

You can access these previous Newsletters at 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); CHANGE AMIDST UNCERTAINTY (2018); WE’RE TRANSITIONING FROM THE “OLD” INTO THE “NEW” (2019); (Note: no newsletter in 2020); COVID-19: THE PAUSE BETWEEN THE “OLD” AND THE “NEW” (2021); FLEXIBILITY, ADAPTABILITY AND CONTINUED RELEVANCE (2022);

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2023

WE PAY HOMAGE TO DR MARGARET ELSWORTH, FOUNDER OF THE ASF

MY HOLY PILGRIMAGE, GOD, IS TO THE SACRED DWELLING
OF THY WORSHIPPERS.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing, at the age of 93, of the
Founder of African Scholars' Fund, Dr Margaret Elsworth MBChB MBE



5/12/1929 – 8/10/2023

Like the setting sun, I bend my head low at Thy feet, in loving surrender.

“The African Scholars’ Fund began in 1970 in the Elsworth home. At first, we used one of the bedrooms as an office, but then it spread: into the sitting room, then the dining-room, then the corridors. There were papers everywhere, at least one typewriter, later a computer and printer. All the initial workers were volunteers and they were all remarkable. All were ready to help. People came in and out, volunteers, working, talking, making tea. Trustee meetings were held there. The telephone never seemed to stop. But this was rewarding work.” *Dr M Elsworth*

Today, the African Scholars’ Fund and the many thousands on whose lives she had shone her light, with compassion and with the intent to transform, proudly stands as Margaret’s Living Legacy. Her story will forever be the starting blocks to the unfolding success stories of the young high school learners on whom she poured out her love and her care. May she rest in perfect and everlasting peace 🙏

Margaret stepped down in 2008, whereafter, albeit not actively involved in the day to day operations of ASF, she remained as Patron of the Fund. In the years that followed, the organisation streamlined its operations; identified and developed additional learner resources, and ensured that Shared Value Partners’ objectives were met and were in alignment with the objectives of the Organisation. Today, the ASF is a highly adaptable, human-centered Social Enterprise still very focussed and in touch with their beneficiaries, as was the primary objective when Margaret crafted the Mission Statement. The wellbeing of the learner must and always will be at the forefront of all we do at the ASF.

Every learner that journeys with the ASF lives Dr Elsworth's legacy, and every donor that offers their support makes it possible for the Fund to have Margaret's legacy live on. Allow us to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued care and support of the young learners Margaret essentially left in our care.

The words of condolences received from a vast number of our donors, immediately on hearing of Margaret's passing, was compiled in a document and shared with the family. This was acknowledged by her children with much gratitude.

🙏 One such letter reads:



Dear Elsworth family

The news of Margaret's passing leaves me with so many fond memories. I first became involved with the African Scholars' Fund in 1977, soon after our arrival in Cape Town, thanks to Noreen Saunders (Stuart's first wife) whom I assisted with maintaining contact with sponsors. After Noreen's death I became sponsor secretary and subsequently a trustee until resigning in 1994 due to work commitments. The office in those early days was in Wyndover Road.

Margaret was indeed a remarkable person. She was so energetic, kind and caring, and offered me many words of wisdom. In recent months I sometimes bumped into her at Checkers doing her shopping and was amazed at how bright and chirpy she remained, never forgetting names. I have vivid memories of her tooting around on her scooter at a ripe old age. She touched so many lives and the thriving ASF is a fitting legacy.

I am so sorry to learn of the additional sorrow of Barbara's passing. If I remember correctly, she used to play the cello. You were all young when I knew you!

I send condolences to you all, but you can treasure proud memories of a truly special mother, grandmother and, not forgetting, Jack's devoted wife.

With fond thoughts

Sue Folb

So, too, a number of our Alumni put pen to paper to share their fondly held memories and express their condolences. Despite Margaret not being actively involved in the day to day operations of the Fund, our school communities were reminded of the fact that she was, in fact, the Founder of this organisation that continues to support, empower and bring personal transformation to the learners on the ASF Programme. They, too, expressed their heartfelt condolences with her passing – Margaret's legacy will, indeed, live on 🙏

Dear Elsworth family,

Many greetings from Pretoria. My name is Sandra and my father is Ben Sebitosi. He was a good friend of your mum and he introduced me to her at church when I would visit him in Cape Town. She inspired me as a young medical student and I was determined to follow in her footsteps in some way. I am thankful for the opportunity to become a donor and I am thankful to have met her and shared many laughs with her through the years.

My favorite memory of her is of her big dog that sat in front with her in the church services at St Paul's. I always used to tell my friends about this incredible Anglican canine that enjoys church services and does not make one noise during the preaching, but wags its tail during the hymns. I thank God for that experience.

