

Asherah Foundation

Annual Report 2019

SECOND CHANCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WOMEN AROUND
THE WORLD



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Letter from The Asherah Foundation President: March 8, 2020



In 2019, the Asherah Foundation was able to provide scholarships to five amazing women! Each of these women inspired us with their resilience and persistence in the face of adversity. They are all working hard to complete their education and improve their communities. They range in age from 29 – 46 years, with an average age of 34. Three of them have dependents and two are single mothers. Their degrees are focused on finance, economics, human development, and environmental studies.

Abeer Mohammed Ghamdhan escaped the violence in her home in Yemen. She has already built programs and developed projects that have supported access to education for more than 6000 children. She is conducting research for her thesis on the effect of social media on the development of children in Yemen with a focus on strengthening civil society to create positive change. She is attending the Universiti Malaysia Perlis in Malaysia.

Evelyn Manishimwe is working on a Bachelor of Business Administration degree

at the International University of Equator in Burundi. She had been a victim of the Tutsi and Hutu civil war, her survival's price being her left leg. She has transformed her adversity into power by becoming an active member of the Association of Handicapped Women of Burundi, and by demonstrating the importance of resilience by continuing her studies.

Jacklin Samuel is a South Sudanese single mother of two with three dependents. She works full time while going to school for her baccalaureate degree in Accounting & Finance at Cavendish University in Uganda. She wants to use this degree to create change on three different levels. The first level is individual women to whom she hopes to impart financial literacy and management. Capacity building for the financial management of community-based organizations is the next level. Finally, she hopes to facilitate the development of educational capacity so that public sectors in South Sudan have the appropriate human resources to be effective.

Letter from The Asherah Foundation President: March 8, 2020



Maklin Hussein Al-Ahmadi is a single mother who escaped Yemen's violence with her daughter. She fought to access and afford the PhD program in Economy & Monetary Policy at The Institute for Arab Research and Studies in Egypt. She currently teaches while researching and writing about the effects of monetary policy on Egyptian inflation and balance of payments for her dissertation. Her goals are two-fold: she hopes to use her education to impact policy and help rebuild Yemen. She also has begun to teach others some of the more advanced statistical techniques and research methods she has learned - working to fill the gap in educational opportunities in these topics she had experienced.

Maryline Jabar is a mother of two from Liberia. She started college later in life due to violence from the Liberian civil war, as well as from the effects of an abusive marriage when she was a teenager. She is making progress on her degree in Environmental Studies at Stella Maris Polytechnic in Liberia.

With her studies, she aims to have an independent life, and empower disadvantaged women and children in her community. She has already set up three working groups with a total of 30 women working towards alleviating hunger.

These amazing women remind us all what is possible when one persists through adversity. They also remind us of the power of education to transform individuals and to transform society.

With gratitude for everyone who has supported these women, we hope you will continue to celebrate their successes with us, and to help support them as they transform their worlds.

Heather MacCleoud, PhD
Executive Director
President, Executive Board

2019 at a Glance

161

Donors

\$12,643

Total
amount raised

24

Applications
received

5

women

Successfully
sponsored

2019 at a Glance

Distribution of total Expenses

Operational cost
12%



Scholarships
88%

Profiles of 2019 scholarship recipients

Abeer* Ghamdhan- Universiti Malaysia Perlis

Through constant volunteering with mentorship programs for organizations such as the Blind Women Association, UNICEF, and the National Cultural Center for Youth, Abeer has dedicated her time to teaching children and raising awareness to the difficulties faced by vulnerable groups of people in Yemen.

*nickname used elsewhere for privacy purposes: Noura



[Read Abeer's full story.](#)

Evelyne* Manishimwe- International University of Equator

Evelyne is the perfect example that giving up should never be a choice. Despite losing her right leg in the Burundi civil war, she decided to pursue a baccalaureate degree in Business Administration, working to become the voice of disabled people from her community, which are constantly discriminated against.

