

THE

# PESTALOZZI

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

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Empowering young people to make a difference in the world



**NEWSLETTER** Summer 2023

[www.pestalozzi.org.uk](http://www.pestalozzi.org.uk)



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 DESIGN: TENZIN NOR YANG  
 PRINTER: CLEARPRINT SOLUTIONS  
 PUBLISHER: PESTALOZZI INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION  
 FRONT COVER: I. TIWARI  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: M. ALEXANDER, T. MOONJELI, P.SUBEDI, B. KONDO, P. SHARMA, A. ARYAL, T. WANGMO. T. CHODEN, N. POUDEL, M. PALDON, I. TIWARI, S. MUTEGLI, MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE, UWC ATLANTIC

## STAY IN TOUCH

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Dear Pestalozzi Friends, Supporters, and Alumni,

As I stood amidst the jubilant crowd at the UWC Atlantic graduation ceremony, a wave of nostalgia washed over me. Memories of my time as Director of Sixth Form at Claremont Senior School came rushing back, particularly the moments I spent supporting Pestalozzi scholars as a teacher. The ceremony evoked a sense of pride and joy, reminding me of the remarkable journeys these young individuals have embarked upon.



The parallels between my past experiences and the present were striking. Just as I had witnessed the growth and transformation of Pestalozzi scholars at Claremont, I saw it once again at the graduation. It was heartening to witness the immense potential within each graduate and reflect on the role we played in nurturing their talents. These moments reminded me of the lasting impact Pestalozzi has had on countless lives throughout our rich history.

To our friends and alumni, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your generosity has allowed Pestalozzi to continue its vital work, enabling young scholars from disadvantaged backgrounds to access quality education and realize their dreams. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in their lives, empowering them to become agents of positive change in their communities and beyond.

While we celebrate our past achievements, we must also look to the future. I implore you to join us in taking further action to support our ongoing work. By sharing our mission with your personal and professional networks, you can help us reach new supporters who may be unaware of the transformative impact Pestalozzi has on young lives. Together, we can create a ripple effect of change that extends far beyond our immediate sphere of influence.

In the coming months, we have a range of events planned, and invite you to get involved. Whether it's participating in fundraising initiatives, attending networking events, or volunteering your time, your active involvement will strengthen our collective efforts.

Together, we can continue to provide life-changing opportunities to young scholars and empower them to shape a brighter future.

With warm regards,  
 Aaron Eckhoff

*"If I could give you one thought, it would be to lift someone up. Lift a stranger up--lift her up. I would ask you, mother and father, brother and sister, lovers, mother and daughter, father and son, lift someone. The very idea of lifting someone up will lift you, as well."*

- Maya Angelou



# CURRENT SCHOLARS AT UWC ATLANTIC AND MOSTAR

## UWC ATLANTIC

Lighthouse is an on-campus centre for meaningful changemaking at UWC Atlantic that provides funding to develop and pursue projects.

Hari and Mingla's Happy school project, focused on empowering rural children in Bhutan to have access to food at school, encourage their education and support through building a school kitchen, feeding 350 children every day. It has received a grant of £10,000

Given presented Zamango, a mango preservation scheme in Zambia that addresses both food waste in mango season, and food poverty out of mango season, through working with leaders in communities to learn about and build preservation facilities. They have been awarded £7,000.

Hari, Fred, Menard, Brallan and Mingla have all completed their IB Diploma programme and will be continuing their studies in the US this autumn.

Tashia has been selected to join the 2023 Villars Fellowship and Symposium in Switzerland. The Villars Institute is a non-profit foundation which aims to accelerate the transition to a net zero economy and restore the health of the planet, for all its inhabitants.

Jugani explained, "I participated in a lot of events in college. One of them was visiting Cambridge University to share stories about the place we came from and the struggles we have had to become who we are today."

Sayra shaved off her hair to raise funds for her previous sponsor organisation Pathlight International and donated her hair to The Little Princess Trust.

**"I had the opportunity to lead a workshop at the Believe Conference. It was my first time leading a workshop and I enjoyed the experience. I learned new things and**

**discovered the areas I need to improve, such as public speaking and confidence."**  
- Tenzin

**"After my graduation, I plan to continue living the UWC and Pestalozzi mission by giving back to my community in whichever way I can and make a positive impact in the world. I am eager to use the skills and knowledge I have acquired to make a difference in the lives of others by promoting peace, understanding and inclusion."** - Fred

Brallan was Marketing Director of the college 24-hour race. "Here at UWC Atlantic, I have been able

to experience things that I could never have imagined. Being able to travel away from home at this age was never in my plans four years ago and this is just incredible. Being here has made me reflect on who I want to be in the future and how I can impact others in good ways."

**"Being a scholarship recipient student and knowing the value of the**

**educational opportunity I received, I try my best to enhance educational opportunities for fellow students like me around the world. I have been spending my vacations for the past seven years volunteering as a cultural performing arts mentor in a local junior public school in my hometown."**  
-Mingla.

