



TRUST NEWS

Summer 2025

Trust helps 21 students in 2025 – equalling achievement of 2024

The Trust is providing assistance to 21 UKZN students in need this year, thanks to the generosity of donors who have partnered with the charity to reach its goals.



The number of students helped rose significantly from 15 in 2023 to 21 last year after a major funding boost. The trustees are pleased to be able to confirm that the charity has been able to maintain funding for 21 students again in 2025. We wish to express our thanks to donors and supporters who have made this possible.

The Trust's help is going to seven honours students through Trust bursaries and the Margaret Thomas Scholarship and to 14 undergraduates through book and meal allowances, as last year.



However, the need remains very great, with many UKZN students struggling with poverty, debt and hunger. The trustees appeal to alumni and others who back the charity's aims to step up to make sure it can maintain or even ...>

TRUSTEES: Roger Smith (Chair); Erin Bargate (Secretary); Richard Cooper (Treasurer); Sheralee Ghione; Penny Holmes; Heather Parry.

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Student awards stay at 21 for 2025

...> expand the number of students it can help in coming years.

Without your support, the trustees are concerned that the funding available will fall back from the levels of 2024 and 2025. The consequence would be a reduction from the current highs in the number of students in need that the Trust can assist.

It is worth reminding readers:

- **Any donation** is welcome, whether by cheque accompanied by the Trust's giving form (enclosed with posted copies of the newsletter or downloadable from the Trust's website), or by bank transfer and email notification, or by using the online service operated by the *Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)*

- Regular giving by **standing order** helps the Trust by providing a reliable stream of income. If you can, please fill out and return the relevant part of the Trust's giving form

- If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill out the **Gift Aid Declaration** on the giving form or select the Gift Aid option when making a donation via the CAF online service. This allows the Trust to claim an additional 25p from the taxman for every £1 you donate

- You may wish to consider making a **legacy or bequest** to the Trust in your will, in the knowledge that you will be helping make future provision for students. Do *contact us* if you have any queries.

*** Stories on some of the 21 students being assisted by the Trust this year will appear in the next issue of Trust News, due in December. ***

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.

Trust finds inspiration in joining network for UK-based charities operating in South Africa

The Trust has been given a boost by taking up membership of the **SA-UK Trust Network**.



The organisation describes itself as “a forum where representatives of UK-based trusts and charities, supporting their southern and South African partner organisations, can interact and further their common purpose: the development and upliftment of southern and South Africa”.

The Network provides useful guidance and resources for charities and hosts regular events that provide opportunities for charity representatives to make contact and exchange ideas and information.



A few of our trustees have attended recent Network events and have found them to be of value. Often, over the years, we have felt ourselves to have been working in some isolation. But the Network has given us inspiration through sharing experiences with

many other charities, large and small, all aiming to better the lives of people in southern and South Africa.

Events often feature member charities doing amazing work. Examples range from Taking Care of Business, a major initiative giving unemployed people the chance to escape poverty through small business opportunities, to the Mzimkhulu Trust, supporting early learning at a single school; and from the Education and Feeding Scheme founded by anti-apartheid campaigner the late Bishop Trevor Huddleston, running a chain of community centres, to Zabra, an initiative collecting pre-used bras, sending them to SA and distributing them to women who cannot afford to buy them.

Our charity shares much in common with other member charities operating in the higher education sector in SA, such as the Canon Collins Trust and the Rhodes University Trust UK. We hope that collaborative efforts will bring benefits for our Trust. *Note that Network membership is only open to organisations and not to individuals.*

Trustees update: extra volunteer sought

The trustees are very pleased to confirm that alumnus and longstanding Trust supporter Heather Parry joined the board overseeing the charity's work in November, following an appeal in the Trust's newsletter. Master of Science graduate Heather worked as a business/IT analyst in the UK and abroad before retiring and returning to the UK. Her late husband, Hugh, was a co-founder of the Trust in 1991 and served as Chair from that time until 1997.

This means the board now has its usual complement of six trustees – but we are keen to recruit another trustee to help secure the long-term future of the charity. *Could **you** partner with Trust by becoming a **trustee** to help oversee its work, perhaps for years to come?*

The role is not particularly onerous as it normally involves just three meetings a year and consultations by email. You would assist with the selection of students for the Trust's help and engage in email correspondence with them. You may be called on to help with fund-raising efforts or communications with alumni and supporters.

Additional contributions by taking on particular tasks or initiatives are welcome. Note that trustees serve without remuneration or reward.

Contact the Trust to find out more.

Could YOU raise funds for the Trust?

The help provided by the Trust to students in need depends on the willingness of supporters to try to raise funds for the charity – in addition to making their own donations.

You can make a difference by making an effort to bring in funds.



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.