*nickname used elsewhere for privacy purposes: Thalia



[Read Evelyne's full story.](#)

Profiles of 2019 scholarship recipients



[Read Jackline's full story.](#)

Jackline* Samuel- Cavendish University Uganda

After receiving her degree in Accounting and Finance, Jackline hopes to impact her community in South Sudan, by closely working with women who want to start a business. She believes that mutual efforts should be made in partnership with the public sector, local communities, and organization, in order to truly impact the whole society.

*nickname used elsewhere for privacy purposes: Sahra



[Read Maklin's full story.](#)

Maklin Hussein Al-Ahmadi- The Institute for Arab Research and Studies

After fleeing the violence in her country, Maklin fought to access higher levels of education. She moved to Egypt with her daughter. She teaches classes while finishing her PhD in Economics, through which she hopes to acquire the necessary knowledge to make a difference in her country, and to help it rebuild from its ongoing war.

Profiles of 2019 scholarship recipients



[Read Maryline's full story.](#)

Maryline Jabar- Stella Maris Polytechnic

After being the victim of a civil war, an impoverished family, and abusive marriage, Maryline fought to liberate herself from the oppressive cultural norms that caused her suffering. She hopes to change the conditions women from her community have to face due to lack of education. Currently working towards her degree in Environmental Health Studies, she hopes to use her education to facilitate the development of schools, clinics, and safe drinking water facilities to improve her community.

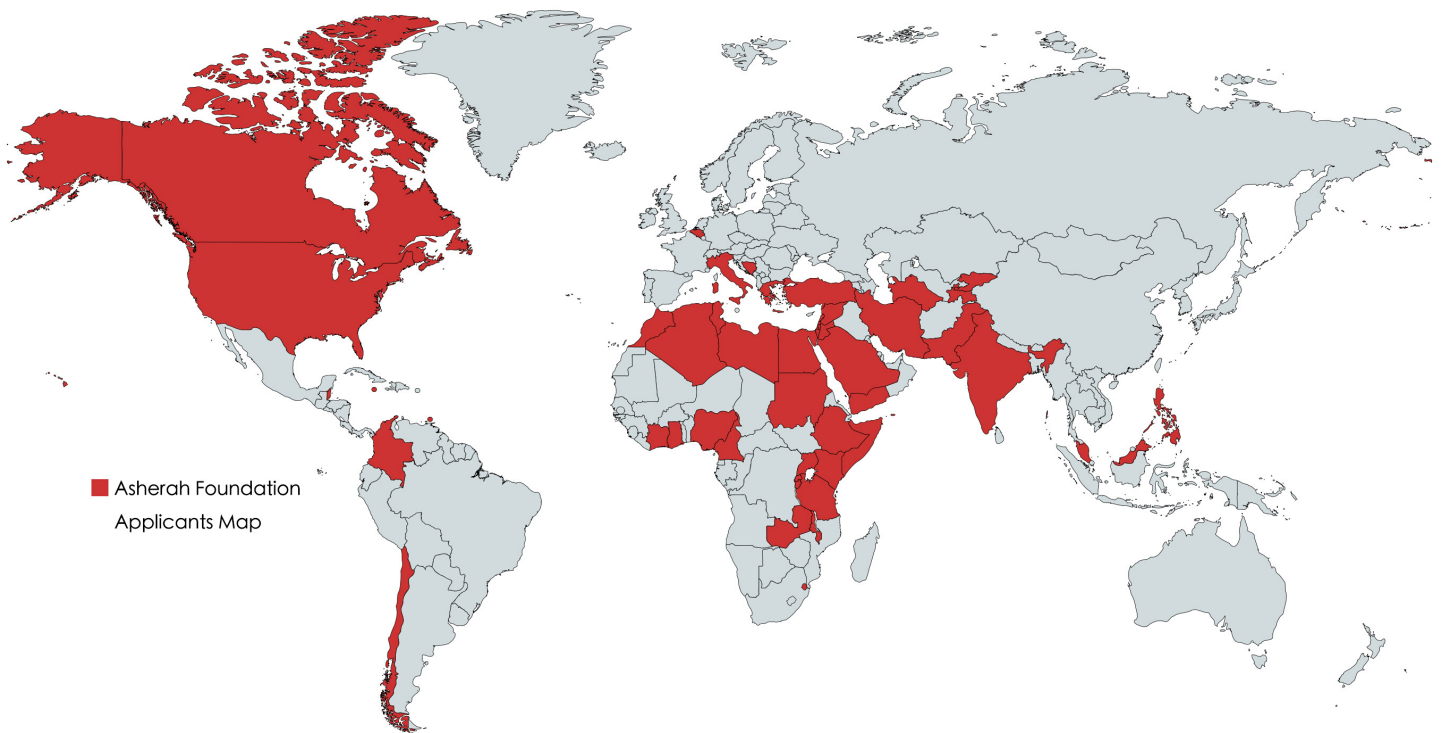
We want to address special thanks to our Executive Board Members and donors, who have financially supported us this year! Thanks to your generosity, we could finance once again the studies of Maklin and Maryline, two outstanding recipients from previous years.

