

THE

PESTALOZZI

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Empowering young people to make a difference in the world



NEWSLETTER Summer 2024

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"A good education is a foundation for a better future."

- Elizabeth Warren

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Dear Friends,

It brings me immense pride and joy to share the latest updates from Pestalozzi International Foundation.

We have entered our second year of funding scholarships for the Samaanta Foundation Fellows in Nepal, expanding the diversity of students we assist. Our Fellows are seizing invaluable opportunities, from attending self-branding sessions to securing coveted mentorship programs, which are helping to foster their growth and development. We recently celebrated the graduation of our exceptional scholars from UWC Mostar and UWC Atlantic. Their journeys have been marked by resilience, curiosity, and a commitment to making a difference. As they embark on new adventures, we are confident they will continue to be agents of change.



Furthermore, we are supporting the Oneureka Foundation, founded by our alumnus Pravin ('11). Through a £5000 Pestalozzi Development Fund grant, we are empowering Pravin's vision of transforming the educational landscape for rural, underprivileged first-generation learners in India. The ONE Fellowship programme is a testament to the ripple effect of our mission. Please find more details of this project on page 9.

As the academic year concludes, we extend our warmest wishes to our scholars who will be leaving their respective colleges to embark on journeys into higher education, with many of our scholars heading overseas to the USA. We wish them all the best for their futures and hope that they remain in touch with regular updates.

Our commitment to providing transformative educational opportunities grows stronger with each milestone. Together, we are shaping a better future, one scholar at a time, one community at a time. However, our work is far from over, and we need your support to continue uplifting and empowering the next generation of leaders and changemakers.

Please consider making a donation to Pestalozzi International Foundation. Your generous contribution will directly impact the lives of deserving students, opening doors to endless possibilities and driving positive change worldwide.

Together, let us continue to uplift and empower the dreamers, the visionaries, and the agents of change who will shape a more just, compassionate, and sustainable world.

Warm regards,

Aaron Eckhoff
Chair of Trustees

CELEBRATING GRADUATIONS AT UWC ATLANTIC AND UWC MOSTAR



Garang
St. Olaf, Minnesota

2024 has seen the graduation of our first cohort of Pestalozzi-UWC students studying the IB Diploma outside of the UK. Garang, Desang and Pringgo completed their studies at UWC Mostar. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, as all three have secured scholarships to pursue further studies in the United States. Garang is heading to St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Pringgo to Lewis and Clark College, Oregon while Desang will take up her place at Lake Forest, Illinois.

“As I reflect on my journey here, this diverse area has equipped me with the knowledge, skills and global perspective needed to navigate an ever-changing world. I am considering further studies that will allow me to contribute meaningfully to other people.... Rest assured; your support has not only opened doors for me, but also empowered me to be an agent of positive change.” - Garang

CEO Eddie was present on graduation day in Mostar to celebrate the students' achievements. “In their own unique ways, each of these outstanding young individuals has journeyed further, both literally and figuratively, than many of us will in a lifetime. Despite the numerous challenges life has thrown at them, they have embraced their time in Mostar



Pringgo
Lewis and Clark College, Oregon

with open hearts and minds, making the most of every opportunity. They truly embody the values cherished by all Pestalozzi scholars: determination, humility, hard work, curiosity, kindness, and so much more. Their resilience and spirit are an inspiration to us all. I have



Desang
Lake Forest, Illinois

no doubt that the Pestalozzi - UWC graduating class of 2024 will achieve great things.”

At UWC Atlantic in Wales, our fourth group of scholars has graduated from their course after two years of intensive study. The graduates described the opportunity as "life-changing," highlighting the profound impact the experience has had on their personal and academic development.

"No words could ever justify my gratitude, but thank you so much to everyone at Pestalozzi for providing me with the opportunities I have had in the last years, I have lived my dream, and this has changed the trajectory my life will take as compared to the one I was to have if I had dropped out of school due to my family's financial burdens. May you please continue changing people's lives." - Tashia



Tashia
Oberlin College, Ohio

College of the Atlantic, Maine, will be welcoming Given to their campus.



Given
College of the Atlantic, Maine

"As I look ahead to the next chapter of my academic journey, I carry with me the lessons learned and values instilled during my time at UWC. It has been a life-changing experience that has challenged me to grow personally, academically, and socially. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support, which has made this transformative journey possible. Thank you once again for your belief in me and your commitment to my education. I am determined to make the most of this opportunity and strive to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for future scholars."



