

NEWSLETTER (#11) – NOVEMBER 2017

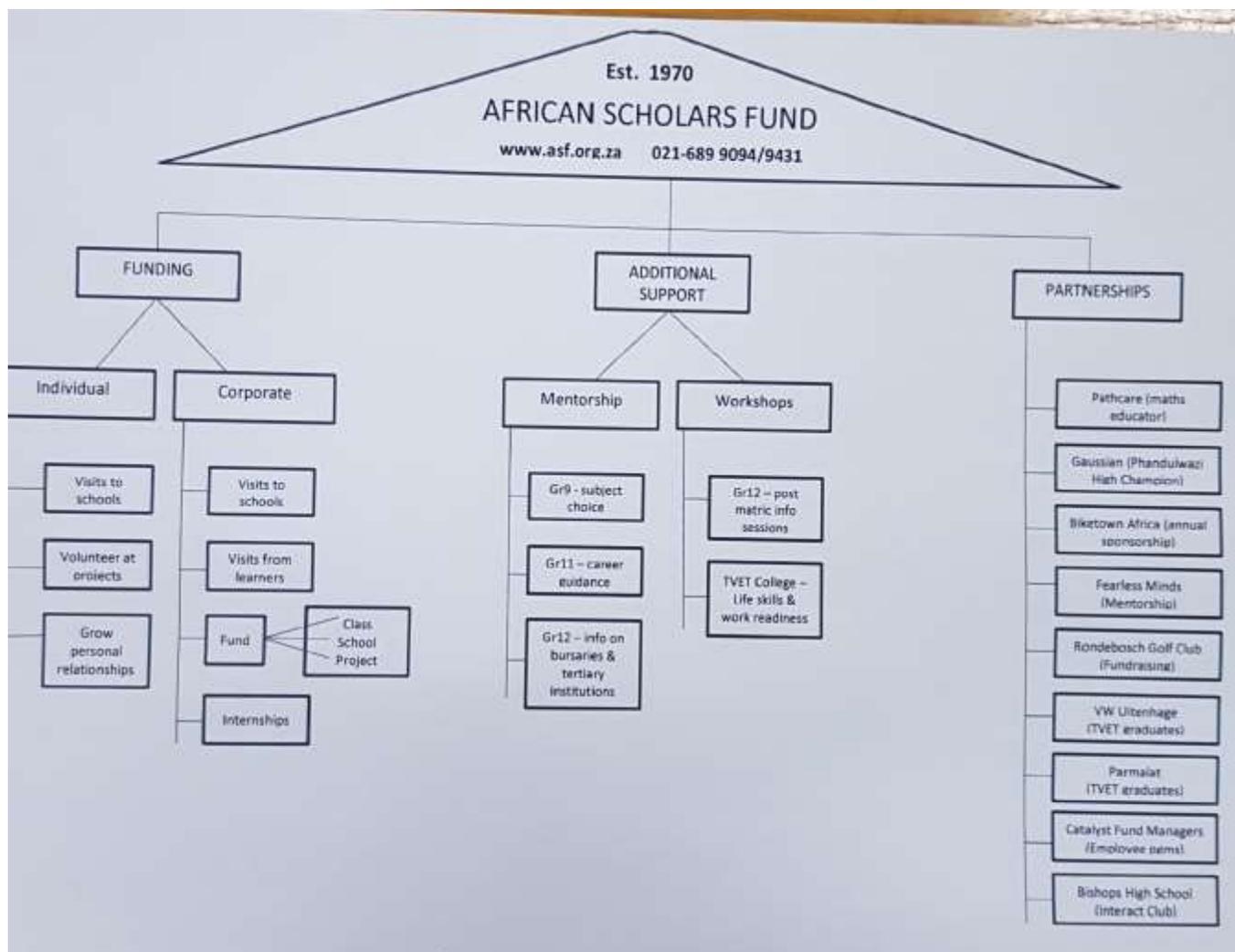
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NOW IS THE TIME ...

Not only is everything taking center stage, on the world stage, as a matter of fact. It would also seem that most everything of import is driven at a collective level. And so it should be, for *now is the time* for ALL to pull together – now is the time for ALL to realise that whether it is happening in the political arena, the social arena, the educational arena, whether we are looking at issues of gender or race, of violence, of corruption, the climate and whether it is happening in this corner of the world or over there – we are all in this together! The relay of news is almost immediate, the most reliable source of information has become you and I (those that are present when and where it happens), nothing can remain hidden any longer. Indeed – we are all in this together. These are both frightening and exciting times. May we all - individually, yet as part of the human collective, find the courage to “step up to the plate” when so required.



The environment in which this organisation works presents its fair share of challenges, for we work with human capital. And the nature of that human capital is that there is an ever growing awareness, a driving desire to become and a desperate need to express. ASF, too, have to embrace the changing times and adapt accordingly in order to continue presenting its mandate in innovate and meaningful ways – such that bring a sense of gratitude to both the giver and receiver of the goodwill expressed. The diagram below best presents an overview of our work and partnerships going into 2018:



HIGHLIGHTS 2017



A HUGE thank you to our wonderfully loyal donors. It is because of your commitment, compassion and generosity that we can lay claim to the fact that (as at 8 Dec 2017, with some few days to go to the official year end) we are on target with our budgeted donor income (in fact, we are R24 above budget 😊 – did you know that the ASF started with a mere R28 in its coffers some 47yrs ago)? Indeed, we have come a long way and we thank you for your continued support.

