

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

In Service To Others



President's Message



Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce 2022's Annual Report.

2021 was an exceptional year. Echoes of the pandemic uncertainty still abounded, but we saw a renewed optimism and engagement from our community as New York made a slow return to its pre-Covid rhythm. Despite a few blips caused by variants, once again people were happy to gather at restaurants, bars and even galas.

October 2021's English Ball was a wonderful experience to join members of our community, celebrate our remarkable honorees, and enjoy the dancing and good company at The Pierre, even though our event coincided with tempestuous weather conditions. The money raised that evening ensured we were able to fund our 2022/23 scholars. Many of our students seek careers in the human services professions, and the pandemic was a reminder, if any were needed, that regardless of our chosen profession, we all need healthcare professionals to keep our populations healthy and happy.

On that note, among the continuing support for our senior beneficiaries, we were proud to assist our seniors to get vaccinated, achieving a 93% rate by late September 2021. With vaccinations in place, we were able to bring our beneficiaries together for two afternoon teas; this provided an opportunity to meet some of our volunteer Phone Pals after more than a year of talking on the phone. We ended 2021 with a holiday gift wrapping event at Saint Thomas's Church 5th Ave, where volunteers wrapped our traditional holiday gifts for our seniors. For families whose children are receiving treatment for cancer, the holidays can be especially difficult. Happily, in 2021 SGSNY was able to assist 10 families through the Weatherstone Families Support Fund, covering both financial costs and offering emotional support during difficult times. Our wonderful volunteers help these families adjust to life in a new city and provide a valuable touchstone.

Service to our community is something we encourage and strive to achieve. What better model can we have than Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth, who at the age of 21 committed to a lifetime of service. Her passing in 2022 was a huge loss for the world, including the British and Commonwealth community here in New York. Some of our seniors are among a small part of the global population who remember a life without her, and her passing marks a shift in generations and a period of great change. What remains constant is the recognition that service and community is important; Queen Elizabeth's pledge to serve others was recently renewed by His Majesty King Charles III, and we are proud that SGSNY embodies the same mission. Lying at the heart of the British and Commonwealth community here in New York, our commitment to serving others remains as strong as ever and we will continue to adapt and innovate, as we have done throughout our storied history. This would not be possible without our members, volunteers, staff and partners.

Thank you for your unwavering support and encouragement. I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish for the year ahead.

With gratitude,

David Drinkwater
President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ROYAL PATRON, HRH THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER KG GCVO

“

For obvious reasons I was unable to travel to New York in 2021 but during my recent visit, I was delighted to meet beneficiaries from all three charitable programs and hear how St George's Society of New York had supported them during one of the most challenging of years. It was heartening to see the continued positive impact the St George's community has on the lives of people from across the Commonwealth now living in New York. Small acts of kindness can prevent loneliness and isolation, a small amount of money can help someone graduate and a friendly face can provide reassurance to someone a long way from home with a sick child. I thank the members and supporters of St George's Society of New York for all they do to make a positive impact.

”



Year In Review

**91 Senior
beneficiaries
supported in
2021**



**\$120,000 in
financial aid
awarded to 24
CUNY
scholarship
recipients**



**5 NYC
boroughs
served through
SGNYC
Scholarship
Program**

**24 in-person
and virtual
events
bringing our
community
together**



**33 volunteers who
supported SGSNY in
numerous and invaluable
ways including
mentoring students,
airport pickups, legal
advice or wrapping and
delivering holiday gifts
to our senior
beneficiaries. Providing
approximately \$15,000 in
real cost savings**

**10 families
supported on 33
trips to NYC for
pediatric cancer
treatment**

Beneficiary Program - Our Neighbors in Need

Our senior beneficiaries are a particularly vulnerable population.

Thanks to the ongoing support of our community, SGSNY was again able to provide critical assistance and provide housing help, food, and supplies to provide the peace of mind that someone was looking out for them.

In 2021, SGSNY served 91 seniors providing \$438,476 in financial assistance.



Our beneficiaries hail from 17 Commonwealth countries - 48% are from the Caribbean followed by 38% from the British Isles. Our beneficiaries live in all five boroughs of New York; 26% are male and 74% female with an average age of 75. Our seniors have an average income of \$860 per month and SGSNY provides an average stipend of \$450 per month.

Through volunteering to wrap holiday gifts for St George's Society's senior beneficiaries, I knew I was helping to provide a spark of joy for someone who may have no other family or friends.

