

Greetings!

As we start the new school year here in Seattle, our scholars in South Africa are well into their second term, and we are preparing to receive the next batch of scholarship applications. With your help, we hope to once again be able to offer funding to TWO new SSASF scholars.

## An Update from SSASF South Africa

As we reported last year, we are very excited to have one of our very first SSASF scholarship recipients, Mthobeli Lithiko working on our behalf to support our community of current and past SSASF scholars. He recently sent us this reflection on his SSASF journey:

*My name is Mthobeli Lithiko, I was born in South Africa, Eastern Cape. I did high school of my studies at Hector Peterson high school, located on the outskirts of Cape Town. After finishing high school, I went to University of the Western Cape (UWC) to study Industrial Psychology (Human Resource Management). Things did not go very well during my studies at UWC but with God's grace I managed to complete my degree in 2014 and graduated in 2015 March. I moved from UWC to study Bachelor of Commerce – Honours in Industrial & Organizational Psychology at University of South Africa (UNISA), which is a distance learning institute. I completed my studies in 2017 and graduated in June. Currently I am enrolling in Post Graduate Diploma in Organisational Development at UNISA which is very much in line with my current job.*



*I was very fortunate that I received scholarship/bursary assistance from Seattle South Africa Scholarship Foundation (SSASF) which paid for my University fees. I would like to commend SSASF for the great opportunity that they have provided not only me but to other South African deserving students. Through SSASF I have developed to be a better person and learned a lot on the journey of being in constant engagement with SSASF leadership.*

*I am now currently employed by City of Cape Town Municipality as my Monday – Friday job. I recently joined the organization in September and I am settling well. I foresee some great career opportunities ahead in the organization. On a non-professional level, I am mentoring/guiding the current SSASF recipients through hosting of quarterly meetings. During the meetings we share on how have they been doing. Interesting that the meetings are being attended by ex-SSASF recipients just to motivate the current students. I am also part of community youth organization called WAUMBE – a non-profit organization that seeks to help youth of Fisantekraal (where I stay) to give positive impact on importance of education and mental empowerment.*

*I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to each and every individual that is involved with SSASF (leadership, students, donors, schools). Your work and dedication means a lot to me and South African students. Really, I lack words to describe how SSASF's help have changed lives of those who have been funded by the organization in their University studies.*

## Board Transitions

It is with great appreciation (and a certain amount of trepidation) that we also mark the end of Sean Kelly's service to the SSASF Board. The Kelly family was instrumental in the founding of SSASF. Audrey was part of the first SSASF student group, representing Garfield; Liam helped establish the SSASF group at Northwest; and Barbie provided the leadership that carried SSASF from a great idea to an up and running non-profit organization. For his part, Sean has been on the Board from the beginning, spending all of those 11 years as our reliable, effective, and much valued Treasurer. Sean has made sure that donations get acknowledged and that the funds get to the scholars when they need them. This has taken commitment, creativity, and a lot of time!

We wish Sean the best as he takes a well-deserved break. However, we're going to keep a seat at the Board table saved in anticipation that we might be joined soon by one of the next generation of Kellys.



*"I have been honored and privileged to be on the board of SSASF for the last nine years. It has been extremely rewarding to see the impact SSASF has had, and we are proud of all the work the Seattle students have done over the years to benefit the learners in South Africa. We are also equally proud of the achievements of the South African scholars and the strong leadership that the original scholars have demonstrated in giving back to SSASF, Hector Peterson, and their communities.*

*What began with a handful of Seattle high school students in 2009 has dynamically empowered young people and adults on both sides of the world. We're very grateful for the opportunity to be part of it all!"*

Over the past few years, the SSASF Board has been bolstered by a group of former SSASF students who have returned to become Board members. One of these alumni is Maddie Stein, who championed SSASF at Seattle Academy. Regretfully, she is stepping down to focus on her Nursing School courses at the UW, which begin this fall. When Maddie joined the Board, she was following in the footsteps of her mother, Sharon Woolf. Sharon, one of the many SSASF parents who have served on the Board and continue to be enthusiastic SSASF supporters. This duo is the first with multi-generational Board membership, but we're guessing that they won't be the last! (That's a hint and an invitation to some of you out there!) It has been a gift to have the energy and commitment that Maddie and her peers have provided, and it has been great to have Board members who understand the SSASF mission from the inside.

We all wish you the best, Maddie! Bravo!



*“I participated in SSASF for two years of high school and was the student board president during my senior year. After graduating college I was a member of the Board for one year. During my involvement with SSASF both as a student and as a board member I learned what it meant to broaden one’s concept of community to a global level. From learning how to ask for donations at a fundraising event as a high school student, to watching past South African scholarship recipients go on to attend graduate school I know that SSASF has made an incredible global impact and will continue to do so.”*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner and Our 10<sup>th</sup> Year!

This spring, SSASF hosted our 10<sup>th</sup> annual dinner. We are so thankful to all of the friends of SSASF who joined us and helped us raise over \$5000 and to the Daley-Watson family who returned as hosts this year!

Isobel Moure, a senior and four-year SSASF member, shares her thoughts:

*“We are so excited for our 10th year of SSASF! We are focusing this year on increasing student membership and updating our materials. Thank you to Molly Walker and Cameron Swope for their 4-year commitment and dedication to SSASF, and we hope they are doing well at college!”*



## Your Investment Makes a Difference!

This January, when the South African school year begins, we hope to begin supporting TWO new SSASF scholars. Mthobeli is already spearheading the application process among Hector Peterson 12<sup>th</sup> grade learners. We are excited to be partnering with Hector Peterson’s principal Mike Mavovana to interview the candidates and help the Seattle student committee get to know each of them.

Will you help us make that big step when we sit down to review applications this November? Please consider making a year-end gift at [www.ssasf.org](http://www.ssasf.org) or mail a check (“**Seattle South African Scholarship Foundation**”) to our address below. Thank you for your support!