Dear Friends of the Samuel Huntington Award,

Next year will be the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Samuel Huntington Fund and we hope to celebrate in a big way! Meanwhile, the list of our winners continues to grow, and we are always delighted that there are college seniors who want to do public service and are creative enough to see issues in education, health, the environment and the law that need attention! When we do the initial reading of the applications, we always ask ourselves if the project is sustainable. Is this something that will make the candidate feel good for a year, or is it something that has a real chance of getting more funding and continuing?

Sustainability has become our watchword – both sustaining the Fund and the projects. Thanks to your continued gifts and interest, we are able to sustain the Fund, and increase the award. Your donations help us give the award to these creative young people so that they can go out into the world – and many far-flung parts of the world – and help people help themselves. We keep in touch with many of our winners and are always impressed with their ability to leverage the Samuel Huntington Award to raise more money and thus sustain their work.

Yasmine Arrington (recently named a CNN hero) has raised more money to sustain Scholar-CHIPS and send children of incarcerated parents to college; Alex Freid has raised more funds over ten years to help save our environment from overuse of landfills; Jeannie Rosenthal’s:Let’s Get Ready (now celebrat-ing 25 years) has secured funding to send thousands of kids to college with improved SAT scores; Sharad Sagar’s Dexterity Global program in India has connected more than seven million young Indian students with global educational opportunities ... I could go on and on. It is a list of which we are very proud – and it is sustained both by your donations and the hard work of our winners. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. We hope you will join us next year as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of a truly remarkable, very unique, and wonderfully sustainable Fund.

Jennifer Huntington
Chair
2023 Award Recipients

This year we awarded three Public Service Awards — one to Seungwon (Lucy) Lee, a neuroscience major from the University of Pennsylvania, a second to Alexandra Potter, a bioengineering major from the University of California at Berkeley, and a third to Jahnavi Rao, a government major at Harvard College. Summaries of their exciting projects follow.

Training Healthcare Workers in Uganda

Lucy Lee’s project focuses on prenatal training and infant mortality in rural Ugandan villages. About half of childbirth deaths occur in the first day after birth. In 2022, Lucy worked with local health care workers and experts to develop an accurate and culturally appropriate prenatal curriculum for pregnant women that includes this critical time period. Specifically, she trains health care workers how to determine when hospital care is required for mothers or infants.

The curriculum was piloted in 15 villages. Lucy now proposes to broaden its geography and audiences. She is expanding the program from 15 to 58 villages throughout the Budondo Parish. She will also include men in the education program, so that the men can recognize the need for and arrange emergency hospital care when complications arise. Finally, Lucy will include religious leaders in the course. She has signed up both Christian and Muslim leaders to a three year program that will create different and appropriate curricula for each religion. The religious leaders have also agreed to encourage local churches and mosques to include ten minutes at the end of weekly preaching sessions to deliver curriculum lessons.

Lucy has developed an innovative and necessary program in a culturally sensitive way. When the program is fully implemented, the curriculum and approach can be used as a model for other developing regions.

Screening for Lung Cancer in Boston

Alexandra Potter also focuses on a critical health issue — lung cancer among Black Americans. She explains that 130,000 Americans die each year from lung cancer and Black people are 22 percent more likely to be diagnosed with advanced cases, yet only six percent of eligible Black Americans are being screened.

To address this issue, Alexandra proposed an outreach program to inform people of the need for and availability of lung cancer screening. This advertising and public outreach is then followed by community workshops, which determine eligibility for screening candidates (based on smoking history and other criteria), explains the process for screening (including the need for annual checkups), and schedules the screening appointment. The
Screening for Lung Cancer in Boston, continued

screening itself is completed through low-dose computed tomography. Finally, Alexandra will monitor the outcomes from her project in Boston and, if successful, expand the program to other cities.

Alexandra has an established commitment to cancer screening. She co-founded the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative. The Boston outreach program is a significant enhancement, which will save lives through early detection and treatment of an underserved population. We are happy to support her effort.

Fostering Civic Engagement in the U. S.

Jahnavi Rao also has a long-term commitment to her project—she began it in high school. She started New Voters and engaged college mentors and high school mentors in over 300 high school chapters to help students to register to vote. In so doing, she works with over 70 organizations, including Republicans of America and High School Democrats, to register voters and encourage civic engagement by high school teens.

Jahnavi now proposes to expand her efforts to include more students and more communities. She wants to register 300,000 students before the 2024 primary season, increase the number of chapters to 1500, including 500 in low-income neighborhoods, and increase the number of schools that stay with the program from year to year despite the graduation of student leaders and the turnover of schools.

Though Jahnavi’s goals focus on numbers and quantitative values, the program offers participants much more than voter registrations. A letter from her colleague included reports by Jahnavi and other student leaders on the impact that the program had on their lives. The reports include the following:

“Although I am almost 3000 miles away from Jahnavi, she and New Voters have changed my life, and given me the tools, resources and confidence to pursue a career in public service.”

“New Voters was the driving force behind the public affairs major I decided upon for college and ultimately the career I hope to pursue in my future. It equipped me with skills that have applied to every sector of my life from leadership to teamwork and organization to strategic planning.”

“My time at New Voters was a period of growth for me and shaped me into the type of leader that I am now and I would not have the skills I do now without Jahnavi as my leader for that time in the organization.”

All this and 300,000 registered voters taking their first step to civic engagement is a very good value for the student leaders, the new voters, and the country as a whole.
Thank you to our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989 and, thanks to you, has now granted 88 Public Service Awards, with a cumulative value of almost $1.1 million. 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
170 Data Drive
Waltham, MA 02451

For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter.

Have you considered making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)? QCD’s, commonly know as an "IRA Charitable Rollover", can be made from a Roth or traditional IRA. There are specific rules that you must follow for the QCD to be claimed as a gift — you must be 70½ years old or older at the time of the gift and the gift must be made directly to the charitable organization. If you have reached the age where you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD), your QCD gift can satisfy some or all of your RMD thereby reducing the amount you can be taxed on. It is not difficult to make a QCD, just ask your IRA administrator for their QCD form and any related procedures.

Thank you for your consideration!

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