

Fall 2019

Dear Supporters and Friends of SSASF,



We are excited to have another school year of SSASF activity underway here in Seattle, and we are inspired, as always, by the accomplishments of our scholars in South Africa. We have sent this year's SSASF scholarship application to Hector Peterson, and we are looking forward to reviewing applications in November. Once again, we anticipate offering funding to two more deserving applicants. This is only possible thanks to your continuing support, so thank you!

A Scholar's Thanks



It's always great to hear from our South African scholarship recipients about the difference that SSASF is making in their lives. Here is a recent update from one of them:

Good day SSASF team,

I am Nasiphe Verah Melani studying for my BA at the University of the Witwatersrand. The SSASF team has helped me in a way that I can hardly put into words. In 2017 January when I had no means of paying for my fees, SSASF was my rescue. Besides being my sponsor, the brothers and sisters who are recipients as well are very caring and loving. When I first got to Johannesburg it was hard for me to adjust to the environment, but they're all time check ups kept me going. I have come to realize that SSASF is more than just about the scholarship but also building long lasting friendships with the other recipients. In the future I plan to do my LLB degree part-time here at Wits in 2021 while I will be working full. May the SSASF continue to sponsor those who are less fortunate. Thank you.

SSASF's Board President Visits Cape Town



George Felton was able to visit South Africa this fall, where he met with a group of current and past SSASF scholarship recipients.

"I went to Cape Town at the end of October and visited with our SSASF scholars. I joined their regular quarterly get-together at the Hector Peterson School, where they normally congregate to create community, celebrate their wins, and for current students to get advice from SSASF alumni. It was fantastic to see the vibrant and thriving group of scholars working together to bring each other up. They are a group of intelligent,

hardworking, and capable individuals, and they truly exhibit the qualities that make a SSASF scholar, whether it's Eric Hodana coaching his high school robotics teams to victory in a national tournament or Sesethu Bota helping other scholars find housing. I loved sitting in on their discussion and was able to add my own piece as the scholars asked me more about the Seattle side of SSASF. Overall, a fantastic event, and I am glad to have been able to meet personally with these bright young people whose names I've only seen written for so many years.

I also had the opportunity to sit down over dinner with Mthobeli Lithiko, one of the original students who visited Seattle and inspired the founding of SSASF! He is now finishing up a post-grad degree at Unisa, and works for the City of Cape Town. He organizes the quarterly meetings, and he is integral in helping the SSASF Board with both supporting current scholars. We spoke at length about how we could improve SSASF's operations and communication. I am glad to have fostered this connection with Mthobeli, and overall, I feel much more connected with the SSASF scholars and am motivated to continue to support them and their growth in the years to come."

11th Annual Dinner

This spring, SSASF hosted our 11th annual dinner. It was another wonderful gathering at the Daly-Watson home (again!), and the friends of SSASF who joined us helped raise over \$8,000 to fund our scholarships!

These dinners are a well-established SSASF tradition, and each one marks the culmination of a school year's efforts by our Seattle students.



See the new, student designed SSASF shirts modeled by the Seattle student committee? You too can add one to your SSASF shirt collection – or purchase one to send to a South African scholar!

Seattle Students Reflections

Each year we send off our Seattle-area seniors on their own college adventures. A couple of them shared reflections on their involvement in SSASF during their high school years:

"I joined SSASF because it let me make a substantial difference in someone's life. Four years later I am so glad that I made the decision to join. SSASF helped me learn leadership qualities, and how to fundraise and organize for positive change. It meant a lot to give back by helping others receive a college education. I am glad that I could be a part of this organization and am excited to see where it goes in these coming years!"

Isobel Moure (Northwest School '19)

"I originally joined SSASF because two of my friends were a part of it and I thought it could just be a fun way to spend more time with them, but it ended up being one of the most rewarding experiences of my high school career. Not only did it give me incredible experience planning events and learning to raise money, but seeing the actual effects on the students' lives was extremely rewarding. SSASF was the most impactful activity I have been a part of and I am very grateful for what it has done for me and so many others."

Elise Anderson (University Prep '19)

We Need You!

Please consider making a year-end gift to SSASF so that we are able to continue to support scholars like Nasiphe! Your employer may even double your donation – and we are happy to help you work through the process. Get in touch with board treasurer, Chara Lynch, chara@ssasf.org, for assistance or with any gift questions.

We are looking to connect with Seattle-area Rotary Clubs – are you involved or know someone who is? If so, board vice president, Jeff Blair, jeff@ssasf.org, would love to hear from you!