Erin S. (SGSNY Volunteer)



Our Social Workers provided vaccination education and accompanied beneficiaries to be vaccinated. They delivered masks and sanitizers. Our Phone Pal program continued and provided a crucial link for our seniors to the outside world. Two afternoon teas were held in Brooklyn and Manhattan serving over 40 fully vaccinated beneficiaries and continuing Wendy Shadwell's legacy gift. SGSNY maintained the 150 year tradition of delivering holiday baskets for our seniors, wrapped by volunteers and accompanied by cards from over 100 students at The British International School of New York.

About Barbara



65 year old Barbara, is originally from Trinidad. She was unable to meet her monthly rent of \$817 and was awarded a monthly stipend of \$417, paid direct to her landlord, plus an EASY PAY transit pass. During summer 2021, SGSNY purchased a new air conditioning unit, bringing her much-needed relief from the city's dangerous heatwave.

“Thank you to the Society for saving me when I could not take care of my rent. You are in my prayers forever.”

About Shirley



Shirley, age 82, lives with her 81-year-old sister, Yvonne, who has Alzheimer's disease. Every evening, due to her condition, Yvonne paces through their apartment. To keep safe the lights remain on which creates a high electricity bill. SGSNY agreed to pay Con Edison \$65 per month to keep Shirley and Yvonne safe.

“St. George's helps to keep my sister safe and at home with me for as long as God wills.”

About Rose



Rose, a single woman, aged 84, has lived in New York City since arriving from England in 1961. In 1969 she purchased an apartment in Manhattan and lived without any debts until 2021. With rising maintenance costs she found herself unable to cover her expenses and was accepted into SGSNY's beneficiary program.

“Without St. George's, where would I be today? I am so deeply grateful to be able to stay in my home of 53 years.”

Emergency Fund - Ayesha's* Story

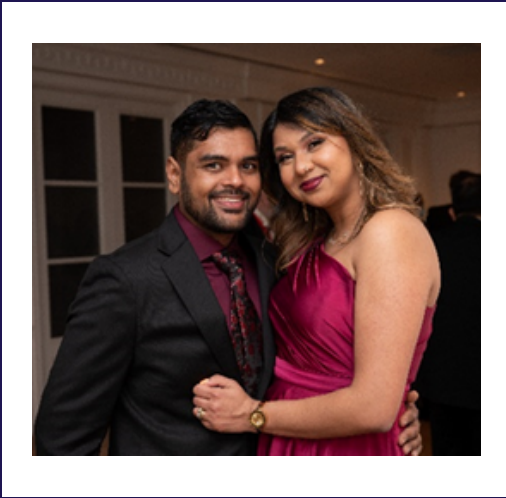
On the morning of 9 January 2022, a terrible fire ripped through a Bronx apartment block killing 17 people. We were shocked to discover that one of our 2021 SGSNY scholars, Ayesha, lost family members and her home in this awful disaster. As soon as we heard that Ayesha was impacted, we asked if we could help. Julie, our Social Worker, was able to provide practical advice and support to the family, helping them navigate the complex bureaucratic process to find a new home. We worked with her college to write off \$3000 of student fees.

The family had lost everything so working with partners and SGSNY funds, we provided furniture, household supplies and clothing for the surviving members of the family. Ayesha graduated in December 2021 and is continuing her studies to become a physician's assistant.



Scholarship Program

Since 2008, SGSNY's Scholarship Program has provided valuable financial aid to remarkable students in their final year of undergraduate studies. Scholars are first or second-generation immigrants with Commonwealth links, with the majority being people of color and first-generation college students.



In 2021, we continued to serve low-income students in all five New York boroughs. Providing \$116,400 in total grants and program support. Of our 24 students, 42% were of African origin, 33% Caribbean and the remainder from SE Asia. 50% were female.



Our scholars attend five CUNY (City University New York) colleges: Lehman College (Bronx), Hunter College (Manhattan), New York City College of Technology (Queens), The College of Staten Island, and Queens College



Our students majored in a variety of subjects including biology, computer sciences and psychology, with a third of them studying nursing and human services.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 on businesses affected our student population. Many students offset their educational expenses through part-time jobs, in the service industry. With many businesses closed or operating on skeleton staff some of our students were forced to choose between purchasing necessities or buying essential items for their studies. Across America students deferred or dropped out of college. We believe this trend impacted our potential pool of students and resulted in a lower-than-normal number of applications.

In 2021, we were delighted to award \$120,000 in financial aid to 24 final-year CUNY students. We are proud that 100% of our recipients achieve a 100% graduation rate, compared to the average US college drop-out rate of 40%.



