phase community outreach and engagement project to promote the early detection of lung cancer through screening in the Black community of Boston, Massachusetts .

- 2023 **Jahnvi Rao** is strengthening democracy and promoting a culture of civic engagement through student-led non-partisan high school voter registration drives **across the US** with a focus on historically disadvantaged communities and low-socioeconomic schools.
- 2022 **Joshua Kim** developed culturally relevant health infographics and improved workflow and patient wayfinding at medical facilities in **West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. In addition, he implemented an ambassadorship model in an after-school program for students who have English as a second language.
- 2022 **Tess Pollins** is replacing an orphanage in **Zinga, Tanzania** with a new facility and working to ensure that all residents of the orphanage attend school.
- 2021 **Wainright Acquoi** established an entrepreneurial academy as an alternative model for secondary education in **Paynesville, Liberia**. The project has gone on to establish a design consultancy to support companies and organizations that invest in social impact initiatives, enhance approaches to design, and deliver effective education, entrepreneurial and workforce development solutions.
- 2021 **Carson Eckhard** addressed the shortage of support available to incarcerated people in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**. Project HOPE assisted people seeking relief from wrongful convictions and operated a comprehensive reentry preparation program.
- 2021 **Tolani Yesufu** set up a primary health center in a section of **Lagos, Nigeria** that did not have a primary health center. She partnered with a local health organization to provide free tests for eyes, blood pressure, HIV and malaria.
- 2020 **Angela Frimpong** renovated a school in **Gbulahagu, Ghana** and implemented in the school EntrepYearn, an entrepreneurship program that inspires socio-economic development.
- 2020 **Addison Luck** improved environmental literacy and stewardship in **Kaua'i, Hawaii**. He worked with local, underrepresented community members and youth to reincorporate Native Hawaiian environmental thought and attitudes in modern law and culture.
- 2020 **Zariah Tolman** established Positivity Outward which operates an app-based mentorship program that serves rural youth in **Montana**.
- 2019 **Johnny Buck** set up camps and on-going leadership mentoring in **Washington** state to support Native American youth and empower them to pursue careers in STEM. The camps combined Indigenous and Western science through outdoor experiential education, intergenerational cultural enrichment, technical science training and in-depth mentorship.
- 2019 **Phacelia Jane Cramer** led after-school classes in **Portland, Oregon** in which disabled and non-disabled students participated together in activities and art projects. She worked with educators and non-profits to connect low-income families with disabled youth to needed resources.
- 2019 **Swaraj Priyadarshi**, along with 2016 award recipient **Sharad Sagar**, founded Dexterity Global, a national organization in **India** powering the next generation of servant leaders through educational opportunities and training. Dexterity Global's programs reach over 6.5 million young citizens.
- 2018 **Dennis Delasi Nyanyo** renovated the **Bolgatanga, Ghana** Regional Library which was in disrepair and revamped their mobile van service so that the library could continue serving the community and outlying districts. He secured the help of two agencies so that the library could continue to have quality books in its collection.

- 2018 **Dejah Powell** created HEAL (Health, Engaged Activism, and Learning). Through gardening at a school and field trips to museums and cultural events, she increased understanding among young Black students on the south side of **Chicago, Illinois** about environmental consciousness and healthy food.
- 2018 **Suriya Shahi** built the Sapura Dream Foundation School in **Humla, Nepal** to provide free, quality primary and secondary education to disadvantaged and marginalized children. It was the first independent, non-political school in the area.
- 2017 **Gianna Biaggi** created a community library in the Kibera slums of **Nairobi, Kenya**, and established Sunflower Fellows, a 4-year literacy and leadership program for low-achieving girls attending informal schools.
- 2017 **Josephine Gardner** created employment for impoverished mothers in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. Homeless women were taught traditional weaving skills and the scarves, wraps and other items were sold to high-end fashion outlets enabling the women to become self-supporting.
- 2017 **Antoinette Kona Zoumanigui** established Project Y.V.E.T.A. (Youth for Vocational Education and Training in Agriculture) to educate youth in **Senegal** combining traditional classroom subjects in math, reading, and writing with vocational training in agriculture and agri-entrepreneurship.
- 2016 **Brett Davidson** launched the **Connecticut** Bail Fund to support pretrial detainees who lack financial resources. Assistance was provided to defendants who posed a low risk of default enabling them to keep their jobs, support their families and contribute to the community while awaiting trial.
- 2016 **Taehoon Kim** created a computer and mobile phone project to improve healthcare in rural populations of the **Dominican Republic**. The program connected patients to specialists via video conferencing and reduced medication stock-outs thereby saving lives.
- 2016 **Sharad Sagar**, along with 2019 award recipient **Swaraj Priydarshi**, founded Dexterity Global, a national organization in **India** powering the next generation of servant leaders through educational opportunities and training. Dexterity Global's programs reach over 6.5 million young citizens.
- 2015 **Yasmine Arrington** created a nonprofit entitled ScholarCHIPS that supports college-bound young adults **across the US** who have experienced parental incarceration. ScholarCHIPS has awarded over \$500,000 in college scholarships to 88 scholars, now with 40 graduates.
- 2015 **Shadrack Frimpong** pioneered a sustainable model of rural development, the farm-for-impact model, in **Tarkwa Bremen, Ghana**. His organization, Cocoa360, reaches over 35,000 farmers and supports a community clinic and school for girls.
- 2015 **Kathryn Amelia Watts** implemented a vocational training pilot program in **Pune, India** that provided greater economic opportunity for the most disadvantaged families.
- 2014 **Alexander Epstein** transformed a two-acre plot of vacant land in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania** into Life Do Grow farm: an urban farm; public park; center for environmental education; holistic healing; and the arts. Since it began, the organization has curated public events and neighborhood markets which have engaged over 18,000 attendees while building visibility for emerging artists and small/local businesses.

