Note from the Executive Director
By Jonette Cahoon Vaughan

What a huge transition we have all undergone in the last six months! Many of us are out on Global Authorized Departure and/or otherwise had our lives upended by the current pandemic.

During the pandemic, FSYF has supported our families by actively lobbying the Secretary of State, with other FS families, to extend the education allowance to some children who are out on G A/D. We want to thank Secretary Pompeo for responding positively via cable 20 State 66818 and hope to see the Department of State include even more children included in the education allowance while they are away from post during this unprecedented time.

FSYF has also supported families by offering webinars that addressed the current hot topics such as parenting a rising junior, senior or college freshman during a pandemic. We also hope that our contests gave children something to focus on during the current challenges.

This issue of our newsletter honors all of the amazing work that our kids did this past spring and specifically honors the winners of all of our 2020 Contests! We wish that we could meet in person to honor each of you!
Message from Secretary and Susan Pompeo to all FSYF Contest Winners:

Susan and I are once again impressed by the talent, intelligence, and creativity exemplified in the winning submissions to the Foreign Service Youth Foundation contests. This is especially true in view of the unprecedented global events that have added new challenges to those that our diplomats and their families already face serving our nation abroad.

We applaud the achievements presented in this publication and love seeing how the winners extracted the best from their experiences, often overcoming obstacles along the way. All who review this edition of the FSYF newsletter will come away inspired by the children of our foreign affairs community. We look forward to seeing more from this upcoming generation and, especially, the results of future years’ competitions.

We commend the work of the Foreign Service Youth Foundation and their partners at the Department of State who diligently support our families around the globe.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pompeo
Susan Pompeo
2020 SDFCU Art Contest Winners
"My Life, My World, My Dreams"

5–8 Age Group

First Place (Tie): 5–8 Age Group

Amaranta Gil-Gaviria
D.C. Area

“The Magical ForestWhere People Live”

First Place (Tie): 5–8 Age Group

Elizabeth Graeme
Copenhagen

“Rainbows, Snuggles and Snacks”
5–8 Age Group Continued

Third Place – 5–8 Age Group

Hannah Evans
Ankara

“My World In A Crystal Ball”

9–12 Age Group

First Place: 9–12 Age Group

Lydia Bitner
Copenhagen

“A Dream For My World”
9–12 Age Group Continued

SECOND PLACE: 9–12 AGE GROUP

Kai Geisinger
D.C. Area

“Believe”

THIRD PLACE: 9–12 AGE GROUP

Kinsey Greninger
Hermosillo

“She’s Got the Whole World in Her Hands”
**First Place: 13-18 Age Group**

**Benjamin Leese**  
Washington, D.C.  
“Dreams and a Sketchbook”

**Second Place: 13-18 Age Group**

**Sophie Nave**  
D.C. Area  
“The World At Her Fingertips”
13-18 Age Group Continued

Third Place: 13-18 Age Group

Madeleine Heffern
Paris

“Land of Hopes and Dreams”

SDFCU congratulates all the winners of the 2020 FSYF Art Contest!

Proud Sponsor of the 2020 FSYF Art Contest
2020 FSYF Academic Merit Award Winners

**First Place**

Adrian Hall  
Rome, Italy  
He will be attending Yale in the class of 2025, where he plans to study either physics or biophysics.

**Second Place**

Mia Callahan  
Seoul, South Korea  
She will be attending the College of William and Mary in the fall, where she plans to study public policy and education.
2020 Community Service Winners

Award made possible by a generous donation from:

First Place Winner

Congratulations to:
Havana Chapman-Edwards
Frankfurt, Germany

In the past 3 years, she has spent 10-15 hours per week raising money, hosting a book club, and preparing speeches to advocate for human rights for kids around the world.

She used GoFundMe crowdfunding and an Amazon Wishlist to raise over $50,000 for philanthropy projects. She has also received over $25,000 of in-kind donations from companies to donate to children around the world.

She was given a prize of $10,000 when she went on NBC's Little Big Shots (airing April 2020) to use towards helping kids in need.
**2020 Community Service Winners Continued:**

**Second Place Winner**

**Natalya Flake**  
*Brasilia, Brazil*

She started a non-profit with her cousin that provides athletic shoes for kids in need called “Soles in Need”.

**Third Place Winner**

**Kevin Brown**  
*D.C. Area*

Honored for his impressive community service efforts and for preserving American traditions in the Hague, Netherlands and D.C.
2020 FSYF Essay Winners

Winners responded to the following prompt: "Identify an issue that you would like to learn more about as a member of the U.S. Foreign Service family living in (name of the country; the U.S. qualifies too). Explain why this issue is important to you, how you will learn more about it, and what you will do with that information. Consider how the FS lifestyle has stimulated your interest and your ability to understand it".