Tenzin
Macalester College, Minnesota



Jugani
St. Olaf, Minnesota



Sayra
Lake Forest, Illinois

ALUMNI GRADUATIONS

We're always thrilled to hear about the remarkable progression of Pestalozzi alumni as they advance through their diverse academic and professional careers. A Pestalozzi scholarship, and the subsequent financial support from academic institutions and other benefactors have been instrumental in enabling the continued academic journeys of these motivated young people.

Inspired by their commitment, we hope they will continue to "pay it forward," using the skills and knowledge they have acquired to support and uplift others.



Kishore Chandra Patra - PhD in Astrophysics, University of California, Berkeley



Aashish Acharya - BSc (Hons) in Computing, Islington College, Nepal



Sangyal Dorjee – MSc in Public Health, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health



Shay Mckop - BSc (Hons) Applied Biology and Biochemistry, NUST, Zimbabwe.

Shay also runs her own cake and bakery business in Zimbabwe – Shay's Kitchen Cakes and Cupcakes.

"I wouldn't be doing this had it not been for weekends baking with Jo, a member of the Pestalozzi staff. Pestalozzi was the birth of the business!"

"I am very grateful to have worked with the Division of Infectious Disease, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for the past 3 years and am eager and excited to continue working on some exciting projects related to COVID-19 trials, HIV PrEP usage, Tuberculosis, Gastric cancer, and education in India and Nepal post-graduation. It's been a very fulfilling experience to be able to give back to my Tibetan community in exile through these public health initiatives.

I am grateful to Pestalozzi for believing in my potential and providing me with scholarship support for my A-level studies. Their investment in my education and support from my family and friends laid the foundation for my academic and professional journey, allowing me to achieve my goals and pursue a career dedicated to improving global health outcomes."

SAMAANTA FOUNDATION

Empowering Nepalese Youth Through Education

The past six months have been a whirlwind of activity and growth for all the Samaanta Fellows, including the six funded by PIF. Beyond their coursework and exams, these dedicated students have immersed themselves in a variety of enriching activities designed to broaden their horizons and sharpen their skills for the future. They've delved into an Emotional Awareness workshop, enjoyed a rich tapestry of cultural visits, and rolled up their sleeves for a hands-on session in computer science and coding. Each experience has not only expanded their knowledge, but also equipped them with invaluable tools for their personal and professional journeys ahead.

Mamita, Chahana, and Suman participated in a session by Fun Play Learn where they learned to facilitate sessions on how to make learning fun for young students at a school.

Mamita shared, "Participating in these various programs has been helping me build my self-confidence and leadership skills. I am slowly improving my English language abilities and learning to communicate effectively in English."

Sports activities have also been a source of learning experiences for the Samaanta Fellows. Take Prabin, for example, who has participated in several Futsal tournaments. Reflecting on his experiences, he shared, "Through the games I am involved in, I am learning to communicate effectively, trust my teammates, and also to put my own interests aside for the betterment of the team." These tournaments are not just about competition, but also about developing crucial life skills that will benefit everyone involved.





CWET – EDUCATING THE CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE FUTURE

The 2024 Aspiring Conservation Leaders have settled in and are making progress under the guidance of Suuba, the Youth Leadership Coordinator. Their induction week was thorough and thoughtfully designed to help them acclimate and understand the programme's structure. The diverse subjects covered included leadership, safeguarding, communication, project planning, and an introduction to conservation partners. This comprehensive start has laid a solid foundation, ensuring that the new leaders are well-prepared for the exciting challenges ahead.

Sessions were held to explore career paths and individual programme missions. While some students are confident about the conservation careers they want to pursue, others are still exploring their options. To assist them in making informed decisions, they will receive further guidance on what specific career paths entail. Career talks with a diverse range of industry

professionals offered a wealth of information, as these experts shared their personal journeys, career development insights, and broader perspectives on their sectors. Each student will also be paired with a mentor from the industry, ensuring they have personalized support and advice as they navigate their future careers.

“I particularly enjoyed the lessons on conservation leadership, communication and how to improve our critical thinking skills. I look forward to implementing these new learnt skills as the year goes by.” -Virginia, ACL

In May, the ACLs embarked on work experience and began implementing their community projects. Each student was matched with an organization that aligned with their career aspirations for a two-week period, enabling them to gain practical insights and valuable skills related to their future goals.

“My work experience at Zambia Carnivore Program was a 10/10 as we were exposed to many things like the workshop, field work, office work, just to mention a few. I had an opportunity to go camping for the first time for three days where we tracked wild dogs and lions. I would love to go back to ZCP and experience more of what the organization has to offer.” - Triumph, ACL



SABA PARVEZ

ALUMNUS PROFILE

From rural Assam, Saba ('08) has always been aware of the impact that education has had on his life and that of his family. He gained an undergraduate degree majoring in Chemistry (Bates College), a PhD in Chemistry and Chemical Biology (Cornell University) before pursuing postdoctoral training at the University of Utah.

