Dear Friends of the Sam Huntington Award,

A question that we, the members of the selection committee, often ask ourselves as we read the applications is: Is this project sustainable? In other words can our award truly make a difference beyond the one year that a winner will devote to it? In some ways this is a fair question! We are awarding $10,000 as “social venture capital” and hoping for some return both for the winner and for you our donor-investors!

Sustainable is a tough word to define, and it is often thought of in connection to the field of energy! I have spent some time going back over the 59 awards we have given so far to determine how many projects are still ongoing, and/or which awards have enabled our winners to sustain a leadership role in his or her chosen field or profession. Over and over I hear from former winners how grateful they are for the opportunity we provided, and how much being a winner has meant to their lives, hopes, dreams and careers. They always say how very grateful they are that we believed in them!

On the whole, I think the answer to my question is: Yes, many projects are sustainable, and have been sustained, some for many years. For others, the winner’s project did not continue, but s/he has truly demonstrated sustained leadership. Here is a sampling of those projects we helped start and which are still on-going:

1990 Kent Koth: Alternative Spring Break (which he wrote about in our last newsletter)
1990 David Milner: Funds for a Community’s Future, now Community Impact!
1992 Angela Lee: Summerbridge Cambridge
1994 Matthew Meyer (featured in this newsletter) started vocational training and schooling for street children in Nairobi, Kenya
1999 Tashi Zangmo: Bhutan Nuns Foundation
2000 Jeannie Lang Rosenthal: Let’s Get Ready, a college access/SAT-tutoring program

2002 Karina Weinstein: Esperanza Cultural Center in the slums of Santiago, Chile, and she still supports the children who attended.
2004 Edwardo Valero: La Casa Cultural in Orosi, CA
2004 Vadim Ostrovsky: Click Ukraine to find and donate computers to needy students in his native Ukraine
2006 Abraham Awolich: SUDEF, which provides basic medical and maternal health care in a clinic in S. Sudan
2008 Kelly Quinn started a reading center for children in an orphanage in the Dominican Republic
2009 Sadiqa Basiri started the first women’s commu-

Continued on page 4
2013 Award Winners

Another wonderful year! We selected three candidates for public service in New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Monrovia, Liberia. The projects are all exciting; the winners each spectacular. We are confident that this group will continue the pattern of extraordinary service which past winners have so firmly established.

Recycling Waste at College and University Campuses

Alex Fried arrived at his project through observation of year-end activity at the University of New Hampshire, his alma mater. As he reports, trash at the University balloons at the end of the school year from 25 tons per month to 125 tons as students throw away reusable items that next year’s classes will immediately replace. Alex had a better idea. He started Trash 2 Treasure, a student led organization that collects the reusable items, stores them over the summer, and sells them back to incoming students in a fund-raising sale during move-in weekend. The program reduced trash disposal from the university, and produced income ($11,000 in the first year and $20,000 in the second) to sustain and expand the efforts of the organization. He now proposes to extend the program to other on-campus waste reduction and recycling, and to take the program to other campuses across the country. His efforts are now moving forward under the name PLAN (Post-Action Landfill Network) with the support of our Public Service Award.

Creative Expression for Young People of All Backgrounds in Monrovia

Bentrice Jusu’s project began with her focus close to home. While an art student at Wake Forest, she started Both Hands to provide a haven for creative expression for young people of all backgrounds in her home town of Trenton, New Jersey. Both Hands is the only arts-based organization in Trenton that specifically serves teens. Both Hands began as a pilot program serving twelve students for three weeks in the summer; it expanded 32 students with four interns the next year. Bentrice now proposes to expand it to a year-round program with an after-school component initially in two and ultimately in all four of the community centers in Trenton, and to make a template that can be replicated elsewhere. As Bentrice explains, Both Hands “defies conventional wisdom.” It welcomes “all teens as they are and acknowledges the important insights they possess.” It rejects “the assumption that teens are broken people waiting to be mended” and fosters interactive relationships where mentors and youth learn from one another. Bentrice has a wonderful idea; her project has our support.