Help Maryline and Maklin graduate!

We are currently running a [fundraiser](#) to help Maryline and Maklin receive the necessary support in order to graduate and achieve their dreams.



Where our applicants are located



The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Heather MacCleoud, PhD
President, Executive Board
Founder & Executive Director

Heather collaborates with higher education institutions, governments and non-governmental organisations to develop strategic international partnerships to improve the availability of higher education around the world.



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Sara Woodruff, PhD
Vice President & Chair-elect,
Executive Board

Dr. Sara Woodruff is the Vice President and the Chair-elect of the Executive Board. She is currently the Director of Research at the College Transition Collaborative (CTC) based at Stanford University.

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

Dale Hill, MPA

Vice President & Chair, Finance Committee; Treasurer, Executive Board

Dale joined the Board of the Asherah Foundation in 2017, continuing her distinguished career in evaluation (M&E), management, aid policy, as well as international economic development for the World Bank and many other NGOs. She received her MPA from Princeton University.



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Swapan Kumar

Vice President & Chair, Board Development Committee; Secretary, Executive Board

Swapan previously served as the Vice President and Chair of the Global Development Committee. He is a committed global leader in the domain of sustainability development, working with multinational corporations.



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Haley Carter

Vice President & Chair, Development Committee; Member at Large, Executive Board

Haley is a global business leader, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, and former Marine Corps Officer. She is also a retired American professional soccer player, and has coached the Afghanistan Women's National Football Team and the Antigua and Barbuda Women's National Team.



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Fadima Savadogo

Vice President & Chair, Scholarship Oversight Committee

Fadima is an experienced knowledge management professional. Currently at the International Finance Cooperation (IFC), she has also worked for the World Bank and World Learning. She is originally from Burkina Faso.

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

Katherine Marshall, MPA **Member, Executive Board**

Katherine is a global leader in international development. She currently serves as the Executive Director at World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD) and is a Senior Fellow and Visiting Professor at Georgetown University. Previously, she was a Senior Advisor at the World Bank, and a Trustee of Princeton University. She received her MPA in Public Policy from Princeton University.



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Kerstin Sorensen, PhD **Founding Officer, Executive Board**

Dr. Sorensen is a Founding Officer of the Asherah Foundation. She also provides research advice and expertise to board members as the Director of Research. Academic Coordinator UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health



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The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



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Gabrielle Malfatti, EdD
Founding Officer, Executive Board;
Advisory Board

Global Engagement Director,
University of Missouri



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Ozlem Ozyon, PhD
Founding Member, Executive Board

Star Alliance Coordinator, Turkish
Airlines; Professor, Nişantaşı
University

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

Alexsis Blakely
Vice President & Member-at-large of
Executive Board (Former)

VP, Development at Rosewood
Strategies



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Gaurav Chandra, MD, MBA
Vice President & Chair, Board
Development Committee; Secretary,
Executive Board (Former)

Chief Operating Officer BioClonetics
ImmunoTherapeutics



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The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Robert Definis, EdD
Vice President & Co-Chair,
Development Committee (Former)
President- Comprehensive Learning
Center



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Stephanie Fenniri
Vice President & Chair, Youth
Engagement Committee (Former)
Education and Social Impact Director
at BCGP

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

DeAnna Alonso, MSSW
President & Chair of Advisory
Board; Founding Member, Executive Board

CEO, Central Missouri Foster Care
& Adoption Association



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Amani Jebril
Advisory Board; Scholarship Recipient
2016, 2017

Amani is a Member of the Advisory Board at the Asherah Foundation. Apart from her work at the Asherah Foundation, she is occupied as a freelance consultant in the field of water environment and development.



