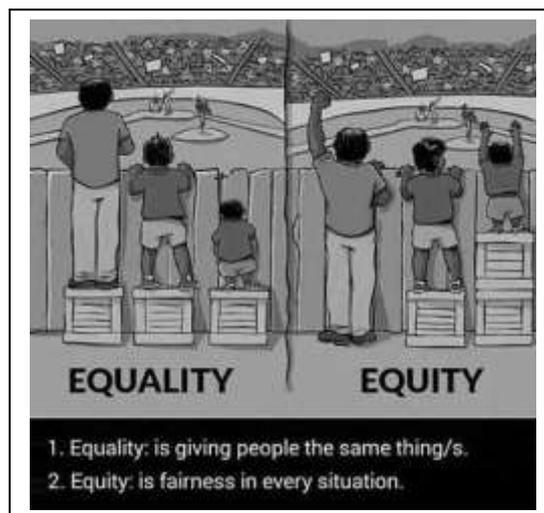


Download these previous Newsletters from www.asf.org.za/reports . ECONOMIC SLUMP VS SOCIAL SUFFERING (2011); PUBLIC SCHOOLING – (fast becoming) PUBLIC ENEMY NO #: (2012); CHAOS MUST LEAD TO CONTEMPLATION, TO CONSULTATION AND FINALLY TO ORDER (2013); EXPRESSIONS OF “I AM” AN ASPIRANT STUDENT, A VALUED EMPLOYEE, A RESPECTED CITIZEN, AN EQUAL HUMAN BEING IS EVIDENCED “FAR AND WIDE” (2014); ONE YEAR AND A BIT LATER AND EXPRESSIONS OF “I AM, THIS IS MY VALUE, CAN YOU HEAR ME - DO YOU EVEN SEE ME” CONTINUES. THOSE THAT LOOK ON MUST ASK THEMSELVES: “WHAT ARE THE FILTERS THAT SHAPES MY EXPERIENCE OF THIS DRAMA CALLED LIFE?” (2015); WHAT SAY YE (2016); NOW IS THE TIME (2017) ...

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2018

CHANGE AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

Every new day is but another moment in the unfoldment of life and how we respond to those unfolding moments determines the quality of our experience. An open mind and a receptive heart brings a clarity that allows one to observe more objectively and respond with a better understanding of the significance for both the individual and the collective. Action taken from such a place of centredness is intended to serve the whole, and the integrity thereof allows for honest reflection and fine-tuning in the right direction. The ASF presents such an environment – it is strong and stable at its core, clear on its objectives and therefore able to rise above the sweeping tides of uncertainty. In rising above, it does not mean that this organisation is untouched by these uncertainties, but it does mean that we depart from a clear, centred space when contemplating the way forward.



2018 – A year filled with change:

- When we were blessed with a handsome bequest earlier this year, it was decided to put such funds toward the purchase of our own property instead of continuing with the R23,000 in monthly rental toward office space. After some minor renovations, we moved into our ‘new home’ (Eckford House) in Wynberg on 15 November 2018. The property is within walking distance of the planned My Citi Bus Route, ensuring easy access for our bursars in the future. Although the new office is set in a predominantly residential area, our neighbours are a psychologist, a travel agent and the sheriff’s office.
- We went from supporting 1-5 learners from any high school that meets our criteria, to identifying ambassador schools where the criteria is that we have a minimum of 50 learners from that school on our programme. Learners that qualify are issued with a lapel badge that reads “ASF Ambassador” and they are required to wear it daily. ASF visibility is thus much improved, the impact at these schools is greater and the relationship much stronger. An integral part of our strategy is to link a corporate partner to every ambassador school.
- We’ve reconsidered our support at public TVET college level, since NSFAS (an SA Government initiative) provides funding for students registered at these colleges. This meant that we had to let our TVET Manager go, fortunately just as she reached the end of her envisaged two year tennure of working in the NGO space. Asanda has her sights set on continuing her impact on the education of our youth and we wish her every success in her future endeavours.
- It is with much melancholy that we bid farwell to Lyn Daniel, our Sponsor Secretary of 24 years. She reached retirement age in July 2018. Lyn has been a colleague, a friend and a mother figure – words of gratitude and endearment to such a one is best delivered face-to-face. Lyn has relocated to Bloubergstrand – if you don’t bump into her ambling on the beach, you will probably find her putting away on the golf course.
- In addition to bringing the Shared Value Stakeholder Engagement Strategy to life, our recently appointed Communications Manager, Bianca Rousseau, takes over Lyn’s portfolio when she steps down at the end of this year.
- Erika Targett, longstanding trustee and volunteer of 42 years, too, had reached that stage in her life where she felt that it was time to step down. We shall miss her dearly, but she promises to pop in every so often.