May the Lord bless your family in this terrible, sorrowful time. May he comfort you and surround you with his presence as you cry in his arms. May he wipe your tears and give you strength and hope. May he reassure you that you who grieve now, will be comforted. You grieve with hope because she belonged to The Lord Jesus. He loved her and he loves you and one day, death will no longer have its sting. In the meantime, we pray for you and for all her friends, that He will keep you safe in His arms.

Psalms 91, Psalm 56:8.

1 Thessalonians 4:13.

Psalm 116:15.

Many regards and love,

Dr Sandra Sebitosi-van Jaarsveld.

Carlton Van Heerden HS in Uppington (NC)

Our sincerest condolences with the passing of Dr. Elsworth. We are privileged to be blessed with the fruits of her labor. We honor her life and legacy. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE 🕊️. FROM ALL THE BENEFICIARIES OF ASF at Carlton - Van Heerden High, also management and staff. 9:25 am

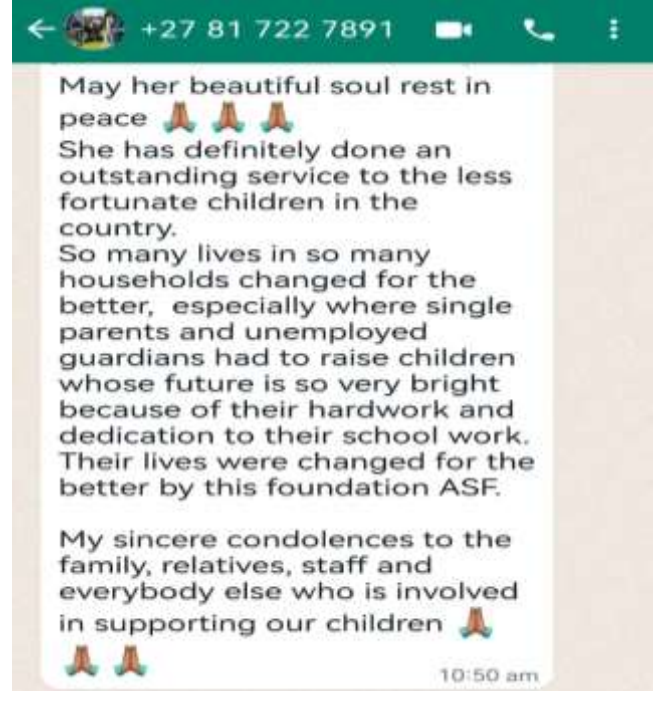
Ms Maxela (Rep) - Thobelani HS in Seymour (EC)

May her soul rest in eternal peace as her life is still impacting lives of our learners till today 5:19 pm

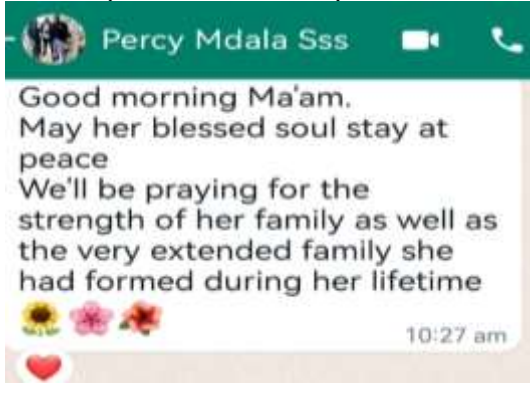
Chris Hani HS parents in Khayelitsha (WC)



Ms Motsoasele (Rep) - Tetlanyo HS, Kimberley (NC)



Percy Mdala HS in Knysna (WC)



Zamukulungisa SSS in Umtata (EC)



From modest beginnings in the Elsworth Family home, this is now the extent of the ASF's reach.

