



Dear Friends,

2023 was a banner year for the Justice High School Scholarship Fund (JHSSF). Fueled by the impressive generosity of our donors, we were able to award a record \$275,000 in scholarships to 84 impressive graduating seniors of the Class of 2023—more money to more students than ever before. Thank you for your support!

Our recipients were as inspiring as ever, with most being the first in their families to attend college, many having to learn English during their school years, and all managing to excel academically while juggling school, part-time jobs, extra-curricular activities, and family responsibilities. Check out **Recipient Profiles** to learn more about our amazing awardees and their college plans.

JHSSF is wholly independent of Justice High School but we work in tandem with JHS administrators and teachers to support and encourage students in their college ambitions. No one has been more steadfast in this effort than veteran teacher Eric Welch. For many years, Mr. Welch has been the primary faculty sponsor of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a national program providing students with extra help in preparing for college and careers, and he has tirelessly worked to do everything imaginable to make sure as many students as possible can get a shot at a college education. Please read his **"Testimony from a Teacher"** inside.

Our fundraising efforts were buoyed by a generous donation from a grateful Justice alum and his spouse, who offered to match any donations resulting from our Spring drive. They also pledged to support the new four-year **Resilience Scholarship**. We are grateful for this new scholarship and our other sponsored scholarships. Please contact me directly at [jrschroll@gmail.com](mailto:jrschroll@gmail.com) to learn how, with minimal paperwork and a modest short-term pledge, you can honor a loved-one or celebrate an important milestone by becoming a scholarship sponsor.

We are also thrilled about a just-received corporate matching gift of \$10,950, which jumpstarts our Class of 2024 fundraising. This gift was made possible by Dan Greenleaf, Class of 1983, who was in town recently for his 40th reunion. Dan has also generously donated more than \$30,000 to the Justice High School Athletic Boosters, providing new equipment and uniforms for the JHS football program. A special thank you to Dan and to the many other alums who have made generous donations to JHSSF.

But, as the cost of college continues to soar, we have a long way to go to meet the extraordinary needs of this year's graduating seniors. Please consider making a generous donation so that together, we can help make the college dreams of this year's graduating seniors a reality.

Gratefully,

James R. Schroll, President, Justice High School Scholarship Fund

## RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

We are proud of all 84 Justice High School Scholarship Fund recipients in 2023. They have made impressive accomplishments, often achieved in the face of major obstacles in their personal lives. These young people are resilient, hard-working, community-oriented, and motivated. We wish you could meet them all, but here are some of their stories.

Described by her teachers and counselors as smart, hard-working, witty, kind, honest with herself and others, and intrinsically driven to attain her goals despite the obstacles she might face, **Lizbeth** is doubtlessly bound for success. Her road has not always been an easy one, but rather than being discouraged by challenging circumstances, she has found ways to work efficiently and with great determination. This has propelled her to success in juggling rigorous coursework for the International Baccalaureate diploma, membership in a variety of honor societies and activities, working up to 25 hours per week, and helping her family at home. She volunteered over the summer at the daycare center where she had been cared for as a young child and is now studying international business and political science at Emory University, with hopes of pursuing humanitarian work in the United Nations.

As an immigrant from Afghanistan, **Zoahil** first moved to California and then came to Justice for her junior year. She immediately found herself at home in the diversity that Northern Virginia has to offer. Her engagement at school improved, and on top of taking care of her siblings, she participated in school activities and worked to support her family. Her teachers say Zoahil went out of her way to sit next to students who struggled and help her classmates with coursework. She is studying computer science at George Mason University and is interested in the field of robotics.

**Dan** is this year's recipient of the **Ambassador Scholarship**, awarded for four years to a student who has the talent and ambition to complete a four-year degree and who will be a good ambassador for the greater Justice HS community. As a child in Bolivia, Dan befriended and assisted a homeless man, learning an important lesson that, in his words, "every human inhabited a side of warmth and growth." He took that lesson with him when he realized the amount of food insecurity present in his neighborhood, which led him to establish and run a food distribution site at Bailey's Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Library. In seventh grade, Dan became a part of the Early Identification Program, offered by George Mason University, where he worked in labs and participated in workshops in physics, biology, and cybersecurity. Through the program, he discovered a love of research and plans to use this love when studying for a degree in biomedical research at Virginia Tech. As the first in his family to attend college, he is determined to repay his parents for their hard work and sacrifices.



**Israel** is the recipient of the **Jeremy Munga Scholarship**, an award created in 2017 in memory of a beloved scholar-athlete at Justice HS. Israel was an outstanding scholar, athlete, and leader at Justice HS, achieving a near-perfect GPA while taking many honors and International Baccalaureate courses. He lettered for three years in football, basketball, and track and was captain of the football and basketball teams. Israel's goal was to lead with positivity on the field, in the school, and in life generally. His coach described Israel as "an amazing role model, peer, son, brother, teammate, and friend who significantly impacted our school community." At Washington and Lee University, he is headed for success, playing sports and studying psychology with the aim of becoming a sports psychologist.

The **Ozzie Mask Scholarship** is awarded to a student who wishes to pursue a degree in education, journalism, music, or theater. **Katherine**, this year's recipient, will study elementary education at James Madison University. She wants to become a teacher because her own elementary school teacher made her feel she belonged there and had the ability to learn when she felt intimidated on the first day. She has been preparing herself by serving as a mentor at a local elementary school, taking a class called Teaching For Tomorrow, and advising girls as a youth group leader at her church. Katherine's Justice teachers see her demonstrating the strength of a great teacher already, such as jumping in to help fellow students who are struggling and holding others accountable to perform up to their full abilities.