- Busisiwe Magwentshu, appointed as the Administrative Assistant, joined the ASF in January 2018 and has settled in well. Going into 2019 the ASF team comprises of Eliza James (Director), Zena Stanfliet (Accounts Manager), Nontuthuzelo Mnyaluza (Student Liaison Officer), Bianca Rousseau (Communications Manager) and Busisiwe Magwentshu (Administrative Assistant).

2018 – A year filled with challenge:

- We are about to enter our 3rd year of facilitating the five year partnership with Pathcare and Chris Hani High School – that of engaging additional support to the mathematics department. At the onset of the project we secured the services of an experienced and self-motivated educator that was well on track when it came to inculcating a love for mathematics amongst the eager learners – unfortunately he was headhunted and left unexpectedly at the end of 2017. The educator that replaced him was well qualified, but the self-motivation and work ethic proved to be lacking – it was decided to let him go. Honest reflection on our experience over these past two years has led to the acknowledgement that engaging a full-time, on-site, dedicated and fully focussed on providing academic support to the mathematics department type individual would best meet the needs of the school. We absolutely have to extend our gratitude to Pathcare for their commitment and specifically for their acknowledgement of the inevitable teething problems that presents itself with the introduction of new initiatives. The two years presented many lessons and we are confident that we are now on track with a programme that is practical, that allows for proper assessment, intervention and monitoring of progress and impact.
- And as much as we would like to end the above mini-report on a high note, it is necessary that we make mention of the grade 8 learner that we bumped into as we were leaving the school. He was accompanied by his mother, grandmother and two police officers who had brought him in to see the school psychologist – this young lad had tried to hang himself and was discovered just in time by his mother. What hit home even harder, was our observation of the calm demeanor of the mother and grandmother – the young learner’s attempted suicide seemed to be just ‘another glitch’ in the day that had to be addressed. One must ask, what drives a young child that should be delighting in the discovery of life, to contemplate ending his young life?
- Another school that was confronted with a tragic loss of life is Masibambane High School (Kraaifontein), where just one day after attending and encouraging the matriculants at their valedictory service they were informed that the Ward Councillor, Mr Luyanda Mbele was killed outside his home in Bloekombos. It is quite shocking to have shared a meal and conversation with someone and be informed the very next day of the calculated, senseless and brutal ending of his life.
- With resources being in such short supply at most of the schools we work with, it is incumbent on us to keep a watchful eye and insure that the funds disbursed gets to every qualifying learner on our programme. This calls for vigilant, competent and committed ASF staff that displays the necessary diplomacy in following up when so required, and albeit that we have checks & balances in place, every so often it is indeed required, as it was this past year.