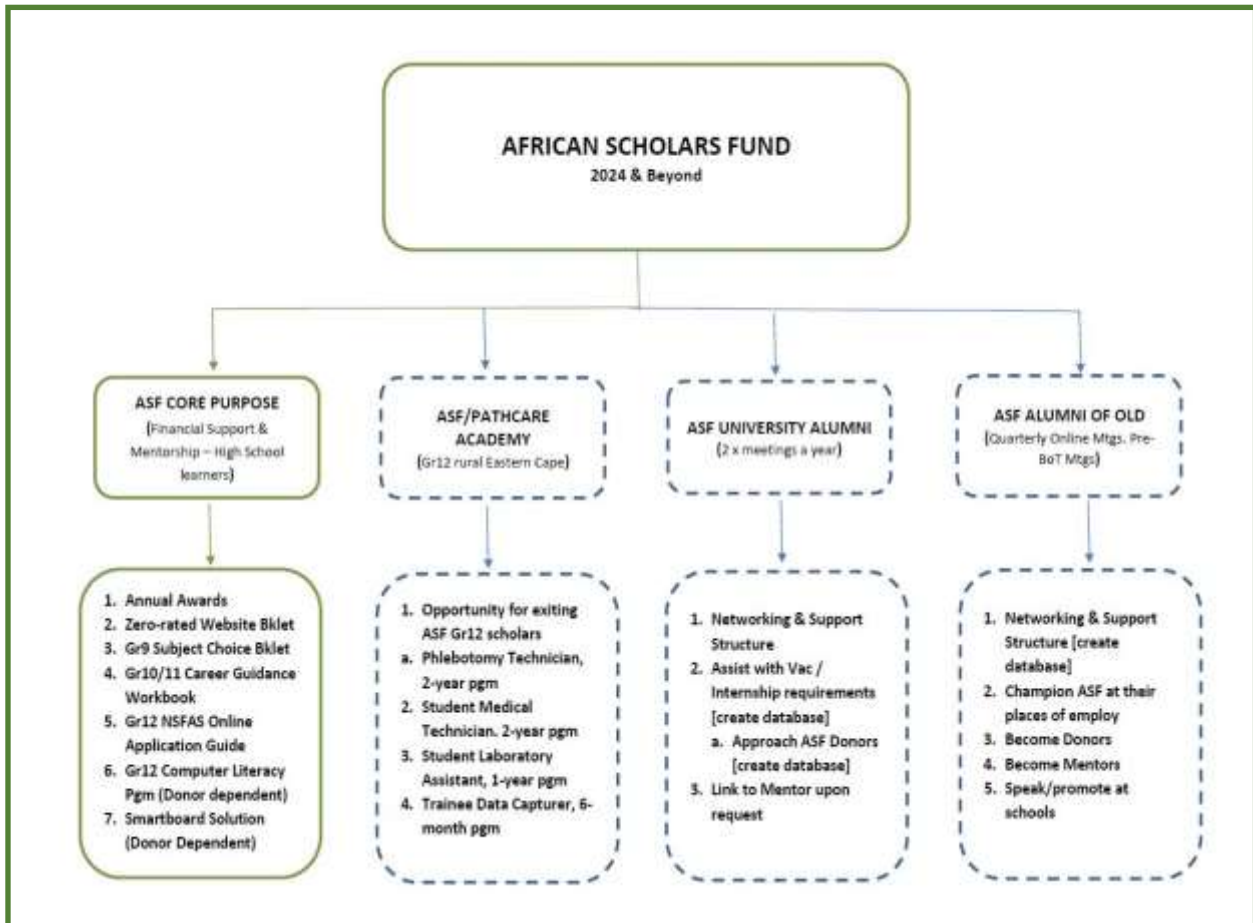
The organisation annually supports up to 2300 learners.

We are pleased to inform that the annual awards to learners will be increased to R1300 in 2024.



Changing the lives of young people forever

THE MODEST FINANCIAL AID, MENTORSHIP AND LEARNER SUPPORT HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY, ENRICHING LIVES AND FURTHER INCREASING THE REACH AND TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPACT OF THE ORGANISATION



2023 BURSAR RESULTS:

The 2023 end of year learner results will be shared in the 2023/2024 Annual Report, which we hope to bring to you towards the end of April

2023 ASF MATRICULANTS:

This year the ASF sponsored 451 Gr12 learners. 404 (90%) of our bursars achieved the required 50% across all subjects in their June exams. We wish our matriculants that will sit for final exams in 2023 every success. May their resilience and dedication bear fruit and culminate in their well-earned celebration.

2023 SCHOOL VISITS:

Two trips to visit schools we support have taken place during the latter part of October and early November. Detailed reports will be shared in the new year.

2024 STRATEGIC GOALS:

On Saturday 28 October, Trustees and Staff spent some 5hrs deliberating the significance, operations and fundraising labours of the ASF. These have been documented and will be shared in the 2023/2024 Annual Report.

You are invited visit our website: www.asf.org.za and take a moment to view short video clips at [ASF Youtube Channel](#) We are delighted to inform that we are in conversation with service providers who will assist in the sprucing up of our website and in developing a tailor-made marketing plan for the ASF.

YOU ARE VERY GENTLY REMINDED THAT

Donations to the ASF are tax deductible.
 Bank: STANDARD BANK
 Account Name: AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND
 Account Number: 071404104
 Branch Code: 025009
 Swift Code: SBZA ZAJJ (Rondebosch)

In a world truly gone topsy turvy, my sincere wish is that despite colour or creed, our individually held moral compass will guide, that you and your loved ones experience a blessed and safe year, and that we come to know Peace, Joy and Love - for All.



Eliza James - Director