

THE

PESTALOZZI

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Empowering young people to make a difference in the world



NEWSLETTER Winter 2023

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"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education."

- Martin Luther King

CREDITS

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DESIGN: TENZIN NORYANG
PRINTER: CLEARPRINT SOLUTIONS
PUBLISHER: PESTALOZZI
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
FRONT COVER: UWC ATLANTIC
PHOTOGRAPHY: M. ALEXANDER, UWC MOSTAR, UWC ATLANTIC, SAMAANTA FOUNDATION, CWET, P. PRANENDITA, L. BWALYA

STAY IN TOUCH

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Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to share some exciting updates about the incredible work being done by Pestalozzi scholars and our continuous commitment to making a difference in the lives of deserving young individuals around the world.

First, I would like to express our profound pride in our current and past scholars who have achieved remarkable milestones. Many of them have secured places at top universities, a testament to their hard work, determination, and the support of the Pestalozzi community. These students, with their diverse backgrounds and untiring dedication, are not only excelling academically, but also contributing positively to their local communities.

Additionally, some of our scholars have secured funding for exciting projects. Their stories are nothing short of inspiring, highlighting the incredible potential that our scholars possess.

Part of our commitment to furthering our mission involves seeking like-minded organisations and forging impactful partnerships. We are delighted to share the news of our collaboration with the Samaanta Foundation and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust, organizations that share our vision of empowering underprivileged youth through education.

As we move forward, it's crucial to remember that Pestalozzi's mission is not achievable without the support of our community. We believe that every individual can make a difference, and we call on all our supporters, old and new, to continue backing our cause.

In the coming months, we have a significant opportunity to make a real impact through the Big Give campaign. Every contribution, no matter the size, plays an essential role in delivering our charitable objectives. Join us in this endeavour and help us provide deserving scholars with the education and opportunities they need to thrive.

Your support has been, and continues to be, the cornerstone of our success, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment to our cause. Together, we can ensure that more young minds from around the world have the chance to reach their full potential and make a lasting impact on their communities and beyond.

Sincerely,

Aaron Eckhoff
Chair of Trustees



UPDATES ON THE PESTALOZZI-UWC SCHOLARS

UWC Atlantic



Given

“I taught mathematics for Zambia Institute for Sustainable Development, which assists students in applying for university scholarships.

Given worked on the ‘Zamango’ project. “I had meetings with locals and relief and development project leaders to get advice on how the project could be successful and have the intended impact. I also walked around seeing how many mangoes we have flowering in the many trees, in order to get a picture of what the season will be like.”



Tashia

Tashia attended the Villars Symposium in Switzerland and was inspired by people working on solutions to tackle climate change.

She volunteered at the United States Achievers Program. “I assisted children in their university applications, UWC applications, and coding, since I studied Computer Science at my previous school... This meant a lot to me because I was once in the shoes of those students and I know what it feels like to have a helping hand to reach your goals, no matter how small the help is.”



Jugani

“I travelled to different states for the screening of the documentary film I acted in, where I engaged with the audience about social issues, which was one of the things I enjoy doing. While travelling I got to stay with different people, families, and tribal groups in India where I learnt from their experiences.”

Jugani is enjoying History and Global Politics. “I enjoy the concepts I used to think as not normal and were questioned by many back in India, but now I know it is okay to question social issues such as gender, and minor and passive racism as well.”



Sayra

Sayra returned to Belize for a much-needed summer break.

Back at college, the third term has been busy. “So far, organising myself and keeping on track with my work has been my priority, but I do take some breaks once in a while to unwind and rest... I know I have grown since I first started... It is all about progress, step by step I got the hang of this lifestyle and believe I will continue to grow in my education and as a person.”



Tenzin

Over summer Tenzin visited Nepal, volunteered at a homestay for the elderly, and at a small NGO Vet in Darjeeling.

“I participated in three online summer programs offered by Hong Kong University: the HKU STEM Bootcamp on Data Science 2023, Neuroscience, and Collaborative Business Innovation Bootcamp 2023. I had a fantastic experience during these programs, as my fellow students who attended online were very interesting people and I learned a great deal of new information.”

UWC Mostar



Aman

Aman is one of 24 students following the new Systems Transformation Pathway programme. He is studying higher level Global Politics, Economics and English B, and standard level Maths.

“Your generous support has not only provided me with an education but has also shaped my life in ways I could never have imagined.”



Pringgo

Over summer, Pringgo and four friends organised a free English course, Batara Guru English Literature, in his village. It involved 150 participants and 25 volunteer mentors in a borrowed school.

Having people want to learn from him made Pringgo realise how far he has come. “We organised our course classes twice a week, where we focused on teaching the participants conversational English, likely to be useful for them in daily contexts... I feel proud to have successfully given the kids in my village a chance that I never had as a child.”