SAT Preparation and University Application Support for Monrovia

Mahmud Johnson’s project is also focused on his home city, Monrovia, Liberia, where he is returning after graduation from Dartmouth. His proposal, the iTeach, iLearn Project, will provide guidance to top-performing seniors in Monrovia who are interested in applying to American schools. The program will help students navigate the application and financial aid process, and provide SAT and essay writing tutorials. In return, the participating students will agree to serve as mentors and study coaches to elementary, low-income students. Mahmud’s objectives are to increase the number of well-trained professionals in post-conflict Liberia, and to provide young, positive role models for children in low-income communities. He expects to serve 100 high school seniors, ensuring that 90 percent submit their applications, and that 80 percent of those who are admitted return to Liberia after graduation to work for at least two years. He also plans to see an increase in the time spent by elementary students studying and doing community service with their mentors, leading to increases in their academic achievements. He is now implementing his project with the support of the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award.
Reflections from a Prior Award

Matthew Meyer
Samuel Huntington Award Winner, 1994

In 1992 I first walked into the Mathare Valley neighborhood in Nairobi, Kenya. Squatting in temporary homes, over 500,000 human beings are packed within about 5 square kilometers. There, residents live in a squalor that remains unimaginable to me 21 years later. For weeks as a college student I interned in Mathare Valley at the Undugu Society of Kenya, providing homeless children with safe places to call home, nutritious meals, schooling and job training. But some of the older kids wanted more. They wanted direct access to the wealth and security that so many of the volunteers had. Most had a plan, and all of those plans started with a volunteer like me providing a large donation.

Along with another volunteer, a young Kenyan, I wanted to help some of those older kids with a little different plan. Rather than living in constant reliance on donations from far-away lands, the plan would begin with a product. The oldest homeless young adults at the shelter would start a business. Instead of begging for money, they would sell their product. If it didn’t sell, they would make it better until it did.

But there was a problem. I was a college student with no money. And there were grants for NGOs and non-profits but there was no money for a group of energetic young people, from families that all had incomes of less than $15 monthly, to start a business. So I spent a year in college looking. For the first time in my life, I faced rejection. Lots of rejection. Foundations do not fund poor people starting businesses, I frequently was told.

But Jennifer and the Samuel Huntington Fund board listened. Years before President Clinton declared that trade not aid should govern US assistance to Africa, the Samuel Huntington Fund got it. Months later, with funding only from the Samuel Huntington Fund, Ecosandals was born.

Within a few years, these Nairobi young adults were running a global business, recognized by CNN, Kofi Annan and the global Youth Employment Summit for their innovative work using technology to spark economic development. The director was invited to Washington to address World Bank policymakers on how to use technology to directly alleviate poverty. Sandal artisans travelled to Kampala and Dar es Salaam and Accra. And to Halifax and Washington, to Stockholm and Alexandria. Many have been able to finish high school, in a free evening high school program developed and funded by Ecosandals for the workers and the surrounding community.

Today, any customer ordering online receives personally written email correspondence directly from our workshop, just beside the Mathare Valley, directly from the sandal artisan who produces the footwear. Customers become Facebook friends with our artisans. Every artisan owns shares in Ecosandals, and many have been trained in investing and use their earnings to buy and sell shares on the local Nairobi Stock Exchange. Ecosandals has never employed more than 40 Kenyans, though, as Ecosandals buys all equipment and product inputs within 50 kilometers of our workshop, the business supports the livelihoods of the working poor throughout the Mathare Valley and surrounding neighborhoods.

For me, personally, the Samuel Huntington Award enabled me to realize my 21 year-old dream. Years ago I moved on from full-time work with Ecosandals. I have been a corporate lawyer, a senior economic adviser for the State Department in Iraq and, recently, an economic adviser to a US governor. And along my path, I never forget the tremendous power of giving young people the resources to put their ideas into action.

Those resources, just that initial seed from the Samuel Huntington Fund, has meant so much to me over the past 21 years, and so much more to so many Ecosandals owners in and around the Mathare Valley. But don’t take my word for it. They will tell you themselves on Facebook.

