



Nichols
Humanitarian
Fund

Supporting the humanitarian
activities of Vanderbilt students

2022
Recipients



To the recipients,

Thank you for making service to humanity part of your summer. Your work this summer matters. You will make a difference and the people and the communities that you serve will be better off because of you and your projects. Janice and I are proud of you and our hopes and prayers are with you this summer and always.

With all our gratitude and admiration,

Ed and Janice Nichols

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Introduction

The Nichols Humanitarian Fund is a companion scholarship fund to the Nichols-Chancellor's Medal. These programs seek to make Vanderbilt students better members of their communities and society in general by supporting their humanitarian activities and bringing speakers to Vanderbilt who embody the best of humanity. For more about the Fund, visit its website or contact Vanderbilt's Office of Immersion Resources.

Thirty-two students received awards in 2022 to work on humanitarian projects during the summer academic break in six U.S. cities, one U.S. territory, and fourteen foreign countries.

The projects are in Houston TX, Little Rock AR, Nashville TN, New York NY, Phoenix AZ, Washington D.C., Guam, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Nepal, Panama, South Africa, and South Korea.

The projects include designing strategies to protect endangered sea turtles in Panama, developing a bio-friendly pesticide to combat the fall armyworm, preserving an Islamic shrine in Cairo, Egypt, providing schools in rural India with sanitation supplies, computer equipment, and educational material, cleaning up beaches in Indonesia, mentoring disadvantaged high school students, improving the legal and human rights of refugees in South Korea, researching the prevalence and causes of cardiometabolic disorders and organizing a symposium to educate students about health issues in Guam, participating in doula services for women of color, a construction and renovation project in Costa Rica, an internship with the United Nations Relief and Works Administration for Palestine Refugees, working with local non-profits to combat food insecurity in Nashville, and much more.

The average GPA of the recipients is 3.73.



MARTÍN ALEMÁN

Economics and Political Science, '23

Hometown: Panama City, Panama

Project Location: Playa Mata Oscura, Panama

"Every year, thousands of turtles travel up to 1,500 miles to lay their eggs at Playa Mata Oscura in the Pacific coast of Panama. Unfortunately, turtle eggs are considered a delicacy by many, and their sale is a highly profitable illegal business. For my project, I will help design and build an educational center that aims to promote turtle conservation. Through such a center, locals can be educated from a young age about the importance of these animals to maintain the marine ecosystem, helping protect Panama's marine environment and the community's future economic development."



WESTIN BATE

Biomedical Engineering, '23

Hometown: Gross Pointe Farms, MI

Project Location: Cape Town, South Africa

"I will be working with the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (IGCEB) to develop and hopefully mass produce a bio-friendly pesticide to combat the fall army worm. The fall army worm is an invasive species that is destroying the South African corn crop."



JARED BAUMAN

Vanderbilt Law School, '24

Hometown: Rockville, MD

Project Location: New York, NY

"The Exoneration Initiative 'provides free legal services to indigent prisoners in New York State with compelling claims of innocence; conducts impact litigation to advance legal precedent favorable to potentially wrongfully convicted people; informs and educates the public, the legal profession and the judiciary about the causes of wrongful convictions and the fallibility of the criminal justice system.' As a Legal Intern, I will be researching, vetting, and investigating innocence claims to present to EXI attorneys."



GEORGE DOSTER

Economics and Mathematics, '24

Hometown: Tampa, FL

Project Location: Bali, Indonesia

"We will be partnering with local organizations to employ citizens in a beach cleaning startup in Bali, Indonesia. Their economy has been deeply hurt by a lack of tourism and many workers have been displaced as the beaches have gotten dirtier and are in danger of affecting the environment."



BRIANNA FREEMAN

Human & Organizational Development; Child Studies, '23

Hometown: Houston, TX

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"Launch Mentorship is hosting a Nash-Bash Back to School event for members of the Antioch and Greater Nashville community. Community members will receive backpacks, school supplies, and info from schools in order to prepare for the upcoming school year, as well as receive meals from food trucks and community fun!"



SHERY GIRGIS

Sociology; Psychology; Philosophy, '23

Hometown: La Vergne, TN

Project Location: Rome, Italy

"The Youth Support project in Rome gives volunteers the chance to help local NGOs in promoting diversified extra-curricular educational initiatives for underprivileged children and teenagers with a criminal background, with the aim of helping these young people gain access to better opportunities."



ANISH GIRI

Physics; Computer Science, '25

Hometown: Kawasoti, Nepal

Project Location: Nawalpur District, Nepal

"My aim is to spend time being both teacher and student in these schools for four weeks. I will interact with students and teachers to understand the problems existing in the schools and discuss the possible solutions to those problems. We collectively will try to recognize different problems existing in the school that are hindering students' growth and try to solve them with available resources."



