

## Justice Programs Prep Students for College

Justice High School is focused on preparing students who desire to go to college and are willing to work hard, but who do not have the opportunity to be college-ready. These students are often first in their families to attend college and are from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education. Many students learn about the JHS Scholarship Fund through these programs: **AVID Secondary** is an elective course in which students receive the additional academic, social, and emotional support to help them succeed in Justice's most rigorous courses. **NOVA Pathways** provides a supportive environment for seniors to begin their post-secondary education at Northern Virginia Community College and then transition to George Mason University to complete their four-year college degree. Students accepted into Pathways are given one-on-one academic and career counseling sessions with college counselors, opportunities to participate in selected social and cultural events at NOVA and GMU, free workshops on financial aid and other topics, and priority course selection and registration at NOVA. Last, the **College Partnership Program**, seeks to increase the number of students, particularly first-generation and traditionally underrepresented students, that enroll and succeed in college. The program's services include academic counseling, college visits (including a summer overnight stay), help with completing college and scholarship applications, parent education sessions, and SAT preparation classes.



*If you are inspired by what you read in this newsletter, please consider becoming a volunteer. JHSSF needs help with fundraising, social media, communications, and photography.*

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Dear Friends,

Because of you, 2022 was our best year yet! You made it possible to award \$235,000 in scholarships to 64 outstanding 2022 Justice High School graduates, the largest scholarship total the Justice High School Scholarship Fund (JHSSF) has ever granted in a single year. I invite you to learn more in this newsletter about the incredible young people we are helping realize their dreams of higher education. Six graduates are profiled in the **Recipient Spotlight**, on p. 2 and more stories can be found on our website (<https://www.jhsscholars.org>). There you can read about JHSSF's most recent scholarship recipients and discover the exciting things prior recipients are accomplishing with their college degrees.

Another exciting "first" for JHSSF - financial support came from the most widespread and diverse group of donors, including alumni, parents of alumni, teachers and staff, and many others with no direct ties to Justice High School but with a shared belief in helping aspiring college students with lower family incomes get the resources they need. In **Every Last Dollar Counts**, we detail how the "last-dollar" nature of most JHSSF scholarships makes them essential for Justice graduates to be able to afford college. In **Justice Programs Prep Students for College**, you can read about the other, important ways Justice HS helps students - often the first in their families to attend college and from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education - become college-ready.

As in previous years, our 2022 awards included named scholarships made possible by specific gifts or pledges from generous sponsors interested in creating continuing scholarships. The brand-new Ambassador Scholarship, which allowed us to grant our first four-year award, and the newly-renewed Step It Up Scholarships, are just two examples. Hear from the Ambassador Scholarship sponsors, in **Why We Give**, about what inspired and enabled them to establish a named award. Any individual or group can sponsor a scholarship with minimal paperwork and a modest financial contribution or pledge. It is a great way to honor or remember a loved one or celebrate an accomplishment. There are also opportunities for matching donations. You can email me directly at [jrschroll@gmail.com](mailto:jrschroll@gmail.com) to learn more about sponsoring a named scholarship.

You can be sure that any donation to the JHSSF will have maximum impact, as you can see in the **Impact** statistics on p. 3. Our expenses are low and all our work is done by volunteers. JHSSF annually distributes nearly all the money we take in, except for funds needed to honor subsequent scholarship years for our recipients. As inflation soars and financial markets struggle, this is a particularly good year to make sure your charitable donations go as far as possible.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you for supporting the JHSSF mission to help deserving young students achieve their college dreams. With your help, they are going on to do incredible things in the community!

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

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY CHECK SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

Justice High School Scholarship Fund  
 P.O. Box 4612, Falls Church, VA 22044

 Donate online via PayPal at [www.JHSScholars.org/contribute](http://www.JHSScholars.org/contribute)



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.

**BREAKING NEWS!** 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.



## RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT - NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud of all 64 JHSSF recipients in 2022. 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.

### ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

The alumni of Stuart and Justice have generously contributed towards this award. This year's recipient, **Diego**, is "120% committed" to both academic achievement and extracurricular activities. One teacher said he is destined for "world-changing greatness." Diego maintained a 4.4 grade point average as an International Baccalaureate diploma candidate. His Forensics and Debate Team went to the state finals, he participated in several school plays, and was president of the Thespian Society. Diego, who says he has always been fascinated by robotics and outer space, will combine these interests by studying aerospace engineering at Virginia Tech.

### DECORATE A VET SCHOLARSHIP

The Decorate A Vet (DAV) organization honors Northern Virginia veterans whose service allows us all to lead freer lives. DAV awards its annual scholarship to accomplished Justice seniors with a commitment to the ideals of liberty, duty, and service. **Rahem** and **Princess** are this year's recipients. In his application, Rahem wrote about his sense of duty to his parents, who have struggled to maintain a small business. Noticing the toll the work was taking on their health, Rahem committed to working as many hours in the store as he could, at considerable sacrifice, to try to lessen their burden. These traits will serve him well in his pursuit of a degree in cybersecurity at George Mason University. Princess values kindness and empathy. She found from a young age that volunteering genuinely brings her joy, and she has volunteered at her church and as a mentor at Justice. Her values found purpose when she witnessed her cousin have a seizure, and she vowed to have a career in medicine to help those who could not help themselves. Princess intends to study nursing at Northern Virginia Community College.

