The Samuel Huntington Public Service Award

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2026 Award Recipients	2-3
Thank You to Our Supporters	4
Board Transitions	4

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On the Brink of a Milestone

Dear Friends of the Samuel Huntington Award,

This is an exciting time for the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award. We are on the brink of a major milestone — we expect to issue our 100th Publc Service Award in 2027. We are mobilizing our network of prior award recipients to help celebrate this occasion. In the coming year we will be sharing with you news about their extraordinary accomplishments and our vision of what can be accomplished by our our next 100 recipients.

In addition to updating you on our Award Recipients for 2026, I thought that this Newsletter would be a good opportunity for you to hear from one of our most long-standing, dedicated, and loyal Board members — George Sasdi. For those of you that don't know him, George was a Senior Vice President and the Chief Engineer at New England Electric System (NEES) and worked closely with Sam when he was CEO. Also in this Newletter we will update you on some transitions on our Board as we wish Judy Haynes farewell on her retirement and welcome two new Board members.



Jennifer Huntington
Chair

Jennifer Huntington

Lessons Learned Over Nearly 40 Years



George P. Sasdi

I have served on the Fund since it was established in 1989. Over these many years, I have witnessed the extraordinary ideas and accomplishments of the young people who have received the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award. Our Award Winners have consistently demonstrated imagination, inventiveness, and infectious enthusiasm. Their projects do not just provide a handout to those in need. Rather, they give people the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and resources to improve their own lives—to **help people help themselves.**

That principle has always had special meaning for me. I grew up in Hungary and experienced firsthand the painful consequences of war, poverty, and deprivation. I therefore have a particular appreciation for what our Huntington Fellows have accomplished in communities where genuine needs exist.

Their impact has often extended far beyond the people they initially set out to serve. Collectively, their work has touched the lives of millions of people in the United States and around the world. I have also come to appreciate how much the experience benefits the Fellows themselves. A year devoted to confronting real problems, working with people in difficult circumstances, and taking responsibility for making something happen can be transformative. Many of our Fellows have gone on to become leaders in their professions, communities, and fields of public service. I believe their Huntington experience has helped shape the way they see the world and

Continued on page 4

2026 Award Recipients

We have three new Samuel Huntington Award recipients that graduated this year and are hard at work on their projects — Cynthia Amoaba, of Bryn Mawr; Hemza Tarawneh from Penn State; and Blen Yohannes of Northeastern University. Summaries of their projects follow:

Shea Butter Cooperative in Northern Ghana



Cynthia Amoaba is starting a cooperative for women who produce Shea butter in Dalun and surrounding villages in Northern Ghana. Shea butter is an ingredient in natural skin care products sold around the world. The women producing it are being exploited by middlemen who capture nearly all the margin from the women's production, and deprive the women of a living wage. The women cannot afford to send their daughters to local schools and the daughters have no incentive to stay in their village. As a result, children are moving to the cities where they face homelessness, and local communities are being undermined.

Cynthia intends to address these problems by creating a Shea Butter Cooperative. The Cooperative will allow the women to: 1) purchase modern equipment for safer operation and improved production; 2) establish direct market connections to reduce reliance on middlemen; 3) deliver financial literacy training to participating women so that they can run the business; and 4) create career mentorship sessions for the adolescent girls to reduce migration from the villages. The ultimate goal is to improve the women's ability to cover the costs of basic household needs, including their children's education and healthcare costs.

Like so many of our award recipients, Cynthia is using her Public Service Award to establish a long-term solution to a fundamental problem in her own village. The Award provides the venture capital for public service that will continue, compound, and grow in future years.

The Shade Program in Jordan

Hemza Tarawneh's project provides his long-term benefits differently — he builds structures. Working with local contractors and refugee organizations, The Shade Project will site, install, and maintain permanent shade structures in the outdoor spaces of Jordan's Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps. Thousands of square feet of shade will reduce UV exposure and heat-related illness for the refugees for years to come.



Eighty percent of the refugees in the camps are women and children. The camps are in Jordon's desert where daytime temperatures can reach 121 degrees Fahrenheit. Most daily activities, school, and recreation occur outside. The Shade Program will target sites with high activity such as classrooms, clinics, play areas, water collection points, and meeting places. It will also include an education component. Residents will be sent bilingual flyers that explain the project, the health risks of exposure to UV and extreme heat, and practical strategies for sun and heat protection.

