

THE **PESTALOZZI** INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

.....
Empowering young people to make a difference in the world



NEWSLETTER Winter 2021

www.pestalozzi.org.uk



“By April 2020, close to 1.6 billion children and youth were out of school. And nearly 369 million children who rely on school meals needed to look to other sources for daily nutrition. The global pandemic has far-reaching consequences that may jeopardize hard won gains made in improving global education.”

- The UN



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STAY IN TOUCH

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AARON ECKHOFF
 CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Dear Supporters, Alumni, and Friends,

Times here at Pestalozzi International Foundation continue to be exciting and full of opportunities. It is a great pleasure to welcome Eddie West-Burnham to the team here at PIF as the new CEO. Since starting his role at the end of September, he has done excellent work with the staff team and the Board of Trustees in shaping conversations around the various opportunities that exist for us as a charity. I am pleased to share that Eddie's values as a professional and as a person align well with the mission and vision of PIF, which will help us immensely in the coming weeks, months, and years.

We continue to deliver our mission with enthusiasm and energy, which is largely down to the excellent team of staff that we have working in the background, and we are now moving into a phase of our existence where we are beginning to explore more creative and sustainable ways to deliver our mission. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of our supporters, friends, and alumni, which is more vital than ever. As we approach this next phase, I am filled with confidence knowing that the team we have in place are ready to deliver and that our Board will provide the leadership necessary to move the organisation forward. I remain grateful of the support we've had from the 'Pestalozzi Community' and am confident that the future of the organisation will invite new 'friends' to the community in a number of ways, helping us to take the organisation long into the future.

Sincerely,
 Aaron Eckhoff

MESSAGE FROM PESTALOZZI



EDDIE WEST-BURNHAM
 CEO

Hello, I am incredibly proud to be writing this as the new CEO of Pestalozzi International Foundation.

I join Pestalozzi at a point where, for many of us, life has changed more significantly than at any point in a generation; the full effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have yet to truly emerge, issues relating to Brexit look set to rumble on and the Climate Crisis remains a source of great anxiety. Rather than retreat into a shell and wait for all of this to become yesterday's news, now more than ever we need to work together to improve the life opportunities of the most vulnerable in our community.

A little bit about me. I am passionate about improving life opportunities and promoting education and social justice as a way of lifting people out of poverty. The majority of my career has been spent in health, social care and education. For the last two years, I have been working as an Executive Coach and consultant, supporting charities and entrepreneurs to overcome personal and professional obstacles and achieve their outcomes. Prior to that I worked in mental health, learning disability services, as a lecturer at King's College London, and the NHS. For the 13 years up to September 2019, I was CEO of a mental health charity.

I would like to thank the staff and Board for extending such a great welcome to me and making my initial weeks with the organisation so positive. I would also like to thank all our donors for your continued support and belief in the work that we do.

Eddie

PESTALOZZI-UWC SCHOLARS

MEET THE 21/23 SCHOLARS



A wonderful cohort of new students has arrived at UWC Atlantic in South Wales. After long journeys they had to spend up to ten days in quarantine on their arrival. Five students have joined the second years, while another two have had to defer their start until 2022. They have some great stories to share about the fun experiences they have had so far.

Brallan from Belize described his quarantine after an 11-hour journey to Mexico followed by a flight to Heathrow and a bus to South Wales. “We were taken to the house where we were going to quarantine for the next 10 days. I quarantined with the students from the red-listed countries because I transited through Mexico. That night when we arrived and got to our dorms all we wanted was to get some rest. The next morning, I met the other people that were quarantining in the same house, we were 13 in total. Even though we were separated from the other students, I can say I enjoyed the days I was in quarantine. Spending those 10 days together made us very close to each other and they became my first friends at UWC Atlantic.”

Bhutanese student Hari describes participating in UWC Day. “We started with performances from different parts of the world, from Afro-Caribbean to Latin dances and Bollywood dances. I felt the strong diversity we have in the college. We had different programs throughout the day. One of those that I participated in was the Chinese calligraphy where we learned how to write the word ‘peace’ and I enjoyed it a lot. Next was a noodle cooking competition, but it wasn’t normal. We had to choose a partner and hand cuff with them and then cook the noodles. It was as fun as it sounds! I also joined Nordic Wife-Carrying where we had to carry our friend and run. Very new for me and I loved it. During the Food Fair, we cooked sub-continent food (panipuri) and made some ice cream.”