### NOREEN THOMAS SCHOLARSHIP

**Suliana** is an ideal recipient of the Norene Thomas Scholarship. Like the scholarship's namesake, Suliana contributed to the success of Justice bands. A skilled flutist, Suliana was Band Manager and led the flute section for Justice's award-winning Marching and Wind Ensemble Bands. She also earned first chair in the district-wide Wind Ensemble Band. Yet Suliana's accomplishments extend beyond music—to pursuing an International Baccalaureate diploma, co-captaining the Justice Rowing Team, and serving school and community through National and Hispanic Honor Society activities. Daughter of a single mom, Suliana emigrated to the U.S. as a preschooler and quickly developed the resilience and strength that would serve her well. Fighting a significant illness, her mother insisted Suliana concentrate on school and its activities rather than take a job to lessen the financial strain of the illness. Meanwhile, Suliana cared for her mother while maintaining the grades and community involvement needed to earn admission to the University of Virginia. At UVA, Suliana hopes to nurture her passion for human rights and become a "voice for the Latin-American community, and pave the way for success for kids like [her]."

### STEP IT UP FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Step It Up Foundation is a Northern Virginia-based philanthropic organization with the mission of "Helping People Help Themselves." The award sponsor wants to provide financial assistance to students planning to attend Northern Virginia Community College. This year's recipient, **Erika**, withstood a difficult escape from violence in her home country, arriving in the U.S. in the 8th grade. Through hard work, perseverance, and a steadfast dedication to learning, she moved quickly through ESOL classes, eventually took International Baccalaureate and honors courses, and received high grades—all while putting in hours outside school to earn income. Now she's the first in her family to go to college. As one teacher put it, "Erika illustrates the 'American Dream' is still alive and well." Erika is leaning towards a career in education because of its impact on her and the direct impact she might have on other lives.

### NANCY J. WEISGERBER SCHOLARSHIP

**Dianna** is a first-generation American. As a native Spanish speaker, she participated in the ESOL program until the seventh grade. Dianna is the kind of student of whom Nancy Weisgerber, the scholarship's namesake and former principal of (then) Stuart HS, would have been extremely proud. Despite health problems, Dianna worked hard and overcame obstacles, showing a passion for learning. With a GPA of over 4.0, Dianna was a member of multiple honor societies, including Spanish, Science, and Art. Still, she made time to help others, participating in mentoring and charity fundraisers. With gratitude for the positive impact teachers had on her life, she plans to major in elementary education at George Mason University. Dianna wants to instill in young students the drive and confidence to pursue higher education. Ms. Weisgerber, throughout her career, was committed to education and a concern for, and belief in, the goodness of others.

## THE NEW AMBASSADOR SCHOLARSHIP

The involvement of Ambassador Scholarship sponsors Duane and Diane with Justice High School began in 1989, when their son started at what was then Stuart High School. Their daughter followed him seven years later. Diane served on the PTSA Board and volunteered in the Career Center. Duane and Diane believe both of their children received an excellent education in high school and were well prepared for college.

For the past few years, Diane has been a member of the JHSSF Board. One of her responsibilities is reading the essays of scholarship applicants:

*It is very moving to read these essays and see how these students so strongly believe in higher education as their ticket to success. Most of them have overcome incredible obstacles to reach their goal of attending college, and the final obstacle they face - which we can alleviate - is financial. They often have arrived from other countries and are incredibly grateful for the sacrifices their parents have made. These students do not want those sacrifices to be in vain.*

*These inspirational stories convinced us to make a larger donation this past year. We are sponsoring the four-year Ambassador Scholarship to help meet a student's financial challenges beyond the first year of college. We hope future donors consider sponsoring other four-year scholarships too.*

## EVERY LAST DOLLAR COUNTS

It's no surprise that cost is a major barrier for high school students who want to transition to higher education. A new survey sponsored by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation found that 38% of young adults, 18-30 years of age, decide not to go to college because they think it is too expensive, or they don't want to go into debt (Edge Research and HCM Strategists, 2022).

That's why the Justice High School Scholarship Fund's (JHSSF) role as a last-dollar funder is so crucial and unique. Our recipients have filed their federal student aid forms, and often have received financial assistance in the form of grants, loans, and other scholarships. Most schools, including Virginia's public universities, are only able to cover a portion of many applicants' demonstrated need. Even with hefty loans, students often face a gap, and the final price tag of a college education stands in their way of attending school. Those costs can include tuition, room and board, books, technology, and other fees paid directly to colleges, universities, and vocational schools.

Our community's generous contributions remove the final barriers to higher education access. The JHSSF goes to great lengths to ensure our scholarships respond to documented, demonstrated need. We ask students to share their families' economic situation and the financial package from their college of choice, in addition to any scholarships they have already been awarded. We research the total cost of attendance at each college and university our students may attend, including tuition, room and board, fees, books, travel and personal expenses. These numbers are often not available until late in the spring. Then, our JHSSF volunteers crunch the numbers to calculate the gap in resources for each applicant.

Our most recent survey of JHSSF scholars found that **26% say they would not have been able to attend college without our financial assistance.** Many of our recipients, like recent graduates Erika and Nelly, hold down jobs while in high school, to support their families and save money for college. Both Sundus and Rosalinda, 2022 scholars, had extra responsibilities at home caring for siblings or relatives, so adult family members could work. After receiving a JHSSF scholarship, **41% of our recipients report they were able to work fewer hours in college, and spend more time studying.** That is an amazing gift.

We hope you'll consider joining us to eliminate these final barriers for students who live, work, and contribute to our community. There is no better investment.

## IMPACT - THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

Since our inception in 2005, the Justice High School Scholarship Fund and our partners have awarded more than \$2.41 million to help 813 Justice graduates take the important first step toward a college degree.

# CLASS OF 2022 IMPACT

