Dear Friends and Generous Donors,

We all need to hear some good news from time to time! The media is so filled with reports of war, gun violence, global climate change, hunger, and poor health, it’s easy to feel depressed. The good news comes from both the wonderful winners of the Samuel Huntington Award, and your generous donations that make that award possible. I like to think of that good news as “Sharing Hope!” So I want to share some good news and hope with you!

Since the award was started back in 1989, our winners have addressed education, medical care, legal, and environmental issues at the local, national, and international levels. They have met the challenges of doing public service under tough conditions abroad and here in the USA. As a group, their most wonderful characteristic is that where others see obstacles, they see opportunities! And, many of their projects are now self-sustaining! These young people don’t take NO for an answer, they persevere – and that gives me hope! I would like to share some of that hope with you now, by recounting just a few of our successes:

Vivek Murthy (now Surgeon General of the US) went to India to set up health services for women in rural areas.

Jeannie Lang founded Let’s Get Ready a tutoring program for kids in underserved schools that links high school students with college students, who tutor them in SAT prep courses. This program is now in its 23rd year in many underserved areas of New York and Boston.

Abraham Awolich (one of the Lost Boys) returned to South Sudan to set up a school for girls and boys in an area with no school, and little hope, especially for girls. Abraham realized that girls were being kept at home to grind corn for the family’s evening meal, so he incorporated a corn grinding machine into the plans for his school!

Sadiqa Basiri went back to Afghanistan to found a college, Oruj, for young women, to train them in practical skills (bookkeeping is one example) so that they could get jobs. She has since fled her country due to persecution by the Taliban, but is determined not to stop educating women, so she has created many of the courses on-line.

Yasmine Arrington started ScholarCHIPS, an organization that provides scholarships to children of incarcerated parents allowing them to attend college. The success of these students is truly amazing, and they could not have done it without Yasmine’s visionary program and support! She was herself the child of an incarcerated parent.

Alex Freid founded PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network) that refurbishes furniture and other ‘stuff’ thrown out by departing college seniors and sells it back to incoming freshmen. PLAN is now operating in over 400 colleges across the USA. A wonderful contribution to our planet.

Brett Davidson started The Connecticut Bail Fund, which used the award to provide bail to selected men and women who were in jail because they could not afford bail. His fund paid their bail, which enabled them to return to their jobs and families. The money they earned is paid back to the Bail Fund and then reinvested in other inmates. His work on behalf of these men and women earned him a free ride to law school in California.

Matthew Meyer, on his year abroad in Kenya, was shocked to see kids not going to school because they could not afford the school uniforms. He used his award to start a small business with those kids, having them make sandals out of used tires! These Eco Sandals are sold by the kids enabling them to buy...
Update on 2022 Award Recipients

Our Spring Newsletter reports on the implementation of projects by our Award Winners from the prior year. As we explain, things rarely go smoothly and our winners often have to make substantial adjustments to overcome obstacles and successfully meet their objectives. This year is no different; both of our Award winners—Joshua Kim from the University of Pennsylvania and Tess Pollins, a graduate of Boston University—have faced significant changes and challenges from their project proposals. Joshua and Tess demonstrate again the competence, creativity, and hard work by our young people that justifies our Sharing Hope for the future.

Joshua Kim’s project was designed to work with patients of a clinic in a low-income neighborhood in West Philadelphia. The goal was to improve communications and health care in the clinic by seeking suggestions from the patients served by the clinic. His idea was to reach out to local people—health ambassadors—to help patients navigate hospitals and understand medical procedures. In other words, Joshua’s goal was to use community input to make the clinic more customer friendly and medical advice understandable to the patients who received it. The result would increase patient participation and satisfaction, producing better outcomes by more patients.

Just as Joshua was starting his project, the local clinic was transferred to a new owner who was not willing to participate in the project. In response, Joshua broke his original project into three parts at different locations. First, he moved the system to improve navigation around the clinic through clear maps and signage to Penn Medicine Family Care, also located in West Philadelphia. Second, he moved his plain language explanation of medical treatment to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital and focused it on a single procedure—the different treatments for salivary duct obstructions. He and his team have produced an illustrated brochure to translate the highly technical processes into plain language for the patients. The results from pilots of both programs have been promising, and this Spring, Joshua presented them to the Society of Teaching of Family Medicine at their annual conference. Both programs will move to full implementation in the remaining period of the project.

In addition to these program elements which were included in the original plan, Joshua has expanded his effort to an entirely new area. Applying the same techniques used in the medical context—community ambassadors and outreach to users—he and his team have designed an after-school program for students who have English as their second language. In the program, students teach other students topics that arise in their normal curriculum. By working through it together, both the student and the student teacher end up with a better understanding of the subject. Joshua also involves parents in the design of the program and its operation. Joshua reports that: “We have seen remarkable progress and feedback from students. One student even exclaimed, ‘can we do this every day? I like this so much better, even more than school.’”

Joshua has demonstrated yet again the flexibility and creativity of our Award winners.
Chakuwama Orphanage in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

We have had few Award winners who have faced the challenges of Tess Pollins. Her proposal was totally organized: she had taken several trips and spent a total of over a year during college working at the Chakuwama Orphanage. She had identified a discrete need to build new expanded facilities to house the children and a new school. Tess had even purchased the land for the new facilities with her own funds. She had a building design and detailed construction estimate based on prior experience with another building that she had developed for the orphanage. She was ready to go.

However, circumstances changed upon her arrival back in Tanzania. A private developer recently purchased 9,000 acres of surrounding land, which ultimately precluded the construction of the orphanage and school at the planned location. Tess then found an alternative site, located close to an existing school about an hour away. Construction of the orphanage at that site is underway. The completion date for the facility at the new site was postponed from May as originally planned to December, 2023.

Completion has recently become much more urgent. Last month, a fire destroyed a portion of the existing orphanage. No one was hurt, but 25 children lost their belongings and several rooms were damaged. As a result, Tess is working to accelerate completion of the new facility at the new location and to raise funds to help the students replace their possessions. She is also working to assure that all residents of the orphanage attend school.

Tess has shown the commitment and creativity necessary to meet the fundamental objective underlying her project proposal. The new orphanage may have a different address and be completed a little later than expected, but it will meet the ultimate objective—decent housing for the children close to school.

Letter from the Chair, continued

uniforms and go to school. Two of the former street kids now own the business! Matt is now County Executive in Delaware and running for governor of that state!

Tashi Zangmo used the award to set up The Bhutan Nuns Foundation to educate nuns in that country where monks are funded by the government, but nuns receive nothing. These nuns now get education and better housing, and go out into their communities serving poor people. Tashi has won the support and patronage of the Queen Mother!

Michael Long started Sail Future with the award money, a program which works with local courts to take selected young people in trouble with the law, and teaches them to sail. Team-work and learning self-discipline are the hallmarks of his successful program, giving these young people hope and skills for a better future.

Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart for sharing the hope that comes from supporting these wonderful young people in Sam’s name and memory.
THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Thank you to our supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 88 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:

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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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