Meet Wajiha



"SGSNY has given me the opportunity to be a part of an amazing community, where I have been able to make connections and meet individuals from all over the world. I value the support and effort that the entire team at SGSNY provided me during my final year at City Tech. I will be forever grateful and hope to be able to give back to SGSNY through the work that I will pursue in the future."

Wajiha's family is originally from Pakistan, though she was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. In 1992 her parents and sisters fled to the US due to the Gulf War. Settling in Texas was a culture shock. Wajiha was the first person in her family to move away from home to go to school and as a Green Card holder she was ineligible for many scholarships, she remembers the financial struggle. After graduating from community college in 2018 she moved to Brooklyn and began at City Tech as a transfer student, majoring in Human Services.

Wajiha learnt about SGSNY through the scholarship department at City Tech. Receiving the SGSNY scholarship allowed Wajiha to focus on her final year of college and removed the financial worries. She was placed with a mentor, one of SGSNY's Social Workers, and described the support and guidance as invaluable. In Spring 2021, Wajiha graduated with a BS in Human Services, with Summa Cumme Laude honors. She is building her experience in hospice care through volunteering, including at SGSNY. Over the next two years, Wajiha plans to apply for a Master's in Social Work, after which she hopes to practice as a clinical social worker.

Meet Yolanda



"The SGSNY scholarship gave me the confidence and opportunity to challenge my educational abilities and prove to myself that I can do everything I put my mind to!"

Yolanda was born in New Jersey, but as a child moved to Nigeria returning to the US when she was 16. She had a keen interest in economics and when searching for a college, Yolanda knew she would need to support herself, so her choice needed to be academically rigorous but affordable. Yolanda gained a place at Queen's College to major in Economics, and successfully applied for a SGSNY Scholarship. The award completely surpassed her expectations, allowing her to focus on her education without the fear of debt.

Yolanda completed an internship at NASDAQ in 2021, and she graduated from Queens College in June 2022. Yolanda now works as a Senior Operations Analyst at OSTTRA, a financial services company. She hopes that one day she can support her passion of increasing opportunities for women in the technology industry, particularly in Africa.

Meet Deshaun



"The money I received as a Scholarship student allowed me to focus on my studies and finish my undergrad degree without the need to worry about tuition payments. I can say wholeheartedly that SGSNY makes a concerted effort to enrich the lives of its beneficiaries financially, academically and socially, ultimately setting them up for long-lasting success."

DeShaun, originally from Jamaica, graduated in May 2022 from Lehman College with a degree in Psychology, minoring in Philosophy. He received mentorship from a SGSNY member and found the program invaluable as it inspired him to become a psychotherapist. Deshaun plans to return to Lehman for his Masters, followed by a doctorate, and one day aims to open his own practice.

Since commencing the scholarship program, Deshaun has been a regular attendee at our events and has expanded his professional contacts. Eventually, DeShaun hopes to become a SGSNY mentor and guide our newest scholars.

Meet Hammad



"The value SGSNY has provided me is incredible. I have met so many like-minded peers and built my network considerably, making lifelong connections. I can firmly say without St. George's Society, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Hammad's mother emigrated from Pakistan to the US in 1996, and he grew up with his brother in Queens, New York. Hammad attended City Tech, majoring in computer information systems (CIS). However, the COVID-19 pandemic was a big obstacle to Hammad during college, as he struggled with the transition to remote learning. As a result, he lost his part-time job as a cashier and unfortunately was unable to continue paying for his tuition.

Thankfully, SGSNY was able to provide a financial scholarship enabling Hammad to continue earning his degree. He graduated in 2021 and subsequently secured a full-time Analyst position at Deloitte. In the future, Hammad plans to attend graduate school and move into more senior roles in the financial industry so he can continue to advance his career.

Our Scholarship program growth would not be possible without the generous support of our 1786 Circle partners and donors

Andrew Curtis

Anna Kucheryavaya

Antoinette & Martin Sullivan

The Reverends Carl & Allison Turner, Saint Thomas Church

Chillmark Builders & Wayne Walters

Dan Morris

Intrommune Scholarship

Jennifer Sponzilli

John and Kazie Harvey

Josephine Haft

Mark Aiston

Peter & June Felix

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THE WEATHERSTONE FAMILIES SUPPORT FUND

Since 2017, the Weatherstone Families Support program has provided logistical and social support for 39 families. In 2021 SGSNY was proud to welcome 10 families from the UK to New York on 33 separate trips.