Desang

“I was able to secure funding of USD 3000, as a recipient of the Global Youth Action Fund Program (GYAF) by the International Baccalaureate and Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth. My project, ‘Flush for Change’ seeks to build sustainable toilets in a rural part of Bhutan.”

Desang also attended the two-week summer program at Yale University. “I was able to attend lectures and seminars and conduct symposiums and capstone research that built various parts of my knowledge of the world and honed multiple skills.”



Garang

“During the summer break, I had a unique opportunity to participate in an initiative known as “Camp Blue”. This endeavour involved collaboration with a fellow UWC student from East Africa at St. Mary’s Kisubi School in Uganda. Our focus during this initiative was on addressing the mental health challenges faced by students in some of the educational institutions in Uganda especially schools in the camp and finding effective ways to help them overcome these obstacles.”

PARTNERING TO SUPPORT EDUCATION IN NEPAL

This year we have developed partnerships with two new organisations in order to broaden the charity's reach and support for education, and the impact on the lives of more young people.

Nepal-based Samaanta Foundation promotes equality and empowerment by providing higher education opportunities to meritorious secondary school graduates from poor socio-economic backgrounds. The foundation provides comprehensive fellowships and helps create an enabling environment for their advancement. Jyoti Pandey ('04), herself a Pestalozzi alumna, is a co-founder and Director of Programs for Samaanta.

Through your generosity 6 young people will be supported through their 2-year programme.



Chahana, from Kavre district, lived with her uncle's family and two cousins. Her uncle and aunt are farmers, and it would have been challenging for them to support her continued education.

At school, Chahana was the President of the Child Club and led the team in organizing a variety of programs, including debating and sports events. She also initiated several awareness programs addressing domestic violence and gender inequality in her community.

Her deep understanding of the challenges she has faced and her approach to finding solutions sets her apart from her

peers. Chahana has a strong sense of commitment to community service.

She is pursuing her +2 education in Management and aspires to become an App Developer.

Prabin is from Lamjung district. The family of six includes his grandmother and two younger brothers. His father returned from Saudi Arabia four years ago, and his family now make their living from farming.

Prabin had set his sights on continuing his education in the next town. However, recognizing the financial constraints of his family, he was considering preparing for a military career in the hopes of job security.

He consistently performed well as a student, was President of the child club and actively participated in both inter and intra-school events such as sports, quizzes, and speech competitions.

Prabin is studying Management.





Mamita, from Parsa district, is the youngest of five daughters. The loss of her father to ill health about four years ago placed her on the brink of dropping out of school. Thankfully, Mamita's mother, a farmer, consistently encouraged her to continue her studies.

Dedicated to her studies, she was also actively engaged in school clubs, and spearheaded various awareness initiatives. Her maturity and sense of responsibility meant that she often assumed the role of a mediator to resolve conflicts among her fellow students at school.

Despite encountering various forms of gender discrimination in society, Mamita's determination to excel in her studies remains unshaken. She is studying Management.

Pratik is from Sindhupalchowk district. His parents are farmers and supplement their income through tailoring and playing musical instruments. Pratik's father recently returned home having spent five years working abroad. He has a younger brother.

Pratik was an active student, participating in singing, debating, essay writing, and sports competitions.

Options for further education were limited, the only choice being the high school more than an hour away that didn't offer Science, his preferred subject. Pratik is pursuing his education in a Faculty of Science and aspires to become an engineer.

Pratik shared, "I come from a Damai Community, a community in which parental expectations for their children are often modest, and role models are in short supply. So, I aspire to become one in my community."



Mandira is from Sindhupalchowk district. The family rented a small piece of land to build a single-room tin house, which is home for her parents and younger sister. Her parents engage in wage labour, which is often an unreliable source of income.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Mandira has consistently been the best performing student in her class. However, her prospects of continuing on to 11th grade were slim. Her family would struggle to even send her to the nearest high school. Mandira is currently studying science.

Suman is from a family of four in Dang, Western Nepal. His father has been working abroad for the past two years, while his mother is engaged in farming. His younger brother is in the 8th grade.

He moved from a private to a government school after 6th grade. Having incurred debt to build their home, his family could no longer afford the school fees. These circumstances made it almost impossible for him to pursue education after 10th grade.

Suman has always been an active member of his school and his community; he participated in the Rastrapati (President) Running Shield and the neighbourhood clean-up efforts during the dengue outbreak. He is studying Management.





EDUCATING ASPIRING CONSERVATION LEADERS

Two years of funding has been provided to employ a Youth Leadership Coordinator, whose primary focus will be to manage and train the students participating in Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust's (CWET) Aspiring Conservation Leaders (ACL) programme. Suuba Muyamwa started her role in August 2023 and will be mentoring 7 students this year.

PIF alumna Thandiwe ('08), a former Chipembele Conservation Star pupil, is now a Trustee of the organisation as well as being an experienced conservationist.

