Dear Friends of the Sam Huntington Award,

Once again, it is such a pleasure to send this newsletter out to you with our news about this year’s winners. In fact, their projects just happen to coincide with three interests of Sam’s: sailing, education and gardening. (Well actually, the latter was more my interest, but Sam was always ready and willing to help with an axe or a shovel!) These three young men, graduating from Temple University, New College of Florida, and Bowdoin, all represent the very best qualities of our winners: smart, caring, visionary and energetic. Each has seen a big social problem, but instead of simply thinking that it’s too big to tackle, each of them has thought of ways to make a difference. I hope you enjoy reading about them, and knowing that your very kind donations make it possible for us to continue this unique award – thank you!

Speaking of donations, until now the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award has been classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a Private Foundation, which meant we could not receive gifts from most “Donor Advised Funds”, which generally only give to Public Charities. This year, thanks to Larry Reilly’s persistence and patience, we now have a determination from the IRS that changes all that. The Samuel Huntington Fund is now considered a Public Charity by the IRS. So, if your preference is to donate through a Donor Advised Fund at a financial institution, say Fidelity, you should now be able to do so. If you encounter any issues, we have posted the IRS determination letter on our website.

As I have said in prior newsletters, keeping in touch with past winners gives me such pleasure and joy. You will read about Jamie Metzl in this newsletter. Jamie graduated from Brown and was among our very first winners. His interest in East Asia has only grown since he went to Cambodia to work with refugees as part of his project. Jamie is now the major networks’ “go to” man when they want more information about events in China or Hong Kong, and can

Jennifer Huntington
Chair
2014 Award Winners

Using Vacant Lots for Urban Farms in Philadelphia and Beyond

Alexander Epstein co-founded “Philadelphia Urban Creators” while a student at Temple University. Philadelphia Urban Creators empowers inner-city youth to transform blighted urban landscapes and abandoned lots into community farms. Working with local residents and young entrepreneurs, he transformed over three acres in North Philadelphia into a network of farms and gardens that are tended by hundreds of inner city students. The farms sell their produce to center city restaurants, creating a revenue stream and building a financially stable program. Alex applied for the Huntington Award to expand the program across Philadelphia, the region (a new program, including a roof top garden is underway in New York City), and the nation. We were delighted to give him the opportunity.

Providing School-Based Health Services in Zambia

As a Freshman, Lonnie Hackett was one of five students selected from a pool of 400,000 to be a national scholar athlete by the National Football Foundation, the first student ever to receive the award at Bowdoin. After the next summer spent as a volunteer in Zambia, he changed his priorities. He dropped football and started a program to provide medical services and health education in Zambia. As he said “I couldn’t help the children of Zambia and continue to spend forty hours a week playing football.” He has completed a pilot project, through which health professionals provide screenings for students and 10-hour teacher workshops for educators. Based on feedback, he would like to extend the teacher education to a full week, add clean drinking water at schools, and implement a program to refer students to clinics for care. With the Samuel Huntington Public Service Award, he will expand the program to 35 schools with 40 hours of training for two teachers at each school, a full health education curriculum and referral system at each school, and equipment and training for clean water at each location. Lonnie certainly has his priorities straight; we are happy to help him realize his dream.

Sailing to Divert Youth from Detention Facilities in Florida

Michael Long is a graduate of New University in Sarasota. He is also a graduate of the Florida Juvenile Justice system. He explains, “As someone who exited the juvenile justice system and experienced the same limited opportunities and pressures to revert to delinquent behavior, I feel a duty and great passion to create opportunity for youth struggling to improve their lives.” He has provided this opportunity through sailing. In Sarasota, he created SailFuture to partner a college student with each juvenile in a fourteen foot sailboat. Because neither one knew how to sail, the student and youth work together to master the art of keeping the boat afloat and on course, forming an enduring relationship. Michael is now trying a different approach to target a more troubled population through sailing. Specifically, he is working with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to develop a diversion program. The program will keep high-risk youth out of detention facilities by taking them on a six month sailing journey through the Caribbean. During the sail, the students will work on global service projects, earn their GEDs, and receive regular counseling services. The voyage is designed to help each youth chart a new course for life. No one is better able to lead the effort than Michael.
Profile of a Prior Award Winner

Jamie Metzl was one of the first Samuel Huntington Fund winners in 1990. Jamie is now Senior Advisor to a New York-based global investment firm and a Senior Fellow of the Atlantic Council. He previously served as Executive Vice President of the Asia Society, Deputy Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senior Coordinator for International Public Information at the U.S. State Department, Director for Multilateral Affairs on the National Security Council, and as a Human Rights Officer for the United Nations in Cambodia. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives from Missouri’s Fifth Congressional District in Kansas City in 2004. He has served as an election monitor on Afghanistan and the Philippines and advised the government of North Korea on the establishment of Special Economic Zones.

Jamie appears regularly on national and international media discussing Asian economic and political issues and his syndicated columns and other writing on Asian affairs, genetics, virtual reality, and other topics is featured regularly in publications around the world. He has testified before Congress outlining emergency preparedness recommendations after 9-11 and on the national security implications of the biotechnology and genomics revolutions and is the author of a history of the Cambodian genocide and the novel The Depths of the Sea, both published by St. Martin’s Press. His novel Genesis Code, dealing with issues of human genetic enhancement in the context of a future US-China rivalry, will be published by Arcade in November 2014.

A founder and Co-Chair of the national security organization Partnership for a Secure America, Jamie is a board member of the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Jewish refugee agency HIAS, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a former White House Fellow and Aspen Institute Crown Fellow, and is the Honorary Ambassador to North America of the Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy. He holds a Ph.D. in Asian history from Oxford, a JD from Harvard Law School, and is a magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University. He has completed twelve Ironman triathlons, twenty-four marathons, and nine ultra-marathons. You can follow Jamie’s work at his blog: http://www.jamiemetzl.com.

The Huntington award came at a critical point in my life. I was full of passion about human rights issues and had some experience in the field, but I needed help moving to Cambodia and immersing myself in the work far more deeply. With the help of the Huntington grant, I moved to Cambodia for two years, eventually joining the United Nations as a human rights officer for their Cambodia peace mission.

The overused Buddhist proverb says that every long journey begins with a single step, and the Huntington award made one of the first steps of my long journey possible. Since then, I’ve worked in the White House, State Department, Senate, have run for office, and have been the Executive Vice President of the Asia Society. I can’t say that none of this would have happened without my Huntington experience, but I can say that my life has been richer because of it.

Jamie Metzl, November 2014
Greetings from the Chair, continued

We gave the first award in 1989, and over the past 25 years, we have seen the award grow through your generosity. All the young men and women, who through their various projects have helped others to help themselves, would, I know, agree that being a Samuel Huntington winner has made a big difference in their own lives too.

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 in June. 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!

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Thank you for helping to make that difference in so many lives around the world and across our country.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Huntington

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