- 2014 **Lonnie Hackett** launched an innovative model of school-based health services and education in the N'gombe District of **Lusaka, Zambia**. His program, Healthy Learners, has been adopted by the Ministries of Health and Education as national policy and has served over 840,000 students.
- 2014 **Michael Long** started Sail for Justice which provides leadership training, team building, counseling and physical challenges to young men in **Florida** that the justice system deems dangerous.
- 2013 **Alex Freid** started PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network) which recycles and resells furniture from students leaving campus each school year to students entering college in the next school year, reducing the waste that would otherwise be buried in local landfills. The program has spread to over 975 campuses **across the US** and has hosted events for more than 60,000 students.
- 2013 **Bentrice Jusu** brought Both Hands to **Trenton, New Jersey** as an after-school and summer program for teens. Disadvantaged youth engaged in activities using art as a tool for personal and community development.
- 2013 **Mahmud Johnson** established a program in **Monrovia, Liberia** that provided students with the educational background needed to attend college in the US.
- 2012 **Michael Bernert** created WAVA, an LLC that provided risk capital to small and medium scale agricultural entrepreneurs in **Sierra Leone** to increase food production and job creation.
- 2012 **Tasmiha Khan** improved access to sanitation in **Khulna, Bangladesh** with tube wells, latrines, and sanitary kits. The program empowered women to become leaders in and advocates for their communities.
- 2012 **Dian Liu** conducted after-school dance sessions in **New York City** for immigrant students to help them adjust to the U.S. and to an interrupted education. The dancing provided a healthy outlet that helped the young students build emotional and social competencies.
- 2012 **Jason Lynch** launched a boxing and tutoring program for at-risk youth in **Brockton, Massachusetts**. The program, which ran four days per week, offered fitness training with time set aside for homework support, SAT preparation and GED classes.
- 2011 **Aïcha Cissé** taught English to children and adolescents living in Morro Dos Prazeres, a shanty town in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, through an established after-school program.
- 2011 **Cory Rodgers** established an urban agriculture and poultry husbandry program for people living with HIV and AIDS in the low-income Manzese area of **Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**. By providing the training, supplies, and support necessary for participants to grow crops and raise free-range chickens, the program provided a sustainable source of nourishment and income for people.
- 2011 **Kelsey Tackett** implemented a mentoring program for seventh grade girls in **Floyd County, Kentucky**. The program included volunteer work, field trips, and tutoring.
- 2010 **Mark Arnoldy** established Possible Health to treat acute malnutrition among children in rural **Nepal**. It has grown into an organization that has delivered well over a million patient care visits.
- 2010 **Arielle Tolman** created the Microfinance and Maternal Health Initiative to improve maternal and infant health and promote women's economic development in the Kibera slum of **Nairobi, Kenya**. Female community volunteers were trained as home birth attendants and provided with birthing kits supported by the proceeds from a community garden.

