



TRUST NEWS

Winter 2018-19

Students tell of hopes and aspirations



The 12 young people being helped by the Trust in 2018 have provided moving accounts of their circumstances in pursuing their university studies. The debt they owe to Trust donors and supporters is clear.

Here is just a sample of the messages received:



Sanelisiwe Mahapeletsa, 32, was inspired to study medicine (MBCHB) after the death of her father from high blood pressure which resulted in cardiac failure.

She says: "It came to me that I can make a difference and save lives ... (by becoming) a medical professional who will advocate for promotion of health in disadvantaged communities." She is interested in neurosurgery and drug research, saying: "I believe if medicine can find more curative drugs, life can be better for all."

Thando Masiko, the recipient of the Margaret Thomas Scholarship, is studying a BA (Honours) degree in Media and Cultural Studies. He says passion drove him to his course of study.



He believes working in the media industry could allow him to have significant influence "to change the world for the better".

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TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Tess Marsh (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Erin Bargate; Penny Holmes; Colin Morgan; Lorna Nimmo.

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Students' hopes...

-> Thando sees himself as a storyteller. He hopes that by sharing his stories he will be able to influence and shape the future "with relevant and constructive content".

He has ambitions to run his own media company, using TV broadcasting and online platforms.



Amanda Nyawose, 20, is studying for a BSc degree in Environmental Earth Science. She has been drawn to the combination of courses in hydrology, environmental science, soil science and agrometeorology.



She voices concern about pressures on the environment and the speed of environmental change. She says many people are not aware of the stress they are placing on the environment. Amanda hopes to help find water-saving solutions, given the problems of poor water quality and water scarcity, and a rapidly growing population.

Samokelisiwe Dube, 20, who is pursuing a BSc in Geological Sciences (20), says geology has been a passion since childhood: "I always marvelled at the gigantic hills of Mother Nature ... I am motivated by curiosity and a deep desire to understand some of the grandest and most beautiful phenomena on earth ..."



She says that after graduating she wants to "give back to the community, country and my geologically blessed homeland". She adds: "My ultimate goal is to be a responsible citizen and serve the beautiful land that nurtured me, with integrity."



Mfanelo Mkhize, 19, is studying a BSc in Mechanical Engineering. He says he has been fascinated by machines since early in his life and loves engineering.

He wants to use mechanical engineering to help improve people's lives. He declares: "From the villages ... I knew as a child, I know the challenges faced by the poor."

He has ambitions to progress steadily in a career in engineering, perhaps even setting up his own consulting company one day, creating jobs for other engineers.

-> Duane Naidoo, 23, says his enthusiasm for his studies for a BSc (Hons) in Computer Science stems from "being able to create something viable and contribute to the community with only the tool of a PC". He enjoys the problem-solving aspects of practical programming.



He is keen to advance his skills and knowledge to pursue a career in IT, perhaps running his own company one day.



Sinothile Makhathini, 22, is looking to use the skills and knowledge acquired from a BSc (Hons) in Geography and Environmental Management to help address social, environmental and economic issues. She is enthusiastic about the practical fieldwork, research and analysis used to arrive at solutions for a particular problem.

Sinothile hopes to work in the management of natural resources or conservation. "It will be my duty to ensure the monitoring and sustainable use of (scarce) resources by enforcing compliance with resource usage regulations and laws," she says.

Simphiwe Ndlovu, 21, studying medicine (MBCHB), says: "Since I was a child, I wanted to be a medical doctor. I love to help people and that is what I would be doing as a doctor."



He adds that he was attracted by the fact "doctors are respected for being kind and offering their services to help people in (their) communities get better when they are sick". He is keen to specialise in cardiology and help save people with heart problems.

The Trustees believe the comments from the needy students helped by the Trust show they are deserving of support as they struggle against poverty to better their lives – and those of their families and communities – through a university education.

*To enable the Trust's valuable work to continue, the Trustees urge alumni and supporters in the UK to **give as generously as you can**. Even the smallest contribution can make a difference.*

Please consider a one-off donation or a regular standing order, using the giving form enclosed with this newsletter or by going online to donate via www.virginmoneygiving.com Remember gift aid can boost your donation if you are a UK taxpayer.

For the latest news about the Trust, as well as information for donors, go to the charity's website at: www.ukznuktrust.org

Bequest from Helen Hill boosts Trust

The Trustees were sad to hear news of the death of alumna and Trust supporter Helen Hill earlier this year at the age of 94. Mrs Hill (nee Anderson) had lived in Nottingham for some years.

In a wonderful gesture, she left of bequest of £2,000 to the Trust in her will. The money will go into the Trust's funding for needy students, making a real difference to their lives.

If you wish to consider making a bequest or legacy to the Trust to help students from low-income families, please see the Donate page on the Trust's website at www.ukznuktrust.org for further information.

Birthday appeals spanning 50 years bring cheer

Some welcome donations to the Trust have been received in response to an appeal by a supporter to family and friends celebrating her 80th birthday. She wishes to remain anonymous but the Trustees would like to thank her for her efforts and wish her all the best.

It is heartening that this birthday appeal follows a similar one last year by another supporter in celebration of her 30th birthday. *There may be a gap of half a century in the ages of the two women concerned but the sentiment is the same.* Well done, both!

Other news: The Trustees have been asked to help publicise an appeal to alumni to support a project to revive **Umabatha** ("the Zulu Macbeth") and aid restoration of the **open-air theatre** at the university in Durban. See www.umabatha.com for more info.

Can you raise funds for the Trust?



Virgin Money Giving allows you to create your own online sponsorship pages in aid of charities including the Trust.

We urge you to bring in donations through sponsored activities or events such as marathon runs and birthdays.

Simply set up your page following the guide on www.virginmoneygiving.com and let friends, family and other potential sponsors know, as well as the Trust. We will be glad to assist.

