

# THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

AUTUMN/WINTER 2019-2020

## The Numbers Tell Their Own Story

### *Dear Friends of the Samuel Huntington Fund,*

As our 30th anniversary comes to a close, I thought it would be great to ask several of our past winners, whose projects are ongoing, to tell their story in numbers! I am not usually a numbers person, but reading some of these awesome figures about the amazing successes of several of the projects, which you have helped to fund, gives me such hope for our world that I really want to share them with you. You will see how an idea grew into a proposal, which in turn grew to work on the ground, and from has there touched hundreds, if not thousands, of lives and which continue to give others a hand up for better health, for improved education, and in positively helping our environment. Truly this is a story about grit and determination both on the part of the winners and those whose lives they touch.

**Matthew Meyer** (1994)

started his project in one of the poorest suburbs of Nairobi, Kenya, where the average wage was less than 50 cents a day. His project employed street kids to make sandals from used tires. 10,000 pairs of these Ecosandals are now sold around the world and a former street 'kid' is the project's manager, who now owns his own home.

**Eugenia Lang Rosenthal** (2000) When she began her project, Let's Get Ready, about 100 students in one high school in one state received SAT tutoring services. The program now operates in 96 sites in 6 states from Maine to Pennsylvania. In 2018-19, over 14,000 high school and college students received high quality SAT prep, and college admissions guidance. In addition, over 500 college students engaged as coaches to mentor younger peers to and through college.

**Jennifer Browning** started Ladies Turn in Senegal in 2007. She



**Jennifer Huntington**  
Chair

wanted to give girls a chance to prove themselves in sports, and learn leadership skills as they played and competed in soccer tournaments. Since 2007, 2,000 young women have played in Ladies Turn tournaments.

**Mark Arnoldy** founded Possible Health in Nepal in 2010. As of now 200,000 people are receiving Hospital to Home Integrated Care Services. Prior to Mark's initiative, people living in rural Nepal often had to walk several days to get any health care at all.

**Yasmine Arrington** saw an issue of equity in 2012 and, based on her own personal experience, started Scholar-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
2019 Winners	2 – 3
An Eye on the Past ...	3
Thank You to Our Supporters	4

*Continued on page 4*

## 2019 Award Winners

This year, we found three more excellent projects from a diverse and wonderful group of applicants. Two of the projects are in the United States and one is in India. They are described below.

### Native Youth Science Leadership Academy in Washington State



**Johnny Buck** is our first winner from Northwest Indian College in Bellingham, Washington. He is also the first person in the history of Wanapum Tribe to graduate from college. His project encourages others to follow in his footsteps. Specifically, he will create a youth education program and camp that teach “parallels between indigenous science and western science through outdoor experiential education, intergenerational cultural enrichment, technical science training and in-depth mentorship.” Johnny begins with a pilot program with two elements. First, the Academy will sponsor five students for a ten-month intensive education and mentorship program. Second, Johnny will sponsor weekend camps for native youth to integrate Western and indigenous science. Johnny looks to give native American youth the best of Native-American and modern science, and encourage students further their education. He approach is unique, responsive, and sound. We are happy to support it.

### Youth Disability Justice in Portland, Oregon

After graduating from Williams College, **Phacelia Cramer** returned to Oregon to start: (1) an after school program for low-income elementary school students with disabilities and (2) a support group for siblings of those with disabilities. The after school program will have two-hour sessions, three days a week. She has selected a school, and will work with the Portland Disabilities Commission and Portland State University students to staff and lead the program. It is the first program of this kind in Oregon. Others are interested in its success and potential application in their communities. The second program is also unique. Phacelia is starting a twice-a-month support group for the siblings of those with disabilities. Specifically, she will use collective art projects to facilitate sharing stories and encouraging disability justice. Phacelia has direct experience with the needs of the disabled and their siblings. Her sister is disabled. She is using the Award to “pursue something as near to my heart as this project in a place where I know I have the strong community connections needed to make a real difference.”



## Dexterity Seva in India

**Swaraj Priyadarshi** is a close associate of one of our prior winners, Sharad Sagar. He was one of the first students to participate in Sharad's Dexterity Global Program, became its Chief of Staff, and is now graduating from Tufts University. His project, using the Dexterity outreach platform, will work middle and high school students to "inspire, empower and create a generation of service leaders in India." Dexterity Seva expects to teach students in an estimated 250 schools how to design and implement public service projects in low income communities. The project begins by training over 1000 teachers, and expects to reach about 100,000 students. A Seva Fellowship will be established and awarded to one high school graduate in each of 29 Indian states, allowing the winner to devote a full year to project implementation. These numbers are amazing, but amazing numbers are achieved every year by Dexterity. Swaraj has a solid record of performance; his new project is a valuable addition for India and its youth. Our award will help Swaraj "to create hundreds and thousands of more 'service' oriented leaders for India and the world."