- 2009 **Sadiqa Basiri** founded the Oruj Institute of Higher Education in **Kabul, Afganistan**. Oruj has grown into a university that serves women and men.
- 2009 **Wendy Herrera** constructed 50 composting toilets in **Usa River, Tanzania**. This sanitation project reduced groundwater contamination and produced safe fertilizer for agricultural use.
- 2008 **Caitlin Lee Cohen** produced six interactive radio shows that were aired as "Rajo Bamako: An Bee Ta Don" (Radio Bamako: It Belongs to Us All). They were the first radio programs to give voice expressly to problems in **Mali's** slums.
- 2008 **Rishi Mediratta** improved the health of orphans in **Gondar, Ethiopia** by training their caregivers. Community health workers were educated with the skills and knowledge to prevent and treat childhood illnesses.
- 2008 **Kelly Quinn** implemented an English language curriculum for children in an orphanage named Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) in the **Dominican Republic**. It provided the children with job potential once they reached maturity and left home.
- 2007 **Jennifer Browning** established a soccer program for girls in **Senegal** called The Ladies' Turn. The program greatly expanded over time.
- 2007 **Paul Javid** used a visual database of elementary and high school lessons delivered by teachers to educate needy students and train teachers in **India and Bangladesh**.
- 2007 **Elizabeth Sholtys** expanded the Ashraya Initiative for Children in **Pune, India** by creating a health education and resource center in the heart of the Kamraj Nagar slum. The program provided education and health care to children from nomadic tribes.
- 2006 **Abraham Awolich** started a health sciences school for girls in **Yei, South Sudan**. The project has led to the establishment of the Sudan Development Foundation that operates a maternal ward serving over 50,000 woman, two medical clinics and a primary school.
- 2006 **Haley Reimbold** launched the Underground Café, a student-run initiative that brought together diverse populations in the **Utica, New York** area to address pressing social issues through creative means.
- 2005 **Onyi Ofor** started a program that provided breast cancer screening for women in **Ibadan, Nigeria**.
- 2005 **Jessica Schiffman** created student choirs and provided scholarships for music students in **New England**.
- 2004 **Vadim Ostrovsky** worked with an agency to create computer labs and gather valuable information about technology in high schools throughout **Ukraine**. The project educated students and teachers in computer literacy.
- 2004 **Edwardo Valero** established La Casa Cultura, a haven for intellectual curiosity and creative art, in **Orosi, California**. The program encouraged high school students in a poverty-stricken area to seek higher education while learning about how to beautify the community through mural artwork.
- 2003 **Colleen Kinder** worked with the Inter-Religious Foundation for Community Organization to launch a program to collect and oversee the distribution of equipment for the elderly in **Cuba**. The program included recreation, recruitment, and renovation projects in nursing homes.

- 2003 **Elizabeth Rodrigues-Ross** launched a training program for volunteers in **Springfield, Massachusetts** to assist families facing eviction. The volunteers helped people prepare clear presentations of their cases in the Western Massachusetts Housing Court.
- 2002 **Joshua Dankoff** established an AIDS education program for the four all-male schools in **Abuja, Nigeria**. Working with an agency, the program educated youth using a combination of discussion, presentation, and music.
- 2002 **Karina Weinstein** launched the Esperanza Cultural Center in a **Santiago, Chile** shantytown. The center's main focus was literacy and education, but it also served as a safe space for creative expression through community theater and visual arts.
- 2001 **Meena Said** created a program for widow refugees from the war in **Afganistan**. The program provided long-term gainful employment focusing on skills the women already possessed and literacy skills that were taught.
- 2001 **Stacy Dean Truta** implemented a pilot program for adolescent cancer patients in **San Jose, Costa Rica**. The program gave patients the opportunity to create positive experiences through peer interaction, education, and outreach.
- 2000 **Steeve Cespedes Mordan** taught English as a second language to school children, established and maintained an English library, and facilitated an after-school English language club in **Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti**.
- 2000 **Jeannie Lang** started Let's Get Ready, a tutoring and mentoring program that provides students from historically underrepresented backgrounds **across the US** with the support they need to attain a college education. The program has helped 60,000 low-income students get to and through college.
- 2000 **Lisa Avigdor Liguori** planned and built a cooperative and literacy center in **Purraja, Costa Rica** to help the villagers manage their economic livelihoods. To sustain a continuing supply of pianguas, a small mollusk the villagers gathered and sold to restaurants, she assisted with tracking the populations of the mollusks.
- 1999 **Jamila Ann Cutliff** created and expanded her Encourage Youth Educate Society (EYES) program in which engineering students taught economically disadvantaged children math and science through hands-on interactive engineering projects. The program began in **New York** and expanded to include other U.S. cities.
- 1999 **Jennifer Carrie Oelberger** built a study center in **Kibaya, Tanzania** that provided living quarters for students and a library. Also, a maize grinding machine was funded to provide income for the facility and to aid the villagers.
- 1999 **Tashi Zangmo** built a library for young girls and woman studying and residing in a nunnery in her home village. The project has evolved into the **Bhutan** Nuns Foundation which empowers nuns with training programs such as counseling, hospice care, palliative care, teacher training, leadership development and management practices.
- 1998 **Nazleen Bharmal** worked with VISIONS **Mumbai, India** to establish a student-run AIDS counseling program and hotline easily accessible to youth.
- 1998 **Elaine Leong** created Dare to Dream, an extended third year Summerbridge program in **Hong Kong** for 15-18 year old underprivileged students. Through a collaborative arts project, students were encouraged to become independent thinkers and influential community citizens.