## THE NEW RESILIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Justice High School Scholarship Fund's newest award, the Resilience Scholarship, was established in 2023 by a grateful Justice alum. The Resilience Scholarship is awarded to a student who not only has demonstrated his or her commitment to academic excellence and pursuit of a four-year college degree, but also has displayed courage, compassion, and curiosity on the journey. The donor described his own experience, "I have fond memories of the teachers and coaches who guided and encouraged me, and shared with me their passion to explore deeply. I remember that some subjects and situations were harder than others – and that overcoming these challenges provided an even greater sense of accomplishment." The Resilience Scholarship offers tuition support over four years, up to a total of \$10,000.

**Anthony** was chosen as the first Resilience Scholarship awardee both because of his academic excellence, which includes an A average, impressive as an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate, but also because of what he has overcome to achieve this. Anthony is the first in his family to graduate from high school and the first to go to college. While Anthony was active in clubs at school, his primary responsibility was to help take care of his younger sister and manage the home while his single mother worked long hours. In eighth grade, facing low grades, Anthony set a goal to bring his grades up and make the honor roll. When he achieved it, in his own words, "I realized how much I loved to work hard." He now cannot wait to gain the skills and knowledge at James Madison University that he'll need to own and manage his own business.

## TESTIMONY FROM A TEACHER

*"How do your kids go to these colleges, how do they do it, how can they afford it?"*

That's a question Justice High School teacher Eric Welch says he's frequently asked when he attends county-wide meetings. He credits the Justice High School Scholarship Fund (JHSSF) for helping make college possible for many students. And while other high schools do have some scholarships, Welch notes they are nothing like what JHSSF and its partners provide.

"A lot of schools don't have the community commitment that the Justice High School Scholarship Fund provides. And without a doubt, one big part of the equation is knowing we have the community support from an organization like JHSSF," reflected Welch.

In addition to teaching government, Welch is a key part of the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program, a school-based college preparatory program that aims to increase the number of students who pursue postsecondary education. Because of AVID, the International Baccalaureate curriculum, and other student success programs at Justice High School, he says students are earning a strong reputation and a competitive edge with area colleges, enhanced by the support of JHSSF.

"Schools know, if we take a student from Justice, they've had IB classes, and AVID, they hold their own, and they have community support to be able to handle college," shared Welch.

Often, AVID graduates come back to Justice to speak with current students, and their message is one of confidence, according to Welch. "They really feel like they heard about this growing up, and now they're actually doing it. Their smiles are huge, you can see it in their whole body language, how much they feel – I've made it, I'm able to do this."



## IMPACT - THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Since our inception in 2005, the Justice High School Scholarship Fund and our partners have awarded more than \$2.4 million to help 916 Justice graduates take the important first step toward a college degree.

# CLASS OF 2023 IMPACT

**84**  
scholarship  
recipients

**\$275k**  
in  
scholarships  
awarded

**100%**  
took  
IB  
classes

**75%**  
will attend  
Virginia public  
colleges and  
universities

**70%**  
first in  
their family  
to attend  
college

**85%**  
speak a  
language other  
than English  
at home

**83%**  
were eligible  
for free or  
reduced-price  
lunch

## IN THEIR OWN VOICES

JHSSF recipients were asked in a survey: "How was your scholarship from the JHS Scholarship Fund helpful to you?" Their responses speak volumes about how JHSSF support helped make their transition to college financially and emotionally easier:

*With the help of the JHS fund, I did not have to work part-time and instead was able to dedicate my full attention to my school work and to the many opportunities I wanted to pursue such as my minors, certificate, and clubs/organizations.*

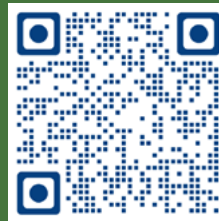
*Being that I am a first-generation college student, there has been great stress beyond my student duties to complete college while excelling at it. Paying is one of the biggest stressors, and having help through the JHS Scholarship Fund has made the toll easier, and allowed me some room to breathe.*

*Because of the scholarship, I was able to live on campus my first year, thus leading to a smoother transition into my college career. I was able to learn how it feels to live on campus as a first year without having to worry about financial burdens.*

*The award didn't just help me financially but it also helped me mentally. With that award, I realized that I was able to do anything if I put my mind to it. I realized that my dreams and goals for the future weren't impossible. The scholarship gave me the motivation to push myself to work harder. The Fund also helped others also believe in me, it helped me be viewed differently.*



**PLEASE  
DONATE NOW**



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If you are a federal employee, you may contribute via the CFC charitable giving program. Our Agency Designation Number is **28018**. Many companies offer matching gift programs that double or even triple a donation's value. If you have questions about your company's matching gift program, contact your HR/personnel office.

We are now able to receive donations of appreciated securities. This is a tax-friendly way to donate to a great cause. Please contact Jim Schroll at [jrschroll@gmail.com](mailto:jrschroll@gmail.com) for details.

The Justice High School Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides academic scholarships to Justice HS graduates attending accredited post-secondary education programs. The Scholarship obtains all of its funding from members of the larger Justice High community, including parents, faculty, student alumni, businesses and service organizations, neighbors and interested friends and relatives. The Scholarship is an all-volunteer operation that devotes over 95% of revenues to scholarships.