Menard has been a lead of the student Wellbeing

## UWC MOSTAR

In Mostar, Garang and Pringgo participated in the 'No elevator day race/stairs challenge' organised by Kinezis Association to promote the importance of physical activity. Garang won first place. "The

experience was nothing short of exhilarating and I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity to have taken part."

Pringgo spoke at a UWC Mostar TEDx event,

Council. "I have become open-minded and compassionate about others through working with enthusiastic students who are ever-willing to make a positive impact. Furthermore, I joined the life-saving organisation, Atlantic Pacific, which aims to reduce global drowning.... The training was rigorous, and I mastered resilience."

Reimagining tomorrow. "It was a remarkable experience for me to be able to speak in front of an international audience for the first time in my life. I had the opportunity, to give a speech on an issue that is very close to me, titled The Human Cost of Child Marriage. For four years I've volunteered with two organizations back home that focus on advocating against child marriage and improving the quality of education in my village."

Desang explained, "My project Bob the Builder for project week was about connecting two elementary schools in Mostar and improving the school's premises by working collaboratively...We built a friendship bench and table, a sensory park, and some flower and garbage pots." Desang has been accepted for the Pioneer Online Spring Summer programme and the Yale Young Global Scholar programme.





## MARION ABEJA

### ALUMNI PROFILE



Marion ('19) graduated with a bachelor's in Chemistry from Mount Holyoke College. She will be joining the Proteomics Core Facility of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as a researcher.

"Without a Pestalozzi scholarship, I would most certainly have missed out on some of the greatest opportunities, people, global education and career options that I have now.

In 2018, I volunteered at a hospital in my hometown. I saw first-hand how the lack of proper diagnostic tools and medicines affected many lives – patients with seemingly different illnesses all received the same diagnosis or prescription. This experience shaped my field of study and research. At the Ashby Lab at Mount Holyoke, I focused on the development of high-throughput screening methods for analysing environmental and biological questions of interest and how to create effective methods for disease detection and prevention.

In the future, I hope to continue my study of analytical chemistry. Coming from Uganda, a country that has been the epicentre of several viruses and diseases

yet lacks the infrastructure to tackle or prevent them, I find this research field integral for the advancement of human healthcare.

One way I have been able to 'pay it forward' has been by actively using my passion for volleyball and the platform it provides me to inspire young women to boldly pursue their dreams, and improve their lives.

Donors, your generosity has not only opened doors for me that were previously beyond reach, but it has also had a remarkable ripple effect on my family. The skills and opportunities I gained at Pestalozzi equipped me with confidence, which enabled me to extend a helping hand to my sister, who is now studying agricultural engineering. This tangible example truly exemplifies the multiplying effect of your investment and the positive impact it has had on our lives and the lives of many more to come.

For me, all the aspirations fulfilled and those yet to be realized, education is key."

## PDF grants helping to empower women in Nepal and Zimbabwe

### Bindura Women, Zimbabwe

"The project was conceived after witnessing that many women are suffering in my community as they are not able to take care of themselves and their children...With the right equipment and guidance, they can put in hard work and yield good results, which can help them be independent as well as improving their lives."

Blessing ('18), a Computer Systems Engineering student, wants to change the life opportunities of women in Zimbabwe through agriculture. The Bindura Women social enterprise aims to assist women in difficult situations to provide an income for themselves and their families. The project provides agricultural equipment, seeds and support from an agronomist. With 10 direct beneficiaries there are also indirect benefits for the wider Bindura community of about 15,000.



### Sabailai Cup, Nepal

Pratiksha Sharma ('14) has received a grant to support her Sabailai Cup (Cup for Everyone) project.

"Support from PIF will help make the "Sabailai Cup" project a reality, allowing us to provide menstrual health education and hygiene products to women and girls from underserved communities in Nepal.

I hope to help improve menstrual hygiene, fight the stigma surrounding menstruation and women's health, promote sustainability and mitigate period poverty in the communities we visit."

Period poverty is a significant problem in Nepal affecting 2.8 million women and girls. This ranges from not having access to safe and menstrual products, sanitary facilities or education about menstrual hygiene. In the first year it is hoped that 300 women and girls will benefit from the initiative.



# CELEBRATING ALUMNI GRADUATIONS

Spring is a time when we celebrate the academic achievements of the Pestalozzi alumni. They embarked on a wide range of undergraduate degree courses and the professions that they enter are no less diverse. Scholarship support from Pestalozzi and later from the academic institutions they have attended has been key to continuing their educational journeys. Many alumni hold fast to the Pestalozzi ethos of 'head, heart and hands' and have continued to be involved in a wide range of voluntary activities, giving back to society, while continuing their studies. We hope that they will continue to 'pay it forward' and use the skills and knowledge they have acquired to support others.



**Marion Abeja**

BA (Magna Cum Laude) in Chemistry, Mount Holyoke College. Marion will be working as a Research Assistant at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



**Mingyur Paldon**

Bachelors in International Relations and Human Development, Connecticut College and received the Vanguard Award for Equity and Inclusion.



**Ruramai Chivasa**

Berea College Double major in Political Science with a concentration in international policy and politics. "Post graduation, I will be starting my new role as a Technical Business Developer at Amazon Web Services in Seattle," - Ruramai.