NEERAJ GUMMADAPU

Economics, '24

Hometown: Frisco, TX

Project Location: Hyderabad, India

"As a member of Project RISHI, I will work alongside fellow club members in helping to implement essential infrastructure and education projects in rural schools around Hyderabad, India. A few of the many different items that we will be providing to the various schools are desks, stoves, electrical wiring repairs, computers, and lab supplies for the biology, chemistry, and physics classes. Overall, we are going to implement our projects in an ethical and sustainable manner so schools will have what they need to continue educating students who don't have the resources to attend elsewhere."



BIYAO GUO

Political Science; Economics, '23

Hometown: Xi'an, China

Project Location: Xi'an, China

"The service project will bring summer reading camps to underprivileged high school students in less developed cities like Zunyi and Kaili in China. We will recruit volunteer leaders from universities across US and China to lead reading discussion sessions (conducted similar to a seminar class in the US) and ask the leaders to design their own syllabus. The reading camp will last about ten days and have around 10 students per session and 8-10 sessions per city."



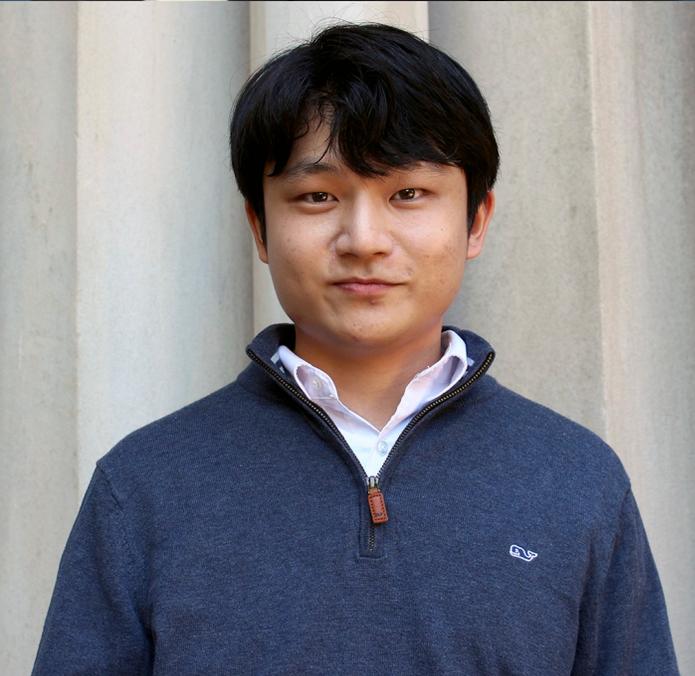
AMARIS-LYNN JOUBERT

Psychology, '24

Hometown: Dallas, TX

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"I will be working an intern in the Lipscomb Initiative for Education (LIFE) program which is an organization that works to provide incarcerated people (a.k.a. insiders) with access to associates, bachelors, and masters degree programs as well as scholarship opportunities. The classes will be taught at the Tennessee Women's Prison. I will also be attending meetings with college faculty and community organizers and gaining hands-on experience and connections in a non-profit setting with the goal of gathering more information about the logistics of coordinating and directing a higher education in prison program"



