

THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

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A Dream Come True in Afghanistan

Dear Friends of the Samuel Huntington Fund,

As I have told you before, one of the great joys of my life (besides my four grandchildren!) is keeping in touch with our Samuel Huntington Award winners from prior years. It is wonderful to hear from them about their lives, their families, and how their projects – started with your money – are still ongoing.

In 2011, Sadiqa Basiri, a senior at Mt. Holyoke College, applied for the award. Her dream was to return to Afghanistan and start a college to teach young women the skills they would need to get jobs and become independent. The committee was intrigued by her idea and even more impressed when she came for her interview. Now, almost ten years later, Sadiqa writes: “If it was not for the Samuel Huntington Public Service

Award, I do not think I could have built Afghanistan’s first and only non-profit social enterprise university. As a college student, I had a dream, which was in the seed phase. I did not know where to start or how to plant that seed. Your program gave me the means to plant the seed, water it, and grow it. Currently, Oruj Institute of Higher Education, besides training women on employability skills, is serving over 760 young men and women in the faculty of law and the faculty of economics. So, thank you so much for your support and I am sure Mr. Huntington is watching you with smiles and is taking a lot of pride in you.”

Sadiqa also reads our newsletter with the stories of our current winners, and she recently wrote: “I cannot tell you how much the stories of the winners have moved me. We are living in a world where socio-economic gaps are



**Jennifer Huntington
Chair**

widening, particularly in developing countries, and their projects will undoubtedly touch many lives.”

If hatred and suspicion are corrosive emotions, then surely love, hope and trust are their counterparts. What better example of what could be done in a war-torn country than Sadiqa’s dream, joined with her enterprise and hard work, which has sown so much hope for many, many young people. **And your donations helped make that happen.** On behalf of those young people, both the winners and those they impact, **thank you all very much indeed.**

Jennifer Huntington

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2020 Award Winners

Although the ongoing pandemic meant we had to interview finalists remotely over Zoom, we were able to select three more exceptional winners of the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award from an outstanding set of applicants. The winners will advance environmental stewardship in Hawaii, educate young entrepreneurs in rural Ghana, and create an innovative program to support public service in Montana. Because of the pandemic, we offered the winners flexibility to delay the start of their projects, and, unfortunately, one will need to do so. Summaries of each of the projects follow:

Improving Environmental Law, Literacy, and Stewardship in Kaua'i, Hawaii



After graduating from Yale, **Addison Luck** will spend a year in Kaua'i, Hawaii with a specific focus on the environment in the Hanalei River watershed. As an intern with the Earth Law Center, Addison analyzed the legal issues associated with the preservation and protection of the River and its watershed. In his project, Addison will mobilize the community to implement these rights, and work with youth to implement specific environmental improvements.

With regard to the legal issues, Addison will publish a "primer" on the legal rights of the river, draft ordinances, and meet with the community and its leaders to pass and implement the proposed ordinances.

In parallel, Addison will engage youth released from juvenile detention to plant trees and seedlings, and work

with a native non-profit (Hanalei River Heritage Foundation) to bring after school programs to the youth in Kaua'i. The after school programs include supplemental education on nature and environmental rights, beach clean ups, tree planting, canoe building, and flora and fauna surveys.

The ultimate objective of Addison's project is to "reincorporate Native Hawaiian environmental thought and attitude towards the environment in modern law and culture." He recognizes that this effort requires an adjustment to the legal framework and a focus on the young people on the island. His project is comprehensive in scope, yet focused on specific activities and goals. We are happy to help him succeed.



EntrepreYearn in Gbulahagu, Northern Ghana

Angela Adom Frimpong has identified a critical need: young people in the rural Gbulahagu area of Ghana lack the educational facilities and job opportunities to stay in the region. As a result, youth “prematurely end their schooling and migrate to urban city centers. Without any employable skills, these youth work as laborers in the markets where they face physical and verbal abuse.”

To address this issue, Angela, a graduate from Grinnell College, will use her grant to renovate and expand the junior high school, and implement an entrepreneurship education program in the school. Working with Savannah Signatures (a local nonprofit) and local leaders, she plans to add two classrooms to the Junior High to reduce overcrowding and improve the education environment.

In addition, she will enhance the curriculum through an after school program to teach the practical skills necessary to start and operate a local business. This curriculum, called EntrepreYearn, will be designed by Angela working with school officials, Savannah Signatures, Junior Achievement Africa, the local farmers association, community leaders, and district officials from the Ministry of Education. Angela, together with a teacher from the school and a staff member of Savannah Signatures will teach the curriculum. The goal is to supply 50 students with the skills to do market research, develop a business idea, and then start, fund, and operate the enterprise. The 50 students in the program will actually start a business to provide them with hands on experience.

Finally, Angela, again working with Savannah Signatures and local leaders, will help EntrepreYearn graduates create new businesses in the community. EntrepreYearn will provide interest-free loans to twenty alums to start their own businesses after completing school. The resulting businesses will create economic development and employment opportunities in the community, and allow its youth to stay in the area—addressing the issue identified by Angela.

Angela’s project embodies many of the attributes of proposals that make many of our Award Winning projects successful. It is practical, detailed, innovative, and addresses a critical need. Most important, it is based on broad support, cooperation, and input from several groups and leaders within the community. The participation by interested groups and community leaders improves the project and facilitates its sustainability after Angela completes her public service.

Because of travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Angela has had to delay the start of her project in Ghana.



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Positivity Outward in Rural Montana

The need that **Zariah Tolman** identified was the lack of public service opportunities for young people in rural Montana caused in part by a lack of funding for non-profit organizations in these areas. In Montana, rural nonprofits receive 66 percent less funding per student than nonprofits in cities and towns. Zariah found that to address this problem, "Montana needs an organization that connects rural youth to development opportunities, and simultaneously strengthens communities as well as local organizations."

Zariah, a graduate of Montana State University, will provide that organization. Her Positivity Outward program begins by creating an app and website of participating public service organizations and their volunteer opportunities for students and their schools. The network will allow students to identify public service opportunities tailored to their communities. The website will also give students and schools easy access to the public service organizations so that students can volunteer for service and record their contributions. Finally, the website will allow participants to suggest new ideas for public service that would be eligible for the Positivity Outward program.



Schools will then organize groups of students, who each agree to give at least one hour a week to public service through Positivity Outward. Participation of both students and public service organizations will be encouraged through a matching program, under which the student's public service will be matched by a monetary contribution to a local public service group either from Positivity Outward or from a participating contributor. In this way, the students are provided with public service opportunities, the student's contribution is formally recorded, and local public service organizations receive critical revenues for ongoing operations.

Zariah's goal is to set up Positivity Outward programs in ten schools with at least 25 percent of the school's population participating in the program, producing at least 500 hours of public service in the first year.

Thank you to our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 80 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), our Facebook page (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

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