**Aamir Ansari** BA (Hons) Accountancy and Finance

Global Affairs (MPP), Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs

**Ruvimbo Tanaarwo** BA in Economics, Wellesley College

**Bishnu Thapa** PhD in Health Services Research, Brown University School of Public Health

**Lungten Wangdi** BSc in Forest Science, College of Natural resources, Bhutan

**Tenzin Yangkey** MA Geography, University of Arizona

**Chandra Bhandari** Master in Public Policy in

**Prabidhik KC**

Harvard University Double major in Physics and Applied Mathematics (Economics Track). "After my graduation, I will be going to Nepal for two months and will come back to Cambridge to work as a research associate/predoctoral fellow position at Harvard in the field of health and development economics. I will also be working as an advisor for Booster Education Institute (an initiative from Nepali Harvard, NYU and UPenn students)."



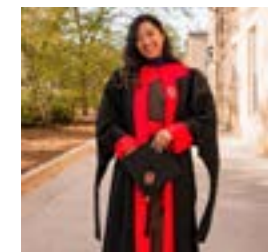
**Tenzin Wangmo**

BA Biology Major & Chemistry minor. Tenzin will continue her studies with a PhD in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical and Biological Sciences at Vanderbilt University.



**Nischal Poudel**

BS Computer Science, University of Pennsylvania. Nischal will be joining Bloomberg as a software engineer



**Tenzin Choden**

Masters of Science in Business Analytics, University of Wisconsin-Madison



## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

There are many ways in which you can support Pestalozzi's work. You are making an impact on the lives of young people with every donation that you make.

Set up a fundraising activity such as a cake sale or challenge yourself to participate in a half marathon event, a 10km run or a sponsored walk or swim.

Donate via our website: <https://bit.ly/3Zlw1pk>

Or use the QR code:



[Benevity, an employee giving programme, makes payroll giving easy and provides the option for companies to match funds. We are registered on the Benevity Causes Portal.](https://causes.benevity.org/content/pestalozzi-international-foundation)

<https://causes.benevity.org/content/pestalozzi-international-foundation>

## The Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022

Thank you very much to our pledgers and donors who raised £8589.27 (inc. Gift Aid) in the 2022 Big Give Christmas Challenge. Watch our website and social media for details of the 2023 campaign.



## Virtual Event

We are excited to announce that we will be running a virtual event for all our supporters and alumni in the autumn. This will be a chance for you to meet Eddie West-Burnham (CEO), and Aaron Eckhoff (Chair of Trustees) and hear about all the excellent work that is going on within PIF. It will also be an opportunity for a Q&A with Eddie and Aaron as well as a chance to meet other supporters.

Scan the QR code to express your interest.

See you there!



## PRADEEP SUBEDI

### TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT

Pradeep is a qualified actuary, Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and has worked for Aon Plc for over a decade as a Pension Investment Risk Consultant. He joined the Board of Trustees in 2020.

### Why did you become a Pestalozzi trustee?

As a Pestalozzi Scholar, I found the scholarship enriching and it gave me access to world class education. It shaped me into the person I am today. Aware of the charity's work and impact, I joined the board believing I can bring new perspectives and help the organization thrive. I am passionate about creating a fair world and believe education is the key to eliminating poverty.

### What do you wish people knew about Pestalozzi?

The impact the charity has. Due to funding constraints, even though we may not be able to sponsor as many students as we would like, we are enabling future leaders from developing countries to realize their potential and make a difference in this world through

the power of education. After being successful in their career, many alumni support their own family. Others have done amazing work in their own communities by starting projects to enhance the lives of others. Wanting to 'Pay it forward' makes the charity special.

### What is your hope for Pestalozzi in the future?

I hope the charity remains sustainable in the long run and can make a significant impact on underserved communities around the world by supporting young students to receive a good quality education. We hope to empower the youths from these communities so that they can become great leaders and lead their communities/countries.



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD DONATE TO PESTALOZZI

Title:  Given name:

Family name:

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Telephone:

Email:

I enclose a cheque for £  made payable to Pestalozzi International Foundation

I wish to give regularly and have completed the Bankers Order Form (below)

Please stop claiming Gift Aid on my donations as I am no longer a UK taxpayer

I would like to receive/continue to receive news and updates from Pestalozzi International Foundation

email  post

How did you receive this newsletter?

## BANKER'S ORDER

Please send to Pestalozzi, not to your bank.

Your bank:

Bank address:

Postcode:

Sort code:  Account number:

Account name:

Please pay to Barclays Bank plc, 207-208 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 1QP. Sort Code: 20-27-91  
For the credit of Pestalozzi International Foundation  
Account Number: 60716383

the sum of £

(please repeat in words)

Please take my gift:  Once  Monthly  Annually

Commencing:  D D  M M  Y Y until further notice

Signature:

Date:

## GIFT AID DECLARATION

**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.**

Gift aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

I would like Pestalozzi to reclaim gift aid on:

My donation of £  only

My donation of £  and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years

I am a UK tax payer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/ or Capital Gains.

Signature:

Date:



Alumni get together in New York



UWC Atlantic graduation 2023