2018 – A year of noteworthy successes:

- For any Non Profit, let alone one that is on the verge of celebrating its 50th year in service, reaching budget during these trying times is acknowledged for the amazing blessing that it is – 2018 proved to be such a year.
- We’ve settled into our own premises and albeit with a smaller staff complement, co-operation and teamwork enables us to manage a tightly packed, but streamlined operational cycle.
- Our 2017 matriculant (Yanga Sodoza) that entered into an internship with Gaussian Engineering in 2018 has been offered permanent employment – he also intends to further his studies in 2019. Congratulations Yanga – the opportunity for a year long internship beckons for another Phandulwazi High School matriculant this year.
- The Ambassador School Programme has been successfully launched and with the appointment of the Communications Manager the work on building our Shared Value Stakeholder Engagement Strategy begins – the outcomes: organisational sustainability, a platform for corporate alignment with Government’s vision of private/public partnerships, financial and (limited) insight into industry that directly benefits the learners whilst at school and opportunity to engage with industry post school.
- The ASF Career Guidance Workbook was workshopped (Feb 2018 – Nov 2018), the official report is in the process of being compiled and will be presented to the Department of Education

2018 – A year of continued partnerships:

PathCare: Dedicated to funding academic support for the mathematics department for a period of 5 years – 2017 and beyond (Chris Hani High School – Western Cape).

Gaussian Engineering: Continued financial support and internship opportunities for learners at Phandulwazi High School based in Phillippi, Western Cape. We invite you to view Yanga's story, featured on our YouTube channel, in order to gain first hand insight into this wonderfully uplifting private/public partnership <https://youtu.be/ExIQJ6gSynQ>

Bike Town: 210 bikes and rain jackets were donated to ASF learners at Enkwenkwezini High school (Eastern Cape). A short, heartwarming video clip of the handover event may be viewed on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6xXQyBq9N2b3XM1z5V9OIw>

Nelson Mandela Metropole: Annually provides funding towards our TVET College Students in the Eastern Cape.

SA Travel & Tourism College: Full sponsorship of a year long training programme [valued at over R50k] that presents qualifying grade 12 female learners with an internationally accredited Hospitality qualification. This year, again, one of our bursars was accepted onto the programme.

Bishops High School: Continued support from the young members of the Interact Club in the form of Civvies Day and stationery collections for rural Eastern Cape Schools.

The end of year learner results will be available in the 2018/2019 Annual Report which we hope to bring to you towards the end of April 2019 – below follows the JUNE EXAM RESULTS:

Schools: 2018 we had 2238 bursars registered with the fund. 2110 (94%) Bursars sent us their June results, of which 1673 (79%) 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 drop-offs occur with the grade 8 learners, clearly indicating the difficulty in transitioning from primary to high school. A similar trend is noted with the grade 10 learners which speaks volumes with regard to their ill informed choice of subjects.

524 ASF sponsored matriculants sat for final exams in 2018 – the results will be made available in the 2018/2019 Annual Report.

Additional support: In addition to the financial assistance, the fund continues to [1] distribute Advice Booklets to the grade 9 bursars (focussing on subject choice). [2] an interactive grade 11 career guidance workbook that facilitates a 3-way interaction between the learner, parent and educator – leading to a more informed decision on post school direction. [3] The grade 12 bursars receive an information pamphlet giving advice on bursaries and tertiary institutions.

Technical and Further Education and Training (TVET) Colleges: With NSFAS guaranteeing funding for qualifying students that gain entry into tertiary institutions, and since most our learners meet

the funding criteria, our support at TVET level has become somewhat redundant. Having said that, it is noted that NSFAS does not offer assistance to those that embark on their practical courses (which is crucial to rounding off their qualification).

2018 saw the ASF making funding available to 35 students in the Eastern Cape, 9 students from the Northern Cape and 11 students in the Western Cape, amounting to R261,883. The final results for their 2018 academic year is not yet available. We continued to offer Student Support Workshops in March and October. Success stories, both at school and TVET College level, are reported on in our Annual Reports and featured on our website.

Despite the fact that streamlined processes are in place, we do have periods where, with the assessment of June and December reports and processing of new applications, we could do with an extra set or two of hands. Should you be up for some voluntary work with the ASF, please pop in at the office for a cup of tea and a chat.

Remember that:

<p>Donations to the ASF fund are tax deductible. Bank: STANDARD BANK Account Name: AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND Account Number: 071404104 Branch Number: 025009</p>
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And do visit our website: www.asf.org.za .

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