In addition to the R1000 financial award made to qualifying bursars, additional support presented in the form of:

January: Mr Fortuin, the Maths Educator funded by Pathcare, started his tenure at Chris Hani High School.

March: The first of two Annual Student Support Workshops was presented to our TVET College students in the Eastern and Western Cape

April: High Commissioner Ruby Marks paid a personal visit to the learners she supports at schools in the George area: Leiden High School, Imizamo Yethu Secondary School and Grootbrak Rivier Secondary School.

May: The Mary Livingstone Essay Competition Award was presented to Makhubu Tisetso, a Gr10 learner from Insebenziswano High School (Phillipi Settlement – Western Cape); and the Mears Award (top Gr10 learner 2016) was presented to Twesha Thulisile from Masibambane High School in Kraaifontein.

July: Grade 9 & 12 advice booklets were sent to our bursars; Yvonne Parfitt Scholarship Nominees were identified & mentored in preparation for panel interviews (😊 2 of our 3 nominees secure their funding for tertiary education 2018); So too, 2 of the 3 Nominees identified for the Winifred McKinnon Trust, successfully navigated their interview sessions. We wish them well with their continued studies.

August: In partnership with BikeTown (USA based), 353 bikes, helmets, footpumps & repair kits were handed to all the learners at Thobelani High School (a small rural school in the Eastern Cape). BikeTown also generously made 353 windbreaker winter jackets available and funded the catering required at the handover event that was attended by the parents and representatives of the Department of Education. The stationery handed over to the Thobelani High School learners was donated by the 2017 Interact Club at Bishops High School.

September: Gaussian Engineering visited Phandulwazi High School (Phillipi Settlement – Western Cape) and committed to taking on two Gr12 learners into an Internship Programme 2018. This in addition to the substantial financial commitment honoured in 2017. The possibility of funding a Computer Literacy Programme, specifically geared at getting our Gr12 learners ready for what is required at tertiary level, is being explored for implementation 2018.

October: The ASF presented its Annual TVET Information Session to 140+ Gr12 learners from high schools in the Kraaifontein area – the session led to an exciting partnership proposal from the College of Cape Town; The 2nd Annual Student Support Workshop was presented to our TVET College students in the Eastern and Western Cape.

A rather lovely surprise came in the form of a visit from learners from Smiling Valley Junior Secondary School. This is a small little school set in the deep rural areas of the Eastern Cape. The school raises funds for a period of 2yrs whereupon they are able to take their Gr8 & 9 learners on a bi-annual tour during the October break. After spending some time at our office and treating the Tannery Park Tenants to song and dance, we trotted off for a frolic in the waves at Muizenberg Beach – what a delight it was to observe the fun, the laughter and sheer joy expressed.



The year's activities was perfectly rounded off when in **November:** Rondebosch Golf Club identified the ASF as their Charity of Choice for their Annual Festival Week. It was a "day out of the office" for staff, that allowed for some measure of fun, a lot of networking and bringing the work of this Fund to the attention of potential new donors. The funds raised were acknowledged and received with much gratitude.



Our bursars' year end results will be available in the 2017/2018 Annual Report which we hope to bring to you towards the end of April 2018 – below follows the JUNE EXAM RESULTS:

Schools: 2017 we had 2045 bursars registered with the fund. 1818 (89%) Bursars sent us their June results, of which 1387 qualified for their second payments. Adequate performance is necessary for ASF to continue providing support and the learner's attention is drawn to the fact that they need to reapply every year. The largest percentage of non-qualifiers occur with the gr8 learners, clearly indicating the difficulty in transitioning from primary to high school. A similar trend is noted with the gr10 learners which speaks volumes with regards to their ill informed choice of subjects.

401 ASF sponsored matriculants sat for final exams 2017 – their results will be made available in the 2017/2018 Annual Report.

Technical and Further Education and Vocational Training Colleges: In the Eastern Cape bursaries have been awarded to 28 students, amounting to R85,658.28.00 and in the Western Cape bursaries have been awarded to 15 students, amounting to R83,772.00 We continue to offer Student Support Workshops in March and October. At the time of going to print, seven of the Eastern Cape cohort entered into a learnership or secured an apprenticeship, and in the Western Cape, the Business Studies student that completed his course in June, has secured permanent employment.

Despite the fact that National Government's intention is to provide "free education" at this level, the reality does not yet present itself such. Until such time, we continue to fund qualifying applicants in the knowledge that, in doing so, we are contributing to the enabling of motivated individuals and ultimately to their economic empowerment. It is a fact that education leads to opportunity, toward meaningful employment and economic participation, which in turn negates the very real possibility of moral decline and a turn to drugs and crime.

Remember that:

Donations to the ASF fund are tax deductible.
Bank: STANDARD BANK
Account Name: AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND
Account Number: 071404104
Branch Number: 025009



R21,400 – Rondebosch Golf Club



High Commissioner Marks & learners from Leiden High School, George – Western Cape



353 Bikes – Thobelani High School, rural Eastern Cape



And as the year draws to a close, we say Thank You to the Catalyst Investment Fund: the 4 layer chocolate cake has absolutely Made our Day !

Your are invited to visit our website: www.asf.org.za for more detailed information on The Fund, read our Success Stories, Donate Online, Download a School or TVET College Application Form, A Debit Order Form, A Codicil or any of our previous Newsletters and Annual Reports.

May you and your loved ones experience a blessed and safe year and may we All come to know Peace, Joy and Love - for All.



Eliza James - Director