

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2024

EVERYTHING YOU SAY AND DO.....

IS a reflection of the inner you; be it in reference to an individual, a formal or informal collective, a country, the world. And is it not so that Social Media brings what is happening out there into our consciousness in real-time, despite the fact that it could be happening in a remote corner of the globe? And since no man, no collective, no country is an island, what happens out there is present in our consciousness and inevitably manifests its effect. Thus, what is happening “out there and over there” is brought to life in our homes, our institutions of learning, our places of work, our communities, our country and in some shape, form or fashion becomes our reality too.

Now more than ever, with every young impressionable learner walking around attached to their mobile device; escaping into these virtual realities in their every free moment; organisations like the ASF need to be very clear on their mandate and serve in accordance thereof.

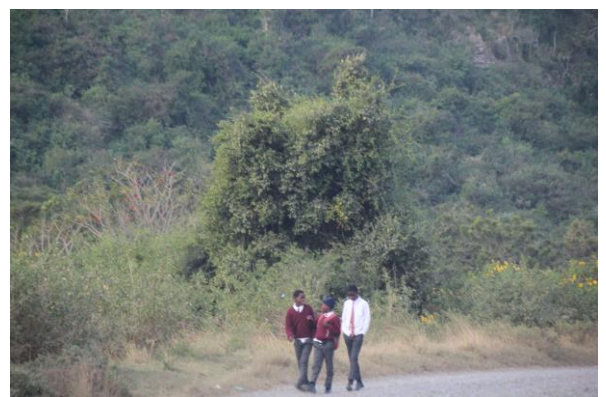
ASF Vision Statement

A South Africa where children’s secondary educational outcomes are not determined by geographical location or financial resources.

ASF Mission Statement

The ASF, through awards and guidance, assists promising high school learners from rural and township schools to complete their secondary education.

NO rural is not what we city dwellers consider to be a 2hr drive out of the city. Rural is a 2km walk for a young learner, from his modest home to his, albeit under-resourced, school – it is the only place of focussed development available to him and so he will walk that distance, come rain or shine. And despite starting out his daily walk on an empty stomach, he knows that there is a modest meal of sorts that awaits when he reaches his destination; he knows that his mind will be enriched and he is filled with a hope that, at the end of his schooling career, he will be the one to deliver his family from the seemingly never-ending cycle of poverty and struggle. How can we not do everything in our power to support, encourage, nurture and grow such a learner?



There are a myriad of Non-Profit Organisations all swimming in the same Donor Pool. It really matters not if they be better resourced organisations championed by those who carry fame and fortune OR if they be a modest organisation operating more frugally. What matters – what ultimately matters is that lives are enriched, fellow human beings are transformed and infused with hope, a heightened sense of dignity, self-worth and a renewed belief in a future worth envisioning.

Without the continued care of our Individual Donors, Shared Value Partners, Trusts, Clubs and Churches that support the work of the ASF, we would not be able to continue The Work.

In addition to the financial assistance toward our 2024 ASF-supported learners, this year, your continued commitment enabled the ASF to provide:

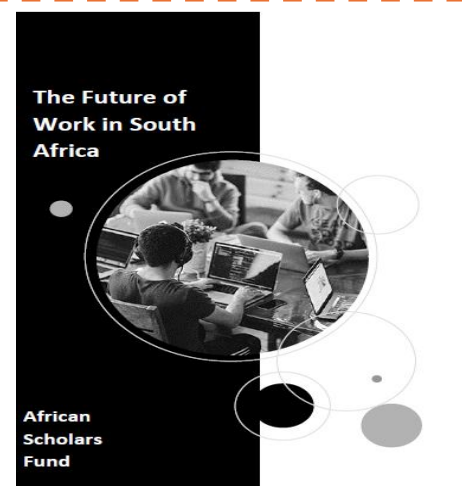


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED TO OUR ASF-SUPPORTED LEARNERS IN 2024:

- ✓ 2367 Gr8 – Gr12 learners received the Zero-rated Website Information Booklet.
- ✓ 397 Gr9 learners received a Subject Choice Advice Booklet.
- ✓ $110/416$ Gr10 learners were provided with a Career Guidance Workbook.
- ✓ 643 Gr12 learners received the NSFAS Online Application Guide.
- ✓ The year-long ASF Computer Literacy Programme (MS Office Suite, Internet & Email) at Manyano High School (Khayelitsha) was presented to 60 Gr11 learners.
- ✓ The employ of a full-time Maths Educator at Chris Hani High School was reaffirmed.

An information booklet that we are very excited to add to our library of in-house developed resources is one that speaks to “a world where technology is reshaping the job market and opening doors to exciting and innovative careers. From coding and robotics to artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, the tech industry is at the forefront of this transformation” **Kako Kaphale (UCT Department of Social Development Internship, September 2024)**

The request to Kako to assist with development of this information booklet came after a visit to Grootbrak High School (close to George, in the Western Cape). Learners were keen to learn of emerging new careers and put the ASF to task. The Information Booklets will be distributed to our Gr11 and Gr12 learners as of 2025.