Hemza plans to use his experience and contacts from his first year with the Award to expand the Shade Project to other sites in Jordan. The Samuel Huntington Award furthers this expansion. Hemza notes that Jordan has governmental funding "designed to sustain and scale projects once they are underway." Our Award provides the seed money, and Hemza's hard work will establish the value of The Shade Project, leading to continued funding by the government of Jordan and expansion to other sites.

A Mother's Support Center In Ethiopia



Blen Yohannes' project is located at Saint Paul's Hospital, Ethiopia's most advanced treatment center for pediatric care. Mothers from all over the country bring their small children for treatment of serious conditions. The medical care for the child is free. However, Blen recognized that these mothers face another serious issue; many from rural areas cannot afford a reasonable place to stay during the child's treatment. Rather, the women are housed in a hospital corridor lined with beds without basic amenities and support during one of the most difficult times of their lives.

Working with the Hospital and Global Health Systems Empowerment Network, Blen's project addresses this issue by creating a Mother's Support Center at the Hospital. She begins by providing the necessary infrastructure, including a privacy area for mothers to change and bathe, a common area where mothers can meet and support each other, and equipment necessary for basic hygiene care, health monitoring, and living requirements. The project also supports the mothers well being using peer groups, education of the hospital staff, and bi-weekly health workshops reaching 200 mothers in the first year. In addition, she connects the mothers to local women's organizations, and will distribute health education materials in the three languages used in Ethiopia. Finally, she documents the process and training to facilitate the continuation of the project beyond the first year.

In short, Blen will change a barren hospital corridor lined with beds, into a well-equipped and supportive center designed to help mothers through a terrible period in their and their child's lives.

Lessons Learned Over Nearly 40 Years, continued from page 1

their responsibility within it.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity and commitment of our donors. Their belief in Sam Huntington's vision has enabled us to continue awarding exceptional young graduates each year. We are deeply grateful to them.

As we approach the presentation of our **100th Samuel Huntington Public Service Award next year**, I find myself thinking both about what we have accomplished and about the responsibility we have to preserve this opportunity for future generations. The world continues to have enormous needs, and there continues to be no shortage of young people with the imagination, courage, and determination to address them. Our challenge is to make sure the Huntington Fund will be there for them.

The 100th Award will be an important moment to celebrate Sam's vision and the remarkable achievements of our Fellows. It will also mark the beginning of an exciting new chapter as we look toward securing the Fund's future for generations to come. I am particularly encouraged that younger members are joining our Board. They bring fresh ideas and new energy while sharing our commitment to preserving the original mission and spirit of the Huntington Fund.

For me, being part of this journey has been both rewarding and humbling and has been one of the highlights of my life. I have had the extraordinary privilege of watching generation after generation of talented young people take an idea, pursue it with determination, and use their talents to help others help themselves.

I cannot think of a better legacy for Sam Huntington — or a more hopeful reason to look forward to the next 100 awards.

George Sasdi

Thank You to Our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 98 Public Service Awards to graduates of 45 colleges and universities. Please keep the Fund in mind as you consider your year-end charitable giving. You can make a tax deductible contribution at any time by visiting our website (www.samuelhuntingtonaward.org) or sending a check to: The Samuel Huntington Fund,c/o Ms. Amy Stacy, National Grid, 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02451.

For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Thank you for your consideration!

Board Transitions

As noted in Jenny's letter, Judy Haynes has elected to retire from the Board. Judy has been an important part of the Fund since its inception, reading countless applications, offering inciteful comments on them, and assisting in all aspects of administering the Fund. We will miss working with her, but she remains a wonderful friend. We have also added two new members to the Board. Jessie Cronan (Sam Huntington's great niece) brings extensive experience with non-profit organizations, which will be invaluable as the Fund navigates its path into the future. And Jason Lynch, a prior awardee, whose professional life has built on that public service experience. Both Jessie and Jason bring enthusiastic organizational skills and knowledge of our operations to the Board.



Judith Haynes



Jessie Cronan



Jason Lynch

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