- 1998 **Mehret Mandefro** implemented an after-school program for Ethiopian immigrant high school students in the **Washington, D.C.** area. The project assisted with the development of regular study habits and reading and writing skills.
- 1997 **Ruhi Khan** founded KOSHISH in central **India**, a center where women were taught vocational skills, AIDS awareness, and general education to help them escape emotional and mental abuses.
- 1997 **Vivek Murthy** created the Swasthya Community Health Partnership to train women as community health workers in rural **India**.
- 1997 **Precious Williams** created a program called Youth Empowered for Success to help young African-American boys ages 7-13 in the Third Ward of **Houston**. The program provided mentoring by Black role models, enrichment workshops, and a weekend retreat.
- 1996 **Reenah Kim** developed a summer program in **Chicago, Illinois**' South Side where she taught for two years.
- 1996 **Dufirstson Neree** created The Credit is Due Project which launched a financially-strong credit union to provide access to capital and economic opportunity for the residents of Little Haiti - an underserved section of **Miami, Florida**.
- 1995 **Yea-Lan Chiang** created SAMPLE (Social Action within a Multicultural Program in Language Enrichment) in **California** in response to LA riots. The program helped students strengthen their English skills and develop curiosity and respect for other cultures.
- 1995 **Perry Weinberg** proposed to establish a Tenant Information Hotline in **New York City**.
- 1994 **Matthew Meyer** founded Eco Sandals through which street kids in **Nairobi, Kenya** make sandals out of used tires and get an education. The business has grown and two of the original "children" now own and manage it.
- 1994 **E. Franklin Miller** worked with the W.E.B. DuBois Academy in **Cambridge, Massachusetts**. He recruited college students to provide mentoring and tutoring to young African-American males.
- 1993 **Bernetta Avery** directed an after-school mentoring program, Operation Hope, for at-risk students in **Ann Arbor, Michigan**. In addition, she developed a program for in-school suspension students who were taught non-violent conflict resolution alternatives.
- 1993 **Osman Waheed** sought to establish a rural community-based literacy school for children at the Community Learning Center outside **Islamabad, Pakistan**. Due to a lack of community support for educating girls, the program was abandoned and the award money was donated to a local charity.
- 1992 **Angela Lee Duckworth** founded the Summerbridge project, now known as Breakthrough Greater Boston, a summer school for low-income students. The program annually serves as many as 750 students and trains 150 teaching fellows in **Massachusetts**.
- 1992 **Nyaguthii Chege** set up internships for high school students in **Nairobi, Kenya** to volunteer their vacation time to work at tree nurseries on school grounds and other public service activities.

- 1991 **Jenn David** directed the Summerbridge project in **Providence, Rhode Island**. Sixth graders were empowered with study skills necessary to succeed in academically challenging high schools.
- 1990 **Kent Koth** created the Alternative Break Coalition in **Portland, Oregon** where he recruited Oregon's college students to do volunteer work in a variety of settings during their spring and summer vacations.
- 1990 **Jamie Metzl** worked with refugees in camps in **Cambodia** on projects involving motor safety, prosthetic limbs production, writing, reporting and research.
- 1990 **David Milner** set up a non-profit organization in **Washington, D.C.**, Funds for the Community's Future, that raised funds to create community-sponsored scholarships enabling economically disadvantaged youth to go to college.
- 1989 **Lillian Ortiz** worked on a literacy development project in **Quito, Ecuador** where she collaborated with the Spanish-as-a-second language team in writing and revising the first-grade teachers' guide for oral Spanish. The curriculum was developed for the special educational needs of the indigenous communities.