**First Place – Middle School**

Henrick Deininger

Nairobi, Kenya

“Banning Bags and Beautifying Beaches”

**Second Place – Middle School**

Aiden Heumphreus

Bogotá, Colombia

“Conservation of Natural Resources in Colombia”
2020 FSYF Essay Winners Continued

**Third Place – Middle School**

**Leena Wahaj**
Belgrade, Serbia

“Basic Information For Global Empathy”

**First Place – High School**

**Nicolas Hall**
Rome, Italy

“The Power of Music”
2020 FSYF Essay Winners Continued

SECOND PLACE – HIGH SCHOOL

Alexander Neisuler
Tel Aviv, Israel

“Stuck in the Middle: A Boy’s Journey through a World Conflict”

THIRD PLACE – HIGH SCHOOL

Emily Allen
Frankfurt, Germany

“The Power of Remembrance”

Jim McGrath, Associate Broker made the Essay Contest Awards possible
"In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy, music has shown its ability to defy tragedy and even thrive during the crisis. Millions around the world watched as Italians appeared on their balconies and played or sang to each other in solidarity with the isolated and the ill. Even in private, musical life continues under lockdown. My piano and violin lessons have transitioned to video calls. My Italian national orchestra conductor continues to send us recordings so that we can practice during the week. At school, although our orchestra’s annual music tour and spring concert were cancelled, we are in the process of making individual recordings that will be compiled into a virtual concert. Even when all else grinds to a halt, music continues to stream from windows and balconies, nourishing souls and keeping us all united.

What I hope to take away from my years spent in Italy is the Italian way of living and breathing music, the way that it powers and feeds society, serving as a cultural gathering point for all. Music and Italy are as intertwined in me as they are with each other. My musical education is almost all in Italian. My violin teacher instructs me in Italian. I am the only American in the Italian National Teen Orchestra. This has given me the opportunity to participate in the Italian tradition of keeping music alive in daily life, and I can appreciate it in the way they do. It is this mindset that I want to bring back to the United States, that of sharing music in the hope of nurturing universal common ground. This is the power of music."
2020 OBC KidVid Awards

Award made possible by a generous donation from Meghan Pachas of MAP Property Solutions

10–12 Age Group
1st Place (tie): Sebastian Perlaza (Budapest)
1st Place (tie): Joseph and Cecilia Tolsma (Wuhan)
2nd Place (tie): Luke Shen (Taipei)
2nd Place (tie): Madelyn and Amelia Cragun (Sydney)
3rd Place (tie): Sophie Reed (Lima)
3rd Place (tie): Naomi Maertz (Muscat)

13–14 Age Group
1st Place: Jackson and Emerson Shorey (Muscat)
2nd Place: Jakob Troger (Hanoi)
3rd Place (tie): Hadley Pound (Bratislava)
3rd Place (tie): William Luke Johnson (Bern)
3rd Place (tie): Sam, Ruth, and Georgia Dove (Ciudad Juarez)

15–18 Age Group
1st Place: Mikayla Conners (Tokyo)
2nd Place: Ella Beschta Westfall (New Delhi)
3rd Place (tie): Zoe Gainer (Perth)
3rd Place (tie): Maxim Sarciaux (Kyiv)
3rd Place (tie): Casey Romero (Kathmandu)
3rd Place (tie): Joshua, Claire, and Andrew Hendriksen (La Paz)
FSYF THANKS OUR 2020 CONTEST JUDGES
CONTESTS COULDN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT THEM!

ART CONTEST
SDFCU does all of their own judging!

ACADEMIC MERIT AWARD
Pete Wood
Kim DeBlauw
Maryann Minutillo
Marybeth Hunter
Dale Dean
Lesley Duncan

ESSAY CONTEST
Courtney Colbert
Rebecca McPherson
Jennifer Jafari
Wendy Stanton
Lisa Longobardi
Vicki Cloutier

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Stuart Symington
Alexandra Pomeroy

KID VID
Overseas Briefing Center does all of their own judging!
**Fall 2020 FSYF Programming!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, September 14 @7pm</td>
<td>Virtual High School Re Entry Workshop For Parents and Teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 16 @7pm</td>
<td>Virtual Middle School Re Entry For Parents and Teens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday , September 18 @7pm</td>
<td>Virtual Elementary School Re Entry for Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, September 19 @9am</td>
<td>Annual College Workshop For Parents and Teens</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions? Please Contact:  
Jonette Cahoon Vaughan  
Executive Director  
FSYF@FSYF.org  
703-731-2960