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The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Arzo Kaderi
Advisory Board

Program Coordinator- Social Enterprise at
Population Services International



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Linda Lou O'Connor, PhD
Advisory Board; Member,
Executive Board (Former)

Manager, Global Services and
Regulatory Affairs for North America
at SC Johnson

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

Aimana El-Bahtity

Advisory Board

Senior Consultant at AlphaSights
Information Services



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Cynthia Bleu-Lainé

Advisory Board (Founding Member)

Programme Manager (Africa Region),
WaterLex: Securing human rights to water
and sanitation through law and policy reform



The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members



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Josephine Osea
Advisory Board

World Bank, Vice Chair, Modern Komenya
Youth Association



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

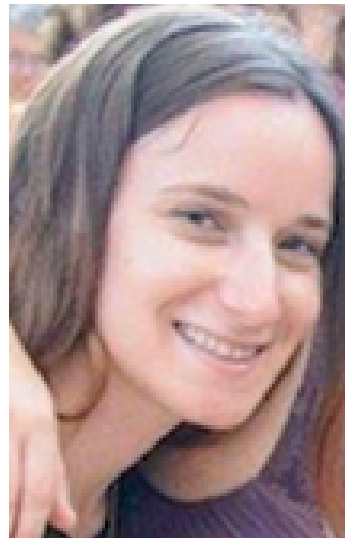
Nyaradzo Mashayamombe
Advisory Board (Founding Member)

Founding Director, Tag a Life International
Trust (TaLI), Girls & Young Women's Rights
Group, CEO, Identities Media Holdings, Host,
Identities Umhlobo TV Show & Identities
Conversations