Menard from Zimbabwe is extremely grateful for the opportunity that the Pestalozzi Scholarship has provided. “It was beyond my intuition that one day I would say goodbye to the routine of taking one meal the whole day because we had not enough food. I can explicitly remember the comments on my primary school report from my teacher telling me that hunger was my major drawback in my academics. I am profoundly grateful to you,

Pestalozzi Foundation, and it’s only because of you that I have the strength to share the narrative side of my story. Zimbabwe was not well known, but because of you, I got the opportunity to share the cultures, beliefs, languages and also learn more about other peoples’ beliefs. The experience I am getting of understanding the differences we have as humans has fuelled my passion to impact positive change in my community and the globe at large.”



Fred from Zambia and Mingla from Nepal have also arrived and are undergoing a period of quarantine. The second-year students Aliza, Devi and Lionel, also have some interesting stories of how they spent their summer.

Lionel returned to Uganda, the first time he had been home in a year, which he enjoyed despite covid lockdowns. He is looking forward to his second year at the college. “My summer was a bit weird since we were in and out of lockdown the whole time, plus there were really stringent rules

like curfew and public transport not operating for the most the holiday so I spent most of it inside doing my EE and reading novels. Though it was nice that I got to see most of my friends whose houses I could walk to from mine. It was a really good holiday overall despite the lockdown situation. I am looking forward to having a very successful term as a second-year meeting my deadlines and balancing my own social life as well as getting into university, and hopefully, this term goes well for all the second years who are stressed right now.”

Devi, from Indonesia, has been working on her Extended Essay in Physics conducting experiments on DC motor efficiency. She is keen to attend university aiming for either Oxford, University College London, Massachusetts Institute of Technology or Cornell, attracted by their engineering programmes. “I’m excited to experience the hands-on learning opportunities they have to offer and join the Engineers Without Borders Programme, so I can learn how to better cooperate with people in the real-world engineering context and directly impact the lives of those living in the developing world.”

Aliza was unable to return to Nepal due to travel restrictions. She spent time with a host family in Cornwall enjoying the environment and learning how to swim. “I also enjoyed staying with a very different family. I spent the last month of the summer in Oxford with a Nepali family I know. I explored the beautiful city and enjoyed being around Nepali people and eating Nepali food which made me feel at home. This summer helped me to be much more independent and confident. I learned to be more interactive with the people around me, which helped me when I came back to AC.”

PESTALOZZI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION WISHES ALL THE STUDENTS A SUCCESSFUL AND ENJOYABLE YEAR AHEAD.

ALUMNI UPDATE

SANSAR - TACKLING FOOD POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN NEPAL



Alumna Sushant is now using his Pestalozzi experience together with a grant from the Pestalozzi Development Fund to help people in his local community through the Sansar project.

“The village I grew up in has high levels of poverty, many families are multi-dimensionally poor, lacking basic infrastructure such as waste management for instance. Through Sansar, my team and I hope to enable communities like these to manage their household waste while providing them with rice, which accounts for most of their monthly expenditure.”

Sushant is originally from Patihani, southern Nepal, which is one of the most deprived villages in the area. He explains why a scholarship was vital to him receiving an education. “Growing

up, I experienced the double burden of child poverty and the horror of the ongoing civil war. My childhood home lacked the basic infrastructure like regular electricity, let alone study desks or the internet, or a computer to study on. My family, which relied on subsistence farming, had little income to buy books or stationery for school. My grandparents and parents saw education as the only way out of poverty. Aged 10, they encouraged me to take an entrance examination, which secured me a scholarship to study in a boarding school in Pokhara. Subsequently, I gained a Pestalozzi scholarship and then a scholarship for Pestalozzi alumni at the London School of Economics.”

With the help of funding from Pestalozzi, Sushant set up Sansar. Working with a local waste company, they now exchange plastic waste for free bags of rice,



bringing a sustainable community driven solution to tackle plastic related pollution as well as poverty.

Sushant’s main motivation is to “raise awareness with locals about the importance of keeping their environment clean and living sustainably.”

With 4.7 million plastic bags in daily use across the city, the Sansar team realised this was an environmental problem. The slum dwellers face serious health risks caused by unsanitary environments and inadequate nutrition where the average monthly income is less than half a dollar a day (Lumanti, 2008). Having witnessed



high levels of plastic waste and pollution in the rivers and area near the riverbanks, the Sansar team decided to act.

Rice is a staple food for Nepalese households and plastic waste is causing environmental damage, particularly where the poorest households live. Sansar combines these two issues into one solution.

