

Please be advised that you can access previous Newsletters on the ASF Website: <https://asf.org.za/our-impact.php#newsletters>.

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2025

Fifty-Five Years of Empowering Minds And Transforming Futures

ASF is unwavering in its commitment to transforming the learning journey for disadvantaged youth. With a deep focus on learners from impoverished and marginalized communities, ASF goes beyond the financial aid — it ignites potential, builds confidence, and fosters resilience. Through focussed guidance and modest but life-changing financial support, ASF empowers young minds to stay in school, thrive academically, and ultimately break free from the cycle of generational poverty. Every scholar supported is a story of hope, opportunity, and a brighter future being written.

ASF operates in an environment where education inequality is a significant challenge. Many children from disadvantaged backgrounds in South Africa are faced with financial barriers, limited access to quality education, and a lack of support systems. The ASF aims to bridge these gaps and enable children to pursue their dreams, regardless of their economic background.



Looking 5–10 years into the future, based on current political and digital trends, we can anticipate a world that is both intensely transformed and deeply challenged. The trajectory we're on suggests a future marked by increased technological acceleration, political volatility, and a growing tension between innovation and inequality.

Now, more than ever, the young wards in our care need support and clear guidance on their educational journey. The African Scholars Fund is an important initiative that is making a difference in the lives of South African children, helping them overcome their financial and social barriers to education. Our Donors are our lifeblood – without their support the ASF cannot effect change, cannot empower, cannot inspire and cannot transform.



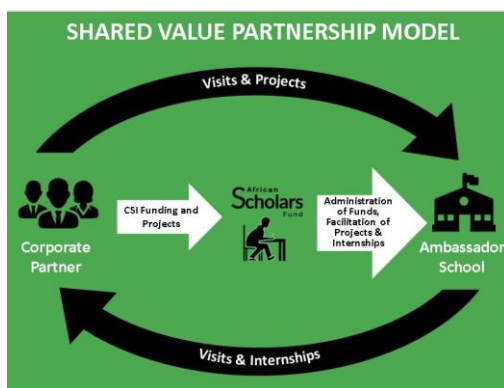
We are excited to announce that our updated website has recently been launched and is available at <https://asf.org.za>. This showcases the success stories of ASF bursary holders as well as the contribution that organisations and individuals such as yourself have made towards the attainment of ASF's mission of *A South Africa where children's secondary educational outcomes are not determined by geographical location or financial resources*.

We encourage you to consider engaging your family, friends, employees, clients, or business networks in the ASF mission. By sharing our vision and the transformative impact of our bursary program, you can help us invite new supporters into the ASF family.

Individual donors provide not just financial support but also community engagement, advocacy, and the social credibility needed to help causes thrive. Their contributions undeniably have a profound and lasting impact on the success and sustainability of an organization or initiative. Our individual donors are longstanding, loyal – their care and commitment steady. There is no doubt that their hearts beat to the same drum as that of the ASF. Sometimes words cannot adequately express gratitude...



- 👉 Your support made it possible for the ASF to financially support 1659 learners during 2025
- 👉 Every learner received the Zero-rated Website Information Booklet (free online study resource)
- 👉 421 x Gr9 learners received a Subject Choice Advice Booklet
- 👉 616 x Gr12 learners received the NSFAS Online Application Guide
- 👉 431 x Gr11 learners received The Future of Work in South Africa Guide
- 👉 The Professor John Webb Mathematics Award (R5k) was established (in memoriam)
- 👉 The Berman Family Award of Excellence (R2.5k x 2) was established (in memoriam)



Corporate donors are vital to NGOs not just because of their financial contributions, but because of the multifaceted support they provide—whether through in-kind donations, volunteer programs, or expertise. The relationship is symbiotic: ASF benefit from corporate resources and networks, while companies enhance their reputation and fulfill their CSR goals. This partnership model helps ensure that ASF can continue our mission effectively, while corporations gain brand loyalty and a positive public image. Together we build, we transform, we empower!

- 👉 Your partnership aids in an Administrative Fee towards the Operational aspect of the ASF
- 👉 Your support made it possible for the ASF to financially support 552 learners during 2025
- 👉 In addition to the Advice Booklets and Guides ...
- 👉 91 x Gr11 learners received a Career Guidance Workbook that was Workshopped
- 👉 24 learners received recognition and additional financial awards for academic excellence
- 👉 66 x Gr12 learners received data vouchers to be used in preparation for their final exams
- 👉 The full-time employ of a Maths Educator at Chris Hani High School was reaffirmed
- 👉 A Smartboard and additional computers was installed at Siphamandla High School
- 👉 50 x Gr11 learners at Siphamandla High School enrolled on the year-long Computer Literacy Programme
- 👉 108 learners at Masiphumelele High School was able to engage in an after-school Sport Programme
- 👉 2 x Jojo water tanks were installed at Phezulu High School

2025 LEARNER RESULTS

The ASF makes payments in two tranches (a) a first payment at the start of the year and (b) a second payment based on the learner's **June exam results**. **Learners that do not qualify for their second payment are invited to reapply for funding.** A learner may be denied their second payment based on one of the following reasons:

1. They did not achieve the required 50% pass mark.
2. They did not submit their June report timeously.
3. They transferred to a school that is not supported by the ASF.