The Asherah Foundation Executive & Advisory members

Adar Kalter
Advisory Board

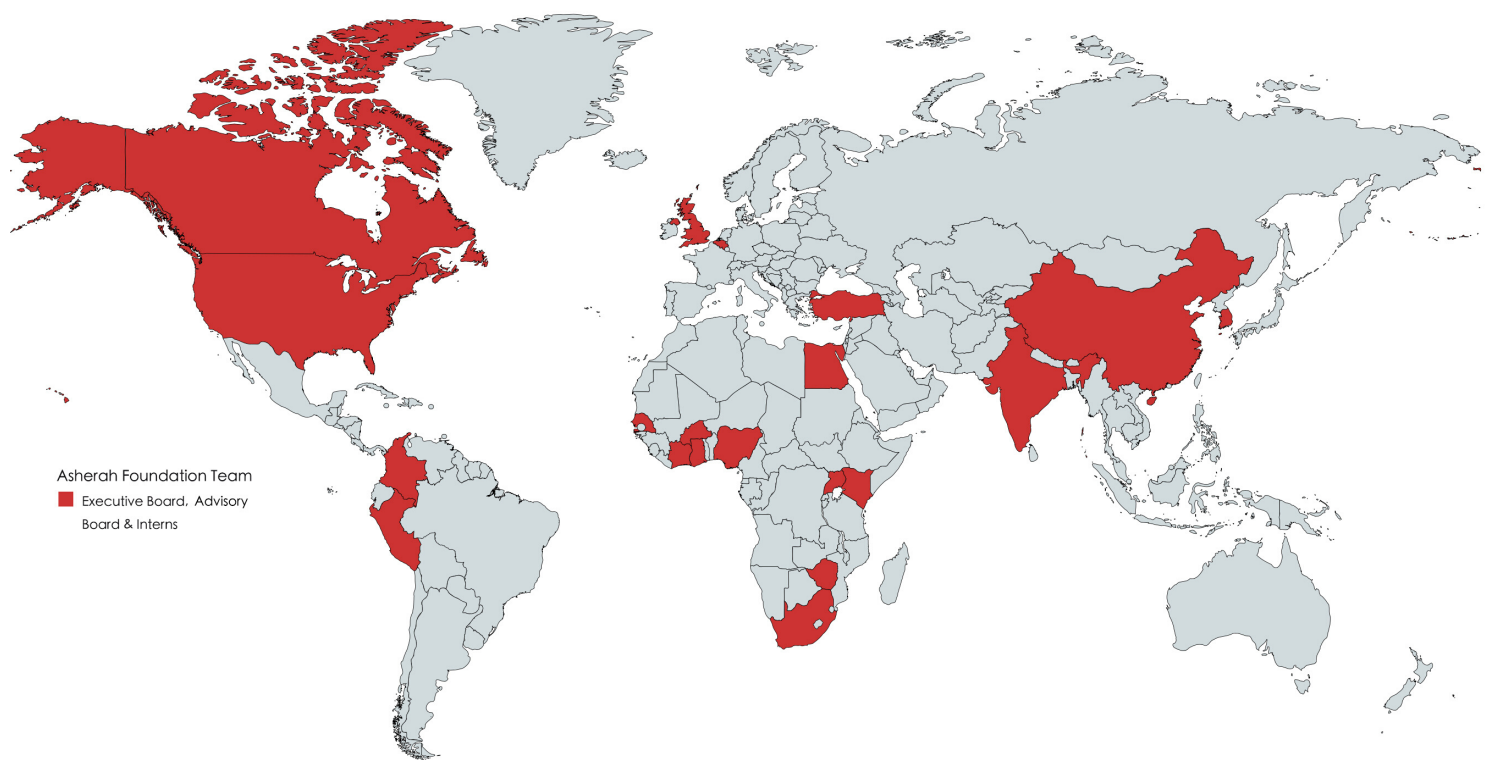
Director of School Services at
AmplioSpeech



[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Special thanks to these dedicated women and men from all over the world for helping the Asherah Foundation continue its mission. With gratitude for your constant efforts, in 2019 we were once again able to offer second chances for education to more outstanding women.

An indicator of our global team



Global Giving Accelerator

The Asherah Foundation has successfully raised the minimum \$5,000 required in order to graduate the Global Giving Accelerator and become an official partner.

We are happy to announce that by the end of the year, The Asherah Foundation had been chosen as one of Global Giving's top organizations.

[We invite you to read our [project reports](#), for more information on our scholarship recipients!]



Special Thanks to our 2019 Interns

We appreciate each and every one of you who have constantly supported the Asherah Foundation through your work!

Senior Management

Adar Kalter
Kate McCarthy
Nina Bernardo
Silvia Pencu

Non-profit Management

Serigne Ndoeye
Sabrina Lourie
Madison Stem
Emily Greco
Tania Perales
Emma Kaija
Brian Hung

International Development

Yazgul Myratnazarova
Tosin Salau
Savannah Crozier
Elizabeth Le
Caitlyn Gegen
Adeena Syed
Erin Lynch
James Castro
Natasha Patel
Nick Silk
Serena Weinberg
Zeynep Calisir
Sarbinaz Urumbaeva
Shuai Yan
Helen Tariku
Krystal Kilhart

We welcome our Spring 2020 Interns!

Thank you for dedicating your time to helping women from all
over the world receive a second chance!

Senior Management

Nina Bernardo
Silvia Pencu

Non-profit Management

Helen Tariku
Tania Perales
Brian Hung
Krystal Kilhart

International Development

Hussaina Abdullahi
Kimberly Appel
Rophiat Bello
Zeynep Calisir
Celeste Chalkley
Zheren Li
Qiyu Li



Asherah Foundation Management Team

2019 Annual Report

For more information find us on our [official website](#) or
send us an email at info@asherahfoundation.org