“We aim to reduce food poverty through this project since the monthly expenses towards rice accounts for more than a quarter of the average monthly income in the slum areas.”

“I hope to apply for a Master’s degree in Public Policy, in order to network with like-minded leaders aiming to change societies for the better.”

On this journey of mine so far, I thank Pestalozzi for nurturing my passion for helping others, using the head, heart and hands.”

Sushant also hopes to work with policy makers to make long-term and sustainable changes to local communities.



Sushant(right) with the Sansar team.

**Pestalozzi
Development Fund
Recipients**



The Pestalozzi Development Fund was established to support alumni to set up or expand projects or activities of benefit to their own or other developing communities. Access to this seed funding allows our alumni to make a positive impact in the world.

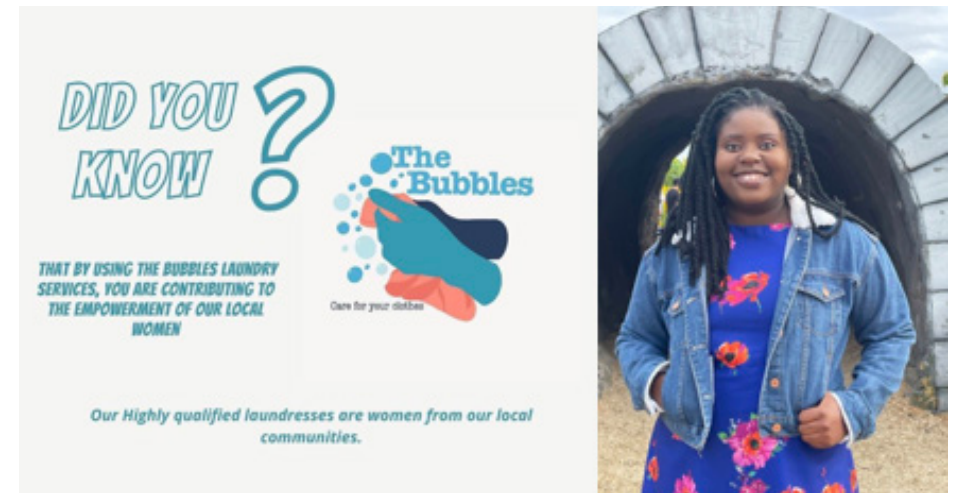
In 2020 £49,179 was granted, with 10 projects receiving funding as well as 5 Pestalozzi alumni receiving support to continue their higher education. Already in 2021 grants totalling £25,275 have been made, 8 community projects have received grants and 2 alumni have been supported with their higher education costs.



In 2019, Aswathy applied for a PDF grant to help her complete her undergraduate studies. She received £1100 to assist with the cost of rent and maintenance during the final year of her course. Aswathy has now graduated with a BSc in Medical Microbiology from the Sai Institute of Paramedical and Allied Sciences in India.

Aswathy explains how she is already using her degree “Upon graduation, I spent a few months interning at a laboratory in Kerala. I was responsible for collecting and examining patient samples. I got to learn more about instrumentation and medical tests than

I had done during college. After that, I joined Genetika, Centre for Advanced Genetic Studies, as a Research Trainee. I am currently writing a Literature Review on Immunological Aspects of Coronary Artery Disease. I have always been interested in research and, now I have this opportunity to help PhD scholars with theirs. Alongside, I am still providing Personal Development classes. I’m also working as a Managed Network Expert for Biology at Chegg, an international online platform that provides study support.”



The Bubbles is a laundry service set up by Bwalya to support uneducated women in Zambia to find secure work.

Bwalya grew up in a single-mother-headed-home in Lusaka, Zambia. Her mother struggled to find employment to put Bwalya and her three siblings through school. Fortunately, Bwalya was able to complete secondary school with sponsorship from the Kucetekela Foundation. Thereafter, Bwalya explains, “I had the opportunity to pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma in England. The Pestalozzi Scholarship acted as a springboard to my tertiary education. In 2015, I moved to Canada to study Commerce at the University of British Columbia with a fully funded scholarship from the Mastercard Foundation.”

Bwalya is now working at Atira Womens Resource Society (a non-profit dedicated to ending violence against women). Channeling her passion for empowering women

Bwalya established The Bubbles, “a social enterprise that was created to enable women (like my mother) to have access to employment opportunities that they would otherwise not have in the mainstream labour market. This allows the women to have a stable income to provide for their families.”