Saba has received several awards including an American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Parvez Lab opened in 2024, with Saba joining the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology at the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor.

“Despite being from a relatively modest family, my parents inculcated the value of education since childhood. My mother, although she didn’t go to school herself, ensured that we got the most out of our education. In grade 6, I received a scholarship for primary and secondary education at JNV Lakhimpur. Attending JNV helped open many doors for me, including the Pestalozzi scholarship opportunity that changed the trajectory of my personal and professional life. Thanks to Pestalozzi, I was able to complete my two years of high school in the UK. More importantly, Pestalozzi provided the guidance and financial help to apply for college education in the US, which led me to the career I have today.

Without Pestalozzi’s support, it would have been difficult for my family to pay for my higher education. I would have had to pick between pursuing my dream career and financially supporting my family. My experience at Pestalozzi opened up incredible educational and subsequent career opportunities. These opportunities have allowed me to be financially independent and support my sibling’s further education. Their higher education degrees in social work, pedagogy, and rural medicine have furthered Pestalozzi’s mission of giving back to the community. Moreover, noticing the impact that education has made in my family’s life, members of my extended family as well as people in my village have started focusing on their children’s education more than ever. I often receive calls and messages from parents from my village wanting to discuss higher education opportunities for their children. Hence, Pestalozzi not only changed my personal journey, but through me has changed the lives of my family and the broader community.”

Pestalozzi alumni are encouraged to 'pay it forward'.

To read more: https://pestalozzi.org.uk/alumni_stories/saba-parvez/





PDF grant for Oneureka Foundation

Pravin ('11) is a doctoral student and a teaching assistant at the University of Bristol. With a steadfast belief in education's transformative power, he founded the Oneureka Foundation, an NGO that empowers rural, underprivileged first-generation learners in India.

Pravin has received a £5000 PDF grant to expand the ONE Fellowship programme. This exciting initiative aims to transform the lives of rural students through skill-building and educational development workshops. The programme will empower first-generation learners to access higher

education opportunities and foster leadership development and academic excellence.

Oneureka has already made a remarkable impact through skills workshops, helping five students secure fully funded scholarships to study abroad, and assisting 470 students in obtaining scholarships to five universities in India. The foundation has also formed a partnership with the Government of Maharashtra to launch a skill-building programme for 18-21-year-olds, with a special focus on empowering young women.

Pravin shared, "The educational landscape for first-generation learners in India requires a significant overhaul, and with the generous support from the Pestalozzi International Foundation, we are dedicated to bringing about this transformation."



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US



The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023 - WE DID IT!

Thanks to your generosity, we raised £8000 in the Big Give Christmas Challenge. Your support is the key that unlocks doors to life-changing educational opportunities for young people around the globe. With every pound raised, we're igniting potential, empowering futures, and shaping destinies.

Thanks to everyone who pledged, donated and to The Reed Foundation for their match funding.

"Your generosity has not only helped me with my education, but has also had a profound impact on my growth as a person. I am deeply thankful and promise to carry the valuable lessons I've learned here with me for life." - Aman, Nepal

Fundraising Ideas

Let's get creative! There's a whole world of possibilities waiting for you to make a positive impact and raise funds for Pestalozzi.

Why not dive headfirst into an individual challenge? Lace up those running shoes for a charity run, clock some laps in the pool, or pedal your way to success on a fundraising cycle. The sky's the limit when it comes to pushing your limits while supporting a great cause!

You don't have to go it alone. Join the ranks of passionate individuals at organized events nationwide, or even globe-trot your way to fundraising glory. Ever dreamed of conquering a 10km, half marathon, or even a full marathon? Turn that dream into reality with the bonus of sponsorship support.

Feeling a bit adventurous? Consider shaving your head or cultivating a dashing moustache. It's bold, it's brave, and it's bound to turn heads—all while raising vital funds for education.

Not quite ready to part with your locks? You can still whip up a storm in the kitchen and host a mouthwatering meal or a cozy coffee morning. Invite your nearest and dearest, tantalize their taste buds, and watch the donations roll in.

Remember, whether you're a marathon runner or a master chef, there's something for everyone to get involved and make a lasting impact on a young person's life through the power of education. Let's make it count!

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"As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others."

- Audrey Hepburn

