



TRUST NEWS

Winter 2022-23

Trust calls on alumni to make extra effort to help UKZN students in need



The Trust's regular Winter appeal for donations from alumni and supporters in the UK has exceptional urgency this year, amid global and domestic economic turmoil.

The charity has a proud record of providing assistance to needy students at the University for more than 30 years. But the trustees remain concerned about the challenge of trying to maintain help at the levels achieved in the past few years, even during the height of the Covid pandemic. The adverse impact of that health crisis has been followed by further shocks arising from the war in Ukraine, including high inflation.

As noted in the previous issue of this newsletter, students from low-income households are facing ever increasing costs as they try to obtain a university education. Many will not be able either to start or to continue their studies without help such as that provided by the Trust. The negative impact on them, their families, communities and wider society in South Africa should not be underestimated. But a donation to the Trust, large or small, can make a real difference.

*The trustees urge you to **give now** to avoid the Trust having to reduce support in 2023 when the need is greater than ever.*



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Student tells of act of kindness that inspired her to study pharmacy

One of the needy students being assisted by the Trust says she was inspired to study for a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree after being given help and encouragement from a pharmacist.



Simiso Sibiya, 23, says the pharmacist (whom she did not name) was the boyfriend of a neighbour. He gave Simiso a lift to school in his car one day when it was raining and he noticed her torn shoes.

During a short conversation, "he found out that we barely make ends meet at home", says Simiso. "When I jumped off, he gave me R300 and told me to get school shoes and [said] that he knows what it is like to be without a proper school uniform."

From then on, she just wanted to be a pharmacist "at all costs". Simiso says of her university studies: "For me, getting here has been a dream for many years and, now that I'm here, it feels like a dream."

She says a long-term goal is to raise funds to assist students in financial difficulties. "I really do not like it when finances are preventing deserving students from getting education."

□ Among other reports received from this year's students:

Sibahle Zandamela, 19, tells us: "I chose to pursue a law degree because I believe that law is the fundamental of life and liberty. Law answers the question of what is acceptable and what is not in our society. I was attracted to this qualification because from a very young age I had a natural inclination to stand up for people's rights."

Thokozani Sithole, 24, is studying for a Bachelor of Social Science degree focused on criminology. He explains why it is very special to him: "I am doing it out of love." He enjoys solving cases and applying theories. Thokozani plans to join the Police Service after graduating.

Nosimilo Mlungwana, 21, says she decided to study for a Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) degree in Human Anatomy "because I have a great interest in improving research of human health". She declares: "South Africa needs new minds in the medical science field who will add to the excellent work that is being done."

**** Please give generously to support our students ****

Students tell of key ambition to advance education for others

The 15 students being assisted by the Trust this year include three education students, all of whom have spoken of their desire to promote education in their communities.



Angel Mabakoena Mokoena, 23, current recipient of the Margaret Thomas Scholarship from the Trust, says: "I want to have an impact on the education of future generations that can ensure their prosperity, ... motivate them to learn and inspire them to become the best version of themselves."

Angel, who is studying for a Bachelor of Education (Honours) degree, says she wants to teach people "how education can help them in attaining their dreams".

She obtained a teaching qualification after completing a Bachelor of Social Science degree. She says she enjoyed her teaching practicals. She enrolled for the honours degree course because she wanted to strengthen her professional competence and gain more knowledge about educational systems.

Nompilo Valentine Zondi, 19, expresses her passion to become a teacher, adding: "As I am living with disability, it is my dream or hope to set an example that we can also achieve our goals even when we are disabled."



She says her desire to enter teaching started when she did voluntary administrative work at a primary school in 2018: "I used to help out if there was no teacher in class." Nompilo says she decided to study for a Bachelor of Education degree because she saw the need to help children "and teach them the right direction".



Londekile Maureen Jeza, 31, another B Ed student, says: "The reason I chose this career is that I like to inspire young people. I like to motivate them to become better individuals. I want to be an example to them, especially those who come from poor families. I want to give them hope. I want them to look up to me and see that nothing is impossible as long as you believe."

Jeza wants to study the Zulu language further "because I know how important it is for us as a nation to keep our culture and transfer it to the next generation".

Trust launches revamp of website

The Trust's website at ukznuktrust.org is undergoing a revamp aimed at improving the look of the site, ensuring better use of images and making the site work properly on mobile smartphones.

The content remains much the same, with news posts, copies of the biannual newsletter and key information about the charity, including how to donate. Contact us if you have any queries.

Could YOU raise funds for the Trust?

The help provided by the Trust depends on the willingness of supporters to try to raise funds for the charity - in addition to their own donations. *You can make a difference by making such an effort.*



The Trust uses **CAF Donate** (from the Charities Aid Foundation) for online giving. Donations to the Trust can be boosted by setting up campaign pages on the CAF website at www.cafonline.org, tied to specific fundraising activities and events.



Marathon runs are a popular choice but appeals in relation to a significant birthday or other occasion can also bring in much-needed funds. *Contact **the Trust** if you can help.*



Connect with the Trust at:

www.facebook.com/UKZNUKTrust

Remember to give us any CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Out-of-date contact details mean our communications by email can be blocked and newsletters sent in the post end up being returned, with a waste of the cost of postage.

Please make sure that both **the UKZN Alumni Relations Office** and **the Trust** have your current contact information.

Remember to email any changes to:

alumni@ukzn.ac.za and info@ukznuktrust.org

NB Add the two email addresses to your online address book or contact list to try to avoid our emails being rejected as spam.