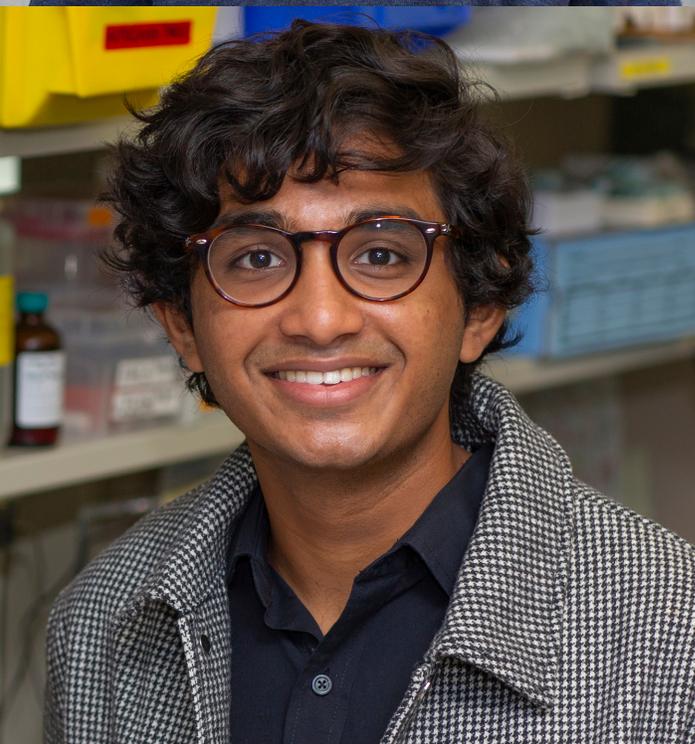
JOSEPH KANG

Economics & History, '24

Hometown: Hyde Park, MA

Project Location: Seoul, South Korea

"I am planning on doing service work that contributes to (i) the improvement of refugee rights in South Korea and (ii) the improvement of the Korean community's sensitivity towards refugees. My contribution will help the Korean community in terms of strengthening civil society actors' efforts for refugee rights and combating the Korean tendency to simplify the refugee crisis into foreign security threats."



SHAUN KARAKKATTU

Economics & History; Cognitive Studies, '25

Hometown: Mesa, AZ

Project Location: Phoenix, AZ

"Being the largest student-run non-profit in Arizona, Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research (SSBTR) provides unique opportunities for young people to act as principal players in a large-scale philanthropic organization. My plan for this project is to involve the SSBTR and its partner organizations like the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), a laboratory in downtown Phoenix which does cancer and immunology research to create programming for underprivileged youth in Arizona. Over these three weeks of the summer, students would have the opportunity to get involved with different partners of the Students Supporting Brain Tumor Research."



HEERA KODIYAMPLAKKAL

Medicine, Health, and Society, '24

Hometown: Tamuning, GU

Project Location: Guam, USA

"I will be researching the prevalence and cause of cardiometabolic disorders at the University of Guam. I will also be organizing a 1-day symposium designed to educate school students about health issues that are prevalent in the Island."



JEANNE D'ARC KOFFI

Human & Organizational Development, '24

Hometown: Jersey City, NJ

Project Location: New York, NY

"I will be engaging in Ancient Song's Foundational Labor Doula Certification program and plan to be involved in the organization's reproductive justice advocacy efforts (via teach-ins concerning education etc...), as well as their mutual efforts in distributing maternity resources to community members."



AMANDA KOUAHO

Medicine, Health and Society; Molecular & Cellular Bio, '23

Hometown: Little Elm, TX

Project Location: Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

"I will be conducting a service-based project directly with physicians at the Community-based Urban Health Centre of Yopougon, Port-Bouet II (FSUCOM-Port-Bouet II) of the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene. Specifically, my service work will consist of me assisting medical professionals in providing preventative community-oriented general medicine to those of the Yopougon Port-Bouet II community."



INDUJA KUMAR

Political Science, '24

Hometown: Chandler, AZ

Project Location: El Salvador

"I will be part of a delegation that is meant to connect organizers in South America with students in North America. This will allow me to learn about environmental activism, racial justice initiatives and more, and how they affect immigration policy and the crisis on the US Border."



VIVEK KUMAR

Medicine, Health & Society; Economics, '24

Hometown: Portland, OR

Project Location: Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras

"The educational platforms will target modifiable risk factors: alcohol dependence, tobacco usage, nutrition deficiency, and lack of consistent physical activity, which are highly prevalent in the Caribbean. I will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of a program while receiving real-time feedback from patients to fine-tune the program's effectiveness. This educational program will involve working alongside nurses and doctors to create simple, but effective techniques for bridging the medical knowledge gap between the provider and the patient."



SAMUEL LU

Elementary Education; Human & Organizational Development, '25

Hometown: Little Rock, AR

Project Location: Little Rock, AR

"The Playful Learning for Arkansas Youth (P.L.A.Y.) program will be a two week summer program offered to certain students at Pulaski Heights Elementary School in Little Rock, Arkansas. The program will utilize educational games, structured play, arts and crafts, and other activities to instruct students using a specially designed curriculum targeting skills in math, literacy, and science."



ERIK MASTALERZ

Architecture & the Built Environment; Political Science, '23

Hometown: Guilford, CT

Project Location: San José, Costa Rica

"Local priority-focused construction and renovation project in San José, Costa Rica. I will be joining a rotating international team of volunteers who offer their respective expertise to support critical infrastructure development."



JAMES MAXWELL

Economics, '24

Hometown: Tahlequah, OK

Project Location: Bali, Indonesia

"For our project, we will travel to Bali and establish a non-profit foundation to combat the severe waste that has built up around the beaches. In addition, we will acquire involvement and sponsorships from various different local businesses."



