

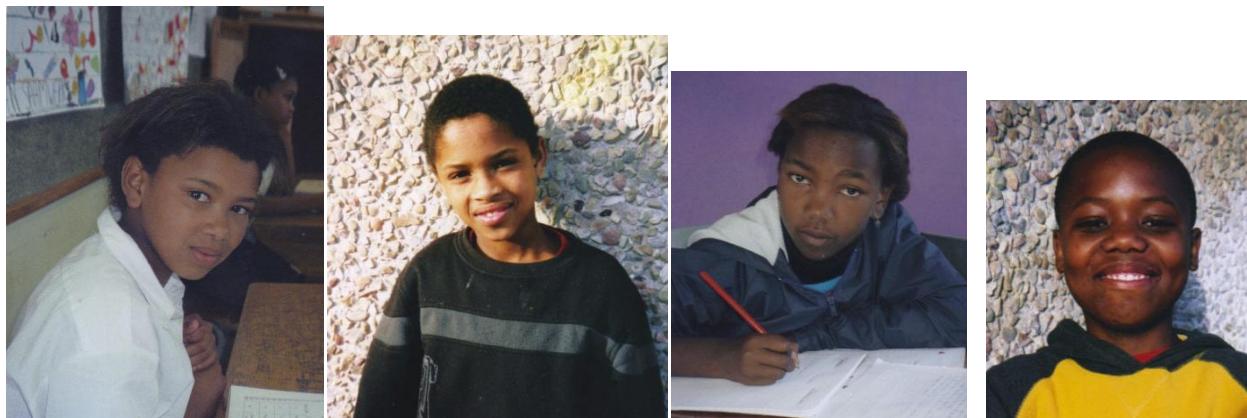
South Africa Higher Education Fund A project of the St. Vincent de Paul Church

In 2006 Sylvia Eastman went to Kurland Village, a very poor and remote village at the edge of the Western Cape in South Africa. Sylvia volunteered there for the better part of a year, as a teacher at the public school, and also at a “safe house” for abused children and as a teacher of English for adults in the evenings.



A land of vast beauty and endless skies, but also dire poverty.

The village had few jobs and very high unemployment and the children at the public school mostly dropped out before they were teens, lacking the means for an education that might lift them out of poverty.



A few of the sixth grade students

Sylvia proposed the idea of a scholarship program that could make it possible for children in the village to have higher education. She formed a committee to administer the scholarships, held a founding meeting, which elected officers and drew up a non-profit charter, and then opened a bank account for them and promised to raise funds for the scholarships.

St. Vincent's has been the core of all fund-raising since that time that has resulted in supporting some 25+ students with tuition and living expenses to seek higher education degrees. The areas of study and professions in which these students are preparing include: teaching, nursing, psychology, science research, social work, business, international relations, law, and tourism.

All funds that have been donated have been sent to Africa. None are spent here for any administrative costs, which are absorbed by Sylvia or by St. Vincent's. The same is true in South Africa. The committee absorbs their own administrative costs, and all donated scholarship money goes directly to the needs of the students. Sylvia has overseen the funding and is assured the South African committee has been extremely careful with every cent given.

Both males and females and several ethnic groups have been represented among the scholarship recipients. The students and the administrators of the scholarship fund have all written of their gratitude to us; and I believe, as they, that we have not only made a difference for these individuals but for the village as well.

To make a fully tax-deductible donation of any size, please make out your check to St. Vincent de Paul Church and mail it to:

SAHEF
5821 Halwyn Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212-3712

Thank you and bless you!

For further information, call Sylvia Eastman at 410/323/2258, or email to seastman@cavtel.net.



Some of our current scholarship recipients