The families are referred to SGSNY through our partners at Solving Kids Cancer and the Bradley Lowery Foundation. The families' trips ranged from 5 days to 1 month depending on the treatment needed and travel restrictions. In addition to providing transport to and from JFK airport, SGSNY provided welcome packs, gifts for the children upon treatment completion, buggies, family meals, Metro cards and advice on navigating life in New York City.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the children's compromised immune systems proved very challenging for these vulnerable children and limited the opportunity for in-person activities throughout 2021.

Meet the Scotts

5-year-old Liam has been in a fight against high-risk neuroblastoma since his diagnoses in 2019.

Neuroblastoma is an aggressive childhood cancer that has a 40% chance of long-term survival.

When Liam was diagnosed, his mum, Claire was nine months pregnant with his little sister, Kylie.



“We were obviously devastated, in total shock and we didn't know how to

comprehend what we had just been told. We had no words and only tears and questions.”

After a grueling frontline treatment, Liam was able to ring the “end of treatment” bell, but his fight and his family’s journey didn’t stop there. The Scotts immediately began planning their next steps to travel to New York for a clinical trial to prevent his cancer from returning.

When they arrived, SGSNY was there to assist and arranged their transport to and from the airport and organized activities such as socially distanced soccer in Central Park. Their fifth and final trip to NYC was celebrated with stuffed dinosaurs and a playdate in Central Park.

Solving Kids’ Cancer Hero Award



SGSNY received a Hero Award from Solving Kids Cancer.

Nominated by the Virdees, whose son Reuben received treatment in New York said that “At every opportunity they did everything they could to support us...every single person was absolutely wonderful and made a scary experience one to remember. They really were our friends in the big city. We would love to say a great big THANK YOU!”

Reuben and his mother Jess from the ‘Kids Solving Cancer’ video.

“ The St. George Society has given me an opportunity to help families facing the extreme challenges of childhood cancer. Through volunteering to drive arriving families from NYC airports, I attempt to make their arrival as comfortable & welcoming as possible by providing them with a friendly, enjoyable and informative ride. I am humbled to share their positive energies along the way. Hopefully, I offer some happy & warmhearted moments as they face the journey ahead.

Wayne Walters (SGSNY Volunteer) ”

Our new office

In the final quarter of 2020, SGSNY purchased an office. The first time in our 252 history that we had owned a property and an appreciating asset. With the help of our friends at Aiston Fine Art and Sea and Air International, the team packed up and left the rented office at E45th street. Formerly a medical office, 866 needed renovations to make it suitable for our needs. Planning permissions were delayed due to COVID backlogs and supply chain issues caused further delays and some price increases, but we moved to 866 UN Plaza in December 2021 with only a few items remaining on the punch list. The staff and Board were delighted to host our new Honorary President, Emma Wade Smith OBE and His Majesty's Trade Commissioner at a soft opening in December 2021.



English Ball

Due to pandemic disruption, the 2021 English Ball was moved from the regular April slot to October. It was greeted with much enthusiasm as members and guests marked a joyous return. The generosity of our community was in full force with 200 guests gathering in black tie at The Pierre Hotel to recognize distinguished members of the Anglo-American and Commonwealth community - Medal of Honor recipient Sir Rocco Forte, Commonwealth Medal recipient Paula Kerr Jarrett and Medal of St George recipient John Shannon. Guests raised over \$800k on the night.



Donors and Community Partners

Thank you to every member, donor, volunteer, foundation, business, and individual who gave to St. George's Society of New York. We also recognize our many valuable community partners and perk providers for their ongoing support; we are exceptionally grateful for your contributions towards our longstanding mission to serve those in need.

To view our Community Partners and Perk Providers click [HERE](#)

Our Members

Our members are the heart of St George's Society of New York. We are grateful to those longstanding and dedicated members who renewed their membership and welcome our new members.

In Memory

We are saddened to report the passing in 2021 of the following members of our community:

Derrick Palmer

Helen Newman

Millicent Brown

Sir Thomas Harris KBE CMG

Courtney Allen

Bishop Benjamin Moore Circle

The Bishop Benjamin Moore Circle honors individuals who have made a commitment to SGSNY as a part of their estate plans. By strengthening the endowment, these gifts enable SGSNY to continue our charitable programs. We thank them all.

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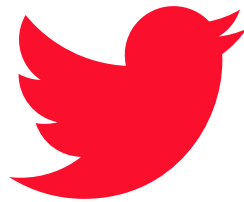
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