## An Eye on the Past and a Vision for the Future

Thirty years ago this year when National Grid was New England Electric System (NEES), the then President and CEO, Samuel Huntington died unexpectedly. His friends and colleagues in the company (most notably Fred Greenman, George Sasdi, Don Goodwin, Judy Haynes, Larry Reilly, Tom Robinson, Peter Flynn and Amy Stacy) developed a novel memorial idea: the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award.

For the past thirty years seniors graduating from US colleges can apply for this \$15,000 award to do public service anywhere in the world. So far there have been 77 winners – men and women with a vision for a better world – who have started enterprises in a host of different countries, and in the USA, that address issues concerned with the environment, healthcare, education and much more. Some of our winners have gone on to distinguish themselves in their fields, and many of the enterprises are still on-going, a tribute to their founder's vision, energy and commitment.

We have also developed an interactive website and if you would like to learn more about this tribute to Sam and the company, and our winners, please visit [www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org](http://www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org). As his wife, I am deeply touched by the generosity of our donors, by the energy and grit of our winners, and the support of our board, most especially Amy Stacy, (now Marcy Reed's administrative assistant) who keeps us all on track and handles all the paperwork associated with the applications. Thank you Amy!

Sam would have been 80 this year, and we celebrate both that and the 30 years of the award in his name. Thank you NEES, thank you to our donors, and congratulations to our wonderful winners.

# THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

## Greetings from the Chair, *continued*

Chips to give scholarships to children of incarcerated parents. To date, 8 cohorts of scholars, totaling 61 scholars, have received their share of \$183,000 in scholarships, book awards, and graduation gifts. Instead of feeling isolated and alone, they now have a support group of peers with the same backgrounds to help them navigate college and beyond. Two of their graduates have just joined the board and will help continue to break the cycle of intergenerational incarceration and poverty.

**Alex Freid's** project Post Landfill Action Network (PLAN) started in 2013, focuses attention on a much needed problem: too much 'stuff' in landfills. From a simple idea started at UNH, Alex has grown PLAN into national program to recycle the 'stuff' that graduating seniors were throwing out, and sell it back to incoming freshmen. In six years with a staff of 10, they have enrolled

370 campuses; organized five Students for Zero Waste conferences, which have sold out; and are currently working on expanding the two campuses pledged to Break Free from Plastic by eliminating single use disposable plastics from their campuses.

**Brett Davidson** started the Connecticut Bail Fund in 2016. His project raises money to provide bail to people incarcerated pre-trial due to lack of funds. The money is paid back over time enabling the Fund to continue their services. Starting with just Brett, the staff now numbers 6, and 382 people have been bailed out, plus 76 immigration prisoners. The Fund also offers support groups such as bringing together women of color with a history of incarceration.

**Tasmiha Kahn** started Brighter Dawns in 2012 to improve drinking water quality and sanitary condi-

tions in Bangladesh. To date, they have established 17 wells and 20 latrines and bathing spaces. Multiple divorced and widowed women have been trained and hired to work as community health workers to hold numerous health education seminars with continued guidance from local partner organizations. The infrastructure coupled with the trainings have impacted over 20,000 people locally and abroad. .

The old adage that great oaks grow from little acorns is vividly shown in these numbers! Your generous support of these young people not only gives them confidence and sets many of them on a life-long road of public service, but their projects have positively impacted thousands of lives, and our planet, for the better. Thank you all!

*Jennifer Huntington*

## Thank you to our supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 77 Public Service Awards. Please keep the Fund in mind as you make your year-end charitable donations. You can make a tax deductible contribution at any time by visiting our website ([www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org](http://www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org)), our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/SamuelHuntingtonFund/](http://www.facebook.com/SamuelHuntingtonFund/)) or sending a check to: The Samuel Huntington Fund, c/o Ms. Amy Stacy, National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451. For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you for your consideration!

## Samuel Huntington Fund Officers and Directors

- **Jennifer Huntington**  
*Chair*
- **Thomas Robinson**  
*Clerk*
- **Judith Haynes**  
*Assistant Clerk*
- **Peter Flynn**
- **Frederic Greenman**  
*President*
- **Lawrence Reilly**  
*Treasurer*
- **George Sasdi**
- **David Milner**