

Donald A. Strauss FOUNDATION



PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 1997

2024-25 Scholarship Informational Webinar

October 29, 2024



★ **Introductions & Setting the Stage**
The Scholarship
Stories from Alumni & Trustees
Question & Answers



How many Strauss Scholars are there?

The Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation awarded its first Scholarships in April 1997.

As of the 2024 awards, 339 projects have been funded.

Twelve were shared projects, so there are a total of 351 Strauss Scholars.

The Scholarship

The Donald A. Strauss Scholarship Foundation awards \$15,000 to as many as 15 outstanding students to pursue their projects of public service and social change.

Up to \$7,000 of the award can be applied to the Scholar's school tuition and expenses.

Are You Eligible?

- Do you attend a accredited 4 year California university/college?
- Do you have one or two years remaining until Graduation?
- Are you a full-time student with a GPA in the top one-third of their class?
- Have you demonstrated a passion for making a difference in the area to be pursued?

What Is In the Application?

Application Summary (download form from website)

One page Resume

One page Personal Essay

4 page Proposal, which includes a Timeline and a Budget

2 Letters of Recommendation

If the project is to be done with a partner institution, a Letter of Support from that organization's leadership.

Transcript

Acceptance Agreement (download form from the website)

PROJECTS WE HAVE FUNDED

Please enter search criteria in one or more fields.

First Name	<input type="text"/>	School	--Select a School -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	Project Type	--Select a Project Type -- <input type="button" value="v"/>
Award Year	<input type="text"/>	Project Info	--Select a Project Type -- Arts Communications Cultural Awareness Education Environment Health Politics/ Activism Service Technology
International	-- Select -- <input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	

2020 Project Awards

Amirah Adem - Pomona

Project Title: Against FGM: Implementing Better Sexual Health Education and Rights - [Show Summary](#)

Joseph Bello - UCM

Project Title: Share-A-Chair: Providing Independence to New Wheelchair Users - [Show Summary](#)

Alejandro Cervantes - UCD

Project Title: Dream STEM Initiative - [Show Summary](#)

Darla Chavez - Occidental

Project Title: Creative Change Through Art - [Show Summary](#)

Donald A. Strauss FOUNDATION



PROVIDING PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 1997

Marc Robert Wong, 2018 Scholar Stanford

Changing the Face of Tech, offering Teens
Conferences, Hackathons and workshops





Eli Winkelman, 2006 Strauss Scholar - Scripps College

Challah For Hunger

Baking Challah bread in community and selling it, Eli's organization raised awareness of the horrific conditions in the Darfur area of Sudan. They donated the proceeds to relief efforts for people starving in the region, offering discounts to students who wrote a postcard to their representatives in Congress.

Josh Nesbit, 2008 Scholar Stanford University

Expanding the Role of HIV-Positive
Community Health Workers:
a communication initiative in Rural Malawi

Josh introduced an SMS language, for use on
existing cell phones,
tailored for medical reporting.



In Q2 2020, we celebrate supporting over 28,000 health workers, who each play a vital role in providing care to their communities. Now more than ever, we are proud to support their work, as the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the context of care provision within many of the communities we serve – and highlighted the need for maintaining the delivery of essential health services during this crisis.

We hope the progress metrics, updates, and learnings in this report are interesting and useful to you. Please join us in the Community Health Toolkit (CHT) [Online Forum](#) to start an open discussion with the community, and follow [Medic Mobile's Blog](#) for more granular updates on our COVID-19 response. Thank you for reading!



Ivy Nguyen,
2012 Scholar
Stanford

**Locally designed,
sustainable
water filtration
solutions in Dong
Nai province,
Vietnam**

Sustainability required a source of charcoal. She installed a Corn Husk Gasifier, creating a job for a member of the community.



Ryland King, 2011 Scholar UC Santa Barbara

Environmental Education for the Next Generation
Sprout Up Explores is an online Education

[About](#) [Our Chapters](#) [Contact](#) [Shop](#) [Email List](#) [Resources](#) [Sprout Up Explores](#)

[Donate](#)



Sprout up
EXPLORES

Powered by
Environmental Volunteers



What's In the Project Proposal?

- Explain the social change or service objective, and your innovative means to achieve it.
- Provide a plan and timeline which covers the academic year until April--rather than summer- only activities or projects involving one day events.
- Provide a plan to mobilize others in the program; younger students will ensure sustainability.
- If undertaken with a partner organization, outline the mutual agreement reached and provide a verification letter.
- Explain how you will measure success, i.e. the number of people impacted, the number of students mobilized, the results produced.
- Have a plan to ensure sustainability of the program.
- Have a budget of \$15,000, which includes up to \$7,000 in Scholarship and at least \$8,000 for project expenses.

What Projects Impress Us?

- Projects focused clearly on social change / public service / social entrepreneurship.
 - It is not the intention of the Foundation to fund internship requirements, research, or creation of a publication
- A demonstrated connection between the project and the applicant's passion, life experience.
- Projects that are innovative and timely; an idea, angle or approach that has not been pursued widely and /or that addresses important current issues.
 - If the project is an expansion of an existing program, there should be a clear demonstration of new features or major additional outreach or impact.
- We like to see a “multiplier effect”. Projects which engage other students or local participants in public service.
 - Tutoring/school-based projects need to be scalable- multiple classes or ideally, multiple schools.
- Sustainability and Continuity
 - Projects sustained over the school year, rather than one or two- day events or only summer projects.
 - Plans for future leadership and a timeline for implementation afterwards.

How Do I Apply?

- If you have a Campus Representative or Scholarship office, please reach out to them for guidance and feedback on your application. We hope scholars will have professors, advisors, friends who can give them feedback. And email any questions you have to us, as well - admin@straussfoundation.org
- Submit your application directly to the Strauss Foundation. See our website for details - www.straussfoundation.org
- The deadline for applications is **January 27, 2025**.
- The Board of Trustees of the Donald A Strauss Foundation reviews the proposals, makes the selections and notifies the students in mid-April 2025. In the months that follow, \$13,000 of the funds will be available, and the final \$2,000 will be given at the April 2026 Presentations.