

THE SAMUEL HUNTINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

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WHERE DO OUR WINNERS COME FROM? WHERE DO THEY GO? WHAT DO THEY GO ON TO DO?

Dear Friends of the Sam Huntington Award,

2014 is a special year for the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award because it marks 25 years since the fund was started! In that time we have given out 61 awards, of which only two were not completed. Of those awards, 23 were for projects within the USA, and 38 for projects abroad. Out of the 61 awards, 22 of the projects are still ongoing, which is remarkable evidence of sustainability! Our winners include 23 men and 38 women, of whom 5 were non-US citizens.

Over the 25 years, our applicants have come from colleges and universities across the country. When we first started this award, in 1989, the majority of the applicants went to schools with familiar names: Brown, Grinnell, Harvard, Middle-

bury, and Mount Holyoke. In recent years we have seen the list of schools our applicants come from expand both geographically and in size to include: Salem State, Wake Forest, Bowdoin, Duke, New College of Florida, Emory, Stonehill, Temple, and many others. This year our applicants were attending 41 different colleges. This is great news and means that our award is getting recognition both through the website, and because it is one of the very few such awards that has no restrictions about citizenship.

In the last issue I wrote about sustainability as one criterion in our selection process. We continue to believe that is very important. In addition, many of our applicants want to make a difference in some very difficult and dangerous places. Of course, by definition, public service is proba-



Jennifer Huntington
Chair

bly not going to happen in safe, clean, affluent communities! So, what do we think about applications where the student wants to go to Afghanistan? Kenya? Trenton, NJ? Bangladesh? Chicago, IL? Haiti? Nigeria? Detroit, MI? Most of these foreign countries, and some of the communities here in the USA, are truly dangerous places, and some are listed by the State Department as too dangerous for travel. Others within the USA are probably almost as dangerous – after all working in inner-city Detroit schools, or on some of

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Updates from 2013 Award Winners

Last year, we selected three winners, who have been working throughout the year to establish and grow their own public service projects. Here are their updates:

Recycling Waste at College and University Campuses



Alex Fried developed the idea for his public service project while a student at his alma mater, the University of New Hampshire. He noticed that at the end of each school year, the streets would be clogged with furniture and other potentially reusable items that would be perfectly suitable for next year's students. Accordingly, he started Trash 2 Treasure to collect the reusable items from departing students, and sell them back to incoming students at the beginning of the next school year. The program reduces trash disposal from the university and produces income to sustain the operation. The problem occurs at every college and university, and Alex wanted to expand the idea to other schools. During the past year he has established a new organization called Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) and gained membership from fifteen universities and colleges throughout the eastern United States, including several New England colleges, Tulane, the University of Maryland and William & Mary. He has also established a comprehensive program for starting a recycling program for the participating schools. PLAN trains students, suggests best practices for recycling programs, arranges discounts with participating vendors, and helps with fund-raising for participating organizations and student groups.

After graduating from Wake Forest, **Bentrice Jusu** returned home to help teens in Trenton, New Jersey through a creative program, called Both Hands The Artlet. Since receiving her Award, Bentrice has completed the design of her program, developed the curriculum, including manuals for both students and instructors, and implemented an after school program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Trenton. The program offers dance, music, film, photography, and poetry to participating students. The students are instructed by mentors, who are also trained by Both Hands.

Creative Expression for Young People of All Backgrounds in Trenton, NJ

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SAT Preparation and University Application Support for Monrovia Youth



Mahmud Johnson returned to war torn Liberia after graduating from Dartmouth to help other high school students apply to American colleges. He established a web-site, and spoke directly to students at several high schools in the area, receiving over 300 applications, interviewing 60, and selecting 30 for the program. He has also recruited tutors including several Liberians who have studied in the United States and Americans living in Monrovia. The classes were designed to focus on researching schools, preparing for SAT tests, and learning about the application process to schools and for scholarships. Unfortunately, because of the continuing effects of the conflicts in Liberia on the education system, Mahmud found that most of the students were not qualified for college, and

that more training time is needed for college preparation. Accordingly, he has modified his program to reach out to younger tenth grade students with a more comprehensive education approach. The program now has a longer term design to assure better preparation and a greater potential for success of the participating student.

This Year the Samuel Huntington Award Celebrates 25 Years of Wonderful Winners, and We Have Plenty to Cheer About!

Past Winners Get National Recognition

We are proud to share with you, our supporters and donors, that this has been a banner year for three of our past winners:

- **Angela Lee Duckworth** (1992) won an unsolicited McArthur genius award for her work as an educational psychologist.
- **Vivek Murthy** (1997) has been nominated to be Surgeon General of the United States.
- **Mark Arnoldy** (2010) was recognized as a “Forbes 30 Under 30” entrepreneur.

We asked each of them to tell us what winning the Samuel Huntington Award meant in their lives and careers. Here’s what they said:

Angela: “The Samuel Huntington Award put me on a path – at age 22 – I am still on today: working to help kids try hard, learn, and succeed. Without that early support, I would never have been able to take those first impetuous steps. I am forever grateful not only for the financial resources, but also the confidence and community the award provided!”



Vivek: “Though it was many years ago, I still remember how excited I was to find the application to the Samuel Huntington public service award. I was finishing my last year of college classes and had been discussing an exciting idea with friends to build a rural community health partnership in India which would provide much needed health education and basic care to underserved communities. But we didn’t have the resources to create the partnership. Jennifer Huntington and the members of board were kind enough to award me a grant for the year, and it was this that allowed us to translate our dream into a reality. Thousands of rural residents received care in the coming years and we trained young women from local villages to be health care educators and basic providers. The project which we called Swasthya touched many lives and strengthened my resolve to pursue a career in medicine and public health.”



Mark: “The Award allowed me to return to Nepal after graduation in 2010 to invest in solving a problem that came to define my undergraduate experience: malnutrition and health care in that country. I worked alongside a fantastic Nepali healthcare social entrepreneur, and later founded Nyaya Health (now Possible Health) which, to date, has treated 167,000 patients and employs 170 Nepalis.”



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Where do our winners come from? *continued*

the streets of Trenton, or areas of Chicago can be very problematic. I sometimes ask myself what the parents of these visionary, brave and committed young people feel about their sons/daughters going to such places. Do they hope their precious young person doesn't win our award? So far no one has turned us

down! In recent years we have supported winners in Kabul, Afghanistan; Monrovia, Liberia; Trenton, NJ; Sana, South Sudan and other places that are often featured in the news because of the dangers there.

So, as we celebrate 25 years of giving out awards, we are very grateful for the

support you give us both in encouragement and in dollars. I often wish that you could meet our winners in person, and vice versa, because when we meet them, we are so inspired and we know you would be also! Even if you can't meet them except in our newsletters, please know that you are helping change lives in

some remote and difficult places of our world as well as here at home. On behalf of our winners, their families, the people they are working with, and everyone who knew Sam, **thank you all for 25 years of support!**

Sincerely,

Jennifer Huntington

Thank you to our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989, and has now granted 61 Public Service Awards. None of what has been accomplished through these awards would have been possible without the generous contributions of our supporters. We are sincerely grateful to the individuals listed below that have made a contribution since our last newsletter was published. As your circumstances permit, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the Samuel Huntington Fund. For your convenience, a pre-addressed envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. You can also make a contribution at any time by sending a check to: The Samuel Huntington Fund, c/o Ms. Amy Stacy, National Grid, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451. Thank you for your consideration!

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