The Bubbles project provides a clothes washing service by local women who would otherwise struggle to find secure employment. Bwalya says she is “incredibly grateful for all the opportunities I have received during my academic career. Particularly, the Pestalozzi Scholarship opened many doors for me. It is an opportunity that not only gave me the courage to dream about attending one of the best global universities, but made that dream a reality.”



“World poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed secondary education” - UNESCO

GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION THIS CHRISTMAS!
And help young people to realise their potential.

Help Pestalozzi International Foundation to raise funds vital to continuing our scholarship programme through supporting us in this year's Big Give Christmas Challenge. During this year's campaign we aim to raise £7500 towards Pestalozzi scholarships. From 12pm on 30th November until 12pm on 7th December all donations are match funded by our pledgers and champion, therefore each £1 donated is worth £2 to Pestalozzi.

Follow the link to donate from 12pm on 30th November – 12pm on 7th December <https://bit.ly/3IVirHn>

Pestalozzi International Foundation supports young people through educational scholarships, breaking down the barriers of poverty and access to education. Pestalozzi scholarships play a key role in supporting 16-19 year olds from developing countries in gaining a quality education.

“Like many Nepali youth, I believed I would have to choose employment over education, if not for the Pestalozzi scholarship my life choices would have been limited by finances”
- Shuvechchha G. – Nepal - Pestalozzi Alumna

“My belief in the power of education was really strengthened after Pestalozzi because it taught me how one person's life can be totally changed by good education. This is not just my story, but so many of us with low-income backgrounds and difficult circumstances are really doing well now.”
- Dhanashree G. – India - Pestalozzi Alumna

Pestalozzi International Foundation provides life-changing opportunities for young people from developing countries to study the International Baccalaureate Diploma at a United World College for two years. Pestalozzi students come from conflict, refugee, underprivileged or in-exile backgrounds, with no or limited financial means to be able to complete their secondary education.

<https://bit.ly/3IVirHn>



SCAN ME



THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT DONATIONS

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference." - Kathy Calvin

Pestalozzi can only continue the valuable work that it does through the continued generosity of our supporters. We appreciate every donation that we receive, large or small, to support the scholarship programme and Development Fund grants.

Legacies also play an important role in the funding of the charity's work and we are very grateful to those individuals who have remembered us in their wills.



AARON ECKHOFF
Chair of Trustees



MAGS ALEXANDER
Student Scholarship, Alumni Liaison and Development Fund Manager

Mags and Aaron recently hosted online birthday fundraisers, which raised £388 for Pestalozzi. Could you do the same?

For ideas of how to fundraise for Pestalozzi International Foundation please visit our website <https://pestalozzi.org.uk/events-fundraising/>

If you are one of our alumni with a particular interest in or idea for fundraising speak to the team – office@pestalozzi.org.uk

Perhaps you could ask the company you work for to make Pestalozzi International Foundation their charity of the year 2022.

REMEMBERING PESTALOZZI ALUMNI



Pestalozzi received the sad news that Eileen Newlyn (previously Gibbs) had passed away in hospital in August. Eileen arrived at the Pestalozzi Village in 1962, after being sent to the UK from India. She settled in and really enjoyed her time at the Village. Sadly, Eileen had suffered ill health for several years.

Our condolences go out to Eileen's family.



"My belief in the power of education was really strengthened after Pestalozzi because it taught me how one person's life can be totally changed by a good education. This is not just my story, but so many of us with low-income backgrounds and difficult circumstances are really doing well now."

- Dhanashree, India - Pestalozzi Alumna

"With no conditions, students are taken under their wings and given a chance at life, given that Pestalozzi select students that meet the criteria of being academically bright, but economically disadvantaged. Pestalozzi is more than just a scholarship program. It is a family; its origins were out of necessity."

- Rudolph, Belize, Pestalozzi Alumnus

"I learnt from Pestalozzi about human kindness...I want donors to know when they give money to Pestalozzi, they are not changing only our lives, but they are changing the future. I hope to go into the biology field and have a positive impact there. Other alumni will make changes in education. The change that comes from donations is so impactful and it doesn't end with us."

- Roy, Indonesia, Pestalozzi Alumnus

"Education opens so many doors for you. It is a privilege to be able to study as it's not something many of the Pestalozzi students have the option to do back home and I can take the ideas I've learnt here back to Bhutan...Pestalozzi has taught me to dream bigger and showed me that if there is a will there is a way."

- Dawa, Bhutan, Pestalozzi Graduate