2024 BURSAR RESULTS:

We tragically lost one of our learners early in the year, which saw us with a final cohort of 2367 Gr8 to Gr12 learners funded by the ASF in 2024. The ASF makes payments in two tranches (a) a first payment at the beginning of the year and (b) a second payment based on the learner's **June exam results**. It is rather telling when reflecting on how the respective grades performed in their mid-year exams and **learners that do not qualify for their second payment (50% across all subjects) are invited to reapply for funding**. The breakdown of learners that qualified for second payments follows:

Gr8: $296/388$ (76%) transitioning from primary school

Gr9: $321/397$ (80%)

Gr10: $286/416$ (69%) poor decisions in choosing their subjects

G11: $436/523$ (83%)

2024 ASF MATRICULANTS:

This year the ASF sponsored 643 Gr12 learners. 615 (96%) of whom achieved the required 50% across all subjects in their June exams. We wish our matriculants every success as they sit for their final exams. May their resilience and dedication bear fruit and culminate in their well-earned celebration and a place at their chosen institution of higher learning.

2024 – NEW AMBASSADOR SCHOOL ONBOARDED:

At the request of Pepkor, an ASF Shared Value Partner, we onboarded Phezulu High School located in rural Hammersdale – KwaZulu Natal.

Albeit outside of the ASF's area of operation, Pepkor's long-term commitment and the undeniable impact the funding will have on (a) easing the

financial burden on individual learners (b) enhancing the Pepkor cohort of learners' learning experience (c) the greater school community in terms of potential improvements in infrastructure & additional resources made available, we are excited about growing and nurturing the partnership.

The ASF now supports, on average 2000 high school learners at 24 Preferred (up to 30 learners enrolled on the ASF Programme) and 36 Ambassador Schools (50 or more learners enrolled on the ASF Programme).

TRANSFORMATION: WHEN A YOUNG LEARNER REFLECTS ON A NEGATIVE OUTCOME, TAKES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY AND RESPONDS WITH HOPE AND IN THE POSITIVE.

From: Mivuyo [redacted] 
Sent: Monday, November 4, 2024 10:18 PM
To: Office <office@asf.org.za>
Subject: Apology letter

Dear African Scholars Fund

I am writing to express my sincerest apologies for poor academic performance and non-compliance with terms, I understand that my actions/decisions led to the termination of the bursary, and I take full responsibility.

Through this experience, I have learned valuable lessons about time management, prioritization and reading my books, I have reflected on my mistakes and made significant changes to ensure I meet and exceed expectations.

I am eager to demonstrate my growth and commitment to academic excellence. I respectfully request a second chance to be considered for the African Scholars Fund program. My family believes in me and I also believe in myself I promise to not let you down next year please give me another chance to prove myself that I can do this, I believe that, with another opportunity, I will make the most of this support and achieve my academic goals.

I would be honoured to discuss my application and provide additional information. Please consider my request. Your support would be instrumental in helping me achieve my educational aspirations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely

Mivuyo [redacted]  

2025: THE ASF IS ABOUT TO ENTER ITS 55TH YEAR IN OPERATION – ARE WE STILL RELEVANT?

When Dr. Margaret Elsworth founded the ASF – way back in 1970, it was because she had insight into the lack of resources at schools the ASF, to this very day, supports; she recognised the financial burden on parents/guardians, and she was not oblivious to the myriad of social ills our young learners had to contend with. Despite the very many changes we've experienced these past decades, for many little has changed and the quality of life today is as was the quality of life of their parents' yesterdays. Thus, from a moral and social standpoint, the work the Fund engages in and the level at which it engages remains very relevant.

In reflecting on the South African Government's National Development Plan, which speaks to:

1. Improving School Retention
2. Secondary School Completion

And the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the ASF, too, remains relevant on the following fronts:

1. Facilitating Quality Education
2. Promoting Gender Equality
3. (leading into) Decent Work and Economic Growth
4. Reduced Inequalities
5. (culminating in) No Poverty

WE STAND IN GRATITUDE:

It takes a certain quality of individual; a company with a deep understanding and care for the upliftment of those for whom opportunity does not easily present; a representative of a trust, club, church or organisation who knows the heart of those they act on behalf of, to find resonance with the *grassroots level work and transformative impact of the ASF*. Our donors are longstanding and loyal and we stand in gratitude.

The list of individual donors, corporate donors, trusts, clubs, churches and shared value partners will reflect in the 2024/2025 Annual Report scheduled to be published April 2025.



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 set on revamping the ASF website come 2025 and with renewed gusto focus on developing a tailor-made marketing plan to ensure the sustainability of the ASF.

On behalf of the Trustees and staff of the ASF, we wish upon you and your loved ones a blessed festive season. May we all come to know Peace, Joy and Love. May mankind grow in their understanding, compassion, acceptance and respect of one another and may this world be experienced as the peaceful abode all of mankind desires it to be.

YOU ARE 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)

Eliza James - Director



... changing the lives of young people forever ...