MATTHEW MEYER
The Samuel Huntington Public Service

Sustainability? continued

nity college in Kabul, Afghanistan

2010 Mark Arnoldy: NYAYA, a health clinic in western Nepal serving the poorest people of that region.

2010 Arielle Tolman: Shining Hope a project to improve maternal health care, and encourage better nutrition in Kibera, one of the poorest slums in Nairobi, Kenya

2011 Cory Rodgers started a cooperative chicken farm in Tanzania serving farmers with HIV/AIDS

2012 Tasmia Khan: Brighter Dawns, which helps provide fresh drinking water and private washrooms for women in Bangladeshi slums

Each of these projects has stood the test of time, some longer than others, and some have grown exponentially. Jeannie Lang Rosenthal’s Let’s Get Ready held a fund-raising gala in New York last fall, which raised over $1 million dollars! In a previous newsletter I told of the successes and awards that our winners have received. This time I am proud to share with you that Angela Lee Duckworth was awarded a prestigious, unsolicited 2013 MacArthur Foundation “genius grant” of $625,000 in recognition of her work as a research psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania. Angela has focused on the role of “grit” as a predictor of success in school. Angie, we are so proud of you! I truly believe that all of our winners have shown grit and determination in pursuit of their projects in some of the most challenging environments and situations.

Your generous gifts to the Samuel Huntington Fund continue to reap rewards for our winners, their projects, and for those who need help to help themselves. To each of our winners - congratulations and thank you to all our donors who make this award sustainable!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Huntington

Thank you to our Supporters!

The Samuel Huntington Fund was established in 1989, and has now granted 59 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 within the last 12 months. As year-end approaches, 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!

Betty & John Amoroso
Lawrence Bailey
Edward Berlin
Don & Ann Berwick
Aurolyn Boda
Joan T. Bok
Peter A. Brigham
John Cochrane
Eric & Christine Cody
Dan Coquille
Peter J. Davidian
Bernetta Avery-DeNyse &
Gavin DeNyse
John & Nancy Dickson
Peter Dill
William F. Dowd
Angela & Jason Duckworth
Dugald Fletcher
Peter Flynn
Douglas Foy
Ronald & Kathleen Gerwatowski

Tom & Peggy Gilbert
Don & Susan Goodwin
Fred & Jocie Greenman
Joseph & Diethild Harrington
Charles Hartshorne
Peggy & John Heywood
Matt Hills
Russell A. Holden
Alfred & Patricia Houston
Clare Huntington & Nestor Davidson
David Huntington
Jennifer Huntington
Olivia Huntington
Thomas & Sprague Huntington
Michael & Janet Jesanis
Ralph & Margaret Johanson
Rick & Weezie Johnson
Paul L. Jokow
John & Barbara Kaslow
Margi Katz

David Kennedy
Rosalie Kerr
Carol & Lance Liebman
Jon Lowell
Ann & Bill Macdonald
Bob & Sue McCabe
Robert McLaren
David & Kara Milner
Bill & Sue Morrill
Vivek Murthy
Guy W. Nichols
Jane O’Connor
John Palmer
Lydia Pastuszek & Brian Monahan
Tony & Sally Pini
Kirk & Connie Ramsauer
William Reardon
Larry Reilly & Shannon Larson
Jim Robinson
Christopher Root

John W. & Jeanne M. Rowe
Scott & Marcia Ryder
Nancy & Albert Sala
George & Susan Sasdi
Glenn R. & Sandra K.
Schleeede
Rick Sergel
Alexander & Irene Severance
Emily Shamieh
Carolyn & Dick Shohet
Milton H. Steen
Joanna & Peter Strauss
Joan & Steve Subrin
Theresa J. Sullivan
Alice H. Thompson
Rufin Van Bossuyt
Lee Warren
Jack & Kristine Watkins
Timothy Wirth
Laura Zimmerman & Joe Shay

Samuel Huntington Fund Officers and Directors

- Jennifer Huntington Chair
- Frederic Greenman President
- Thomas Robinson Clerk
- Lawrence Reilly Treasurer
- Judith Haynes Assistant Clerk
- George Sasdi
- Peter Flynn
- David Milner