The breakdown of the Gr8 to Gr11 cohort of learners that qualified for their second payment, based on their mid-year results follows:

Gr8: $\frac{172}{259}$ (66%) transitioning from primary school

Gr9: $\frac{308}{418}$ (72%)

Gr10: $\frac{308}{479}$ (64%) poor decisions in choosing their subjects

G11: $\frac{373}{430}$ (87%)



MID-YEAR MATRIC RESULTS

This year the ASF sponsored 616 Gr12 learners. 598 (97%) of whom achieved the required 50% across all subjects in their June exams. We wish our matriculants every success as they sit for their final exams. May their resilience and dedication bear fruit and culminate in their well-earned celebration and a place at their chosen institution of higher learning.

ASF FOUNDER'S AWARD 2025

The Founder's Award is presented to the best performing learner from our cohort of matriculants. This year, the Award goes to Thabiso William ASAR. Thabiso hails from Tetlanyo Secondary School in Kimberly, Northern Cape. He joined the ASF when he entered his Gr10 in 2023 and has proven to be one that is committed, future oriented and determined to make his family proud. He does not shy away from hard work and holds himself fully to account. Thabiso aspires to be an Aero Space Engineer and has been provisionally accepted at 3 universities (Stellenbosch, Pretoria and Wits). We are so very proud of this young man, his resilience and his achievements to date.



ASF BURSARY REPRESENTATIVES

What an amazing collective of individuals they are. How do we even begin to extend our gratitude to these educators who *volunteer their time and service*



A group of Western Cape ASF Bursary Representatives

so that the ASF can have a direct means of contact with the learners registered on our programme.

Let it be known that without a cooperative ASF Bursary Representative present at the school, we would not receive learner applications, report cards and thank you letters timeously. Neither would we be able to ensure that the additional resources sent to our learners would reach every one of them. The ASF Bursary Reps' care for the academic wellbeing of the learner is unquestionable and we must take more than just a mere moment to extend our most sincere gratitude for their going the extra mile and in doing so, keeping the administrative wheels of the ASF turning relatively effortlessly.

The impact on our operations also extends to our ability to make the first and second payments to the learners timeously AND importantly to give meaningful mid and year-end reports to our donors.

But their care does not stop there. There are those who takes even the very modest gratuity received from the ASF and gifts it in service to their learners. As was the case with Ms Ngamlana, the ASF Bursary Rep at Harry Gwala High School in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. It is in the seemingly insignificant gestures toward the other, that their desire to greatness is born. May your learners do you proud Ms Ngamlana.



ASF Bursary Rep uses ASF Gratuity to purchase "study snacks" for a group of matriculant preparing for their exams.

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Marketing plays a crucial role in driving fundraising efforts for NGOs by raising awareness, engaging potential donors, and creating a connection between the organization's mission and its supporters. Essentially, marketing and fundraising are intertwined: without effective marketing, fundraising efforts can often fall short, and without fundraising, the marketing efforts may lack the resources needed to make an impact.

In addition to our refreshed website at <https://asf.org.za> and our new, modern logo, we're excited to partner with Novque Digital Agency to launch an engaging eight-week social media campaign (LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram). Running from mid-December 2025 through January 2026, this campaign is designed to connect with younger, professional donors and businesses with CSI initiatives. And as a special bonus, we're inviting donations that not only support our cause but also offer valuable tax benefits for contributors. Join us in making a difference this holiday season and beyond!

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE...

We ask that you spend some few moments in quietude to reflect on milestones reached, achievements realised, challenges overcome, the birthing of new life and so, too, having had to bid farewell to a loved one.

And it is specifically on contemplation of the latter that we ask you join us in shared condolences offered to our colleague of close on 18yrs, Mrs Nontuthuzelo Mnyaluza, who tragically lost her husband in September of this year. He was a dedicated police detective of 23 years – active, amongst others, in the domestic violence and special and violent crimes units. He was lauded for his ability to close difficult cases and recognised for single-handedly bringing of the most notorious perpetrators to book.



Despite now being left to care for her mother and grandmother, in addition to suddenly finding herself the single mother to a son currently in matric, a daughter starting at high school in 2026 and a two-year-old toddler, Nontuthuzelo continues to administer her tasks at the ASF with a determined grace and resilience. As her colleagues, we hold Ntuthu and the family gently in our hearts and we pray for healing and comfort as they navigate this new and unexpected reality.



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Season Greetings

On behalf of the Trustees and staff of the ASF, we wish upon you and your loved ones a blessed festive season. May we all come to know Peace, Joy and Love. May we grow in our understanding, compassion, acceptance and respect of one another and may this world be experienced as the peaceful abode all of mankind desires it to be.

Eliza James - Director

YOU ARE GENTLY REMINDED THAT:

Donations to the ASF are tax deductible.

Bank: STANDARD BANK

Account Name: AFRICAN SCHOLARS' FUND

Account Number: 071404104

Branch Code: 025009

Swift Code: SBZA ZAJJ (Rondebosch)