QUINLYN MUSCATEL

Political Science; Religious Studies, '24

Hometown: Thousand Oaks, CA

Project Location: Amman, Jordan

"I will be interning with the United Nations Relief and Works Administration for Palestine Refugees this summer in Amman, Jordan. I will be working with the protection division in Amman to help ensure that UNRWA's services are the most beneficial to Palestine refugees."



SAMUEL NEWMIER

Vanderbilt Law School, '24

Hometown: Trappe, MD

Project Location: Washington, D.C.

"I will be conducting legal research and writing on selected topics to present to organizing attorneys. I will be responsible for learning about war crimes and human rights violators, along with the applicable U.S. regulatory, statutory, and common law rules. I will learn about human rights violators in a specific geographic region and will conduct an end-of-the-year project with fellow clerks."



SALEM OMER

Neuroscience, '23

Hometown: Nashville, TN

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"I plan to work with local nonprofit organizations in Nashville to tackle its food security issue. I plan to develop a mutual aid network through which people are able to work together to combat food insecurity, organize a fundraiser to support local food insecurity initiatives through a partnership, build a community garden and initiate a protocol for its routine maintenance, and lead a political effort to effect local policy change through organizing petitions and contacting representatives."



LEO PARK

Neuroscience; Child Development, '24

Hometown: Katy, TX

Project Location: Houston, TX

"My service project will provide free golf lessons to children from refugee backgrounds and those with adverse childhood experiences. Taught by undergraduate golfers across the nation, the project will teach these children to become lifelong independent golfers."



MORGAN PECK

Vanderbilt Law School, '24

Hometown: Hunt Valley, MD

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"Southern Migrant Legal Services (SMLS) is a non-profit project connected to Texas RioGrande Legal Aid that provides free employment-related legal services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. I will be assisting with various stages of the litigation process, conducting legal research, and engaging in community outreach across SMLS's six-state service area."



JACK PROCTOR

Secondary Education; Psychology, '23

Hometown: Dublin, OH

Project Location: Jordan

"I will be serving in a local school in Jordan by planning and teaching English language lessons as well as STEM and other elective classes. I will be working alongside local teachers as well as other experienced teachers through the Navigators who will demonstrate effective and compassionate teaching. Additionally, we will be organizing community events aimed at supporting the local community and sharing hope with a people group that has experienced great hardship."



HELEN QIAN

Neuroscience, '24

Hometown: Boyds, MD

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"My project aims to investigate how the current standard for public health communication may pose accessibility issues for people who are neurodivergent or have neurodevelopmental disorders and/or disabilities, as well as how visual design standards can be integrated, modified, and improved to address these accessibility needs. I plan to develop a set of aims for accessible design specific to public health communication, which I hope to use to design a series of infographics based on current public health needs in Nashville."



ALYSSA QUESTELL

Biomedical Engineering; Environmental Sociology, '23

Hometown: Cincinnati, OH

Project Location: Nashville, TN

"By partnering with a low-income Nashville public high school, I will work to implement an engineering makerspace complete with 3D printers, circuitry kits, and other prototyping tools. The ultimate goal is to empower students with tools for creation and inspire future engineers."



JARET RUSHING

Philosophy; Religious Studies, '23

Hometown: Camden, TN

Project Location: Cairo, Egypt

"This project will contribute to the preservation of an Islamic shrine in Cairo, Egypt. It is said by locals to house the remains of some descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. While physical preservation is already well underway, I will be researching the history and function of the site with Dr. Richard McGregor."



RITHVIK SARMA

Political Science; Economics, '23

Hometown: San Ramon, CA

Project Location: Pamulaparthy, Telangana, India

"My service project involves working with other members of Project RISHI to implement sustainable resources and infrastructure for our project villages in India. We will work closely with these villages to address some challenges they face in areas such as education, health, sanitation, etc. We hope to create a system that can be continually improved upon in future projects that will greatly increase the quality of life in these villages."



KRISH SHAH

Cognitive Studies; Art History, '24

Hometown: Hawthorn Woods, IL

Project Location: Telangana, India

"Project RISHI's annual summer service trip helps rural villages and schools in Pamulaparathi, India improve their infrastructure through sustainable solutions. During the school year we fundraise to provide schools with sanitation supplies, computer equipment, and educational material. Our goal is to expand out to more regions and supply even more schools in different regions with sustainable solutions."



RITHIKA TUMMALA

Neuroscience, '24

Hometown: Brentwood, TN

Project Location: Hyderabad, India

"My project would focus on developing and building infrastructure in Pamulaparathi, India which is a village in the outskirts of a major metropolitan city called Hyderabad. Working on behalf of Project RISHI, my main focus would be on developing the schools there as well as improving on sanitation and health in the area."