Funding the ACL Youth Leadership Coordinator post is a new endeavour for Pestalozzi. CWET is focused on advancing the education of children and young people in the conservation and preservation of the environment and its wildlife. The year-long ACL programme is for students who have finished secondary school, have the potential to become conservation leaders and is designed around conservation leadership, professional development, life skills and life after ACL.

Suuba is a passionate environmentalist and science teacher with 10 years of experience in the environment and education sectors. Her responsibilities include training, facilitation, curriculum development, programme management and monitoring and evaluation.

The students have already participated in public speaking, and business and entrepreneurship workshops. A recent visit to Lusaka enabled the ACLs to interact with several environmental and conservation organisations, increasing their knowledge and awareness of conservation issues on a local, regional, national and international level.



“Huge thanks to Pestalozzi for their encouragement and partnership in this innovative programme that is helping to create the next generation of conservation leaders in Zambia.”

- Anna Tolan, CWET



LWANGA BWALYA

ALUMNI PROFILE

Lwanga ('10), is the son of a security officer and a tailor. He returned to Zambia and worked in the hospitality sector before moving to the Livingstone Youth Football Academy. As well as studying for his BSc in Human Resource, Lwanga is the Country Director of Play It Forward, a charity and football club committed to social change in Zambia.

What difference did the Pestalozzi Scholarship make?

It opened up a whole new world for me. The teachers were kind, and we had food to eat every day. These things may seem small to others, but to a young person from a world of immense scarcity, it was like a weight lifted off my shoulders. I also encountered a new idea of education, not as a means to an end, but as an opportunity to think freely and make discoveries.

The biggest impact was that my relationship with education changed. I realised that education wasn't just about getting a job, but about becoming a well-rounded person. It was about learning to think critically and creatively, and about making a difference in the world.

How are you 'paying it forward'?

We are giving young people the same opportunity that Pestalozzi gave me: an education for those who

cannot afford it. I have been working with parents and teachers to help children learn to read, and we provide supplemental nutrition because I understand that, growing up in the same community, sometimes having a meal is one less thing for children to think about. The Pestalozzi grant we received provides children with weekly access to computers to learn how to code and create content.

Why is education important?

I believe education is important because it is what true empowerment looks like. Without education we perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

What message would you give to our donors?

Your donation has been life-changing for many young people. Your support gave me the opportunity to develop my talent and now it is possible for me to pay forward your generosity to young people in my community.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2023

One donation, twice the impact



Thank you to those who responded to our request for pledgers for the Big Give Christmas Challenge enabling us to reach our £2000 pledge target. Matched funding of £1500 from The Reed Foundation will also support our campaign.

There is still time to support us during campaign week, which runs from 28 November until 5 December. Any donation, whatever the size is gratefully received.

Donate between noon on 28 November and noon on 5 December and your donation will be doubled. One donation, twice the impact.

Follow the link to donate: or scan the QR code:

<https://bit.ly/PIFBG23>



“Pestalozzi has completely changed the course of my life. It completely changed what I want to achieve in life. It has given me the power to achieve and help others. It has given me wings. I hope to help someone like me in the future.”

- Hari, Bhutan

Regular Giving

Most of our donations are smaller regular amounts, many from lifelong supporters. We even have a few individuals who donate anonymously through regular standing orders or payroll giving. (Thank you!)

While we are always grateful for those bigger, one-off donations, smaller regular donations have a vital and significant part to play and allow the charity to rely on some consistency.

Will you consider making a regular monthly donation? Don't forget the Gift Aid declaration! If it is applicable, it increases the value of your donation by 25%, at no additional cost to you.



MEET THE TEAM

MAGS ALEXANDER

20 YEARS AT PESTALOZZI



Mags joined Pestalozzi in 2003 as Care Coordinator, became the Student Programme Manager in 2009, and since 2019 has been the Student Scholarship, Alumni Liaison and Development Fund Manager, although she takes on many other tasks for the charity. Mags volunteers at her local Parkrun, and her interest in the environment sees her out litter picking almost daily!

What about our mission resonates with you and why?

I have seen first-hand how education can change lives and being from a poor economic background should not stop you from accessing it. Education is essential for breaking the cycle of poverty and creating opportunities for a better future for individuals and society. The broader Pestalozzi principles of educating the ‘head, heart and hands’ are something I apply in my own life. It isn’t just intellectual development, but also the emotional and practical, which makes us well rounded individuals who can make positive contributions to society.

What do you wish people knew about Pestalozzi?

While the costs of supporting education are immediate, the benefits are spread over an entire career and lifetime. Education is a long-term investment, and it can take several years before you see the impact of your donations. The generosity of donors, and the hard work of the students, has helped to produce educators, engineers, medical professionals, conservationists, and researchers.

What is your hope for Pestalozzi in the future?

Over two decades, I have seen many changes in how the charity operates, but while there is still inequity in access to education, I hope that we continue to adapt, remain sustainable and be a part of the solution.

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Lwanga Bwalya,
Country Director Play it Forward