



YOU ARE INVITED

2019
Annual Awards

Sunday at 3 pm
October 6, 2019

Grace University
Lutheran Church
324 Harvard St SE
Minneapolis

Honoring

Sr. Char Madigan
for her lifetime
commitment o
peace and justice

and

2018 and 2019
Hawkinson
Scholars for their
work for peace
and justice

“I remember my dad saying if somebody is hungry, it isn’t charity to feed them. It’s justice. That stuck with me all my life.” — Sr. Char Madigan CSJ

When Sister Char Madigan was teaching at St. Margaret’s Academy in Minneapolis, she emphasized love of God and neighbor without distinction. She knew this couldn’t be taught in a classroom and needed to get her students connected to neighbors, including the poor people all around them. She also knew that she couldn’t simply send out the students so she volunteered at the Church of St. Stephen. Soon St. Stephen’s hired her to offer a program for the poor and homeless.

At St. Stephen’s, she realized she was saying goodbye to people at the end of her day, knowing they had no place to go. At about the same time Sister Rita Steinhagen was working with another organization and saw many women and their children who had no place to go at night. Together the two nuns started St. Joseph’s House in 1977, a women’s shelter in the Phillips neighborhood. Guests in crisis now had a haven to begin to piece together their lives. A decade later St. Joseph’s House changed its name to Hope Community. It began restoring boarded-up housing, one at a time, and today counts more than 300 units. It also developed playgrounds, community spaces, two businesses, three gardens, and learning and leadership opportunities for thousands of neighbors. The plaques on the office wall at Hope Community’s headquarters recognize everything from its architecture to its community-police partnerships.

In the 1980’s Sister Char and Sister Rita joined Marv Davidov in the Honeywell Project, a peace group that confronted the Honeywell Corporation for its manufacture of nuclear missile guidance components and its deadly cluster bombs. Sister Char went to jail numerous times. On trial, she always talked about Catholic Worker values, describing how money was misappropriated and shifted from dire community needs to war profiteering and about the need for nonviolent resistance. These activities led to the start of weekly vigils in 1996 outside the headquarters of Alliant Techsystems, a spin-off of Honeywell that made anti-personnel landmines, cluster bombs, depleted uranium weapons and components for nuclear weapons. In turn, the vigils led to the creation of Alliant ACTION in 1998. Sr. Char continues to respond to current calls for justice as an active member of the Spirit of St. Stephen’s Catholic Community.

“Homelessness is just the tip of the iceberg. More than bricks and mortar, people need community. I believe with all my heart that the antidote to violence is community ... and dignity ... sense of self-worth. Just “cracking down” on things we don’t like doesn’t solve the problem. Kings and cops and prisons tend to deepen the sense of domination. The way to peace is through peace. Jesus knew that and it is still our best hope for a loving world.”



Sister Char Madigan, CSJ

2019 HAWKINSON
HONORARY AWARD

Sister Char graduated from St. Joseph’s Academy in 1955. She recalls that there was an expectation of excellence in the air at St. Joseph’s Academy – attention to a rigorous curriculum that touched the will, the mind, and the spirit – with the quest for truth, beauty and goodness as its guiding force. In 1962, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in St. Paul.

Mission Statement

The Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice perpetuates the spirit of Vincent L. Hawkinson by

- providing grants and scholarships to persons or groups committed to peace and justice
- making nonmonetary awards to individuals or groups committed to peace and justice
- engaging in other projects that inspire bold action for justice
- publicizing the stories of those receiving grants, scholarships and awards to inspire others to pursue peace and justice

DONATE

Our fund-raising year is from October 1 through September 30 each year.

Mail: Hawkinson Fund, 324 Harvard Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Or use online giving at www.hawkinsonfoundation.org or www.graceattheu.org

Select "How to Give" to make an online donation.

TAKE ACTION

Support the next generation of peace and justice leaders by:

Donating on a regular basis

Joining the Legacy Circle with a planned gift

Nominating next year's Honorary Award candidates

Nominating candidates for Hawkinson Scholarships

Signing up for our email updates

Volunteering to serve on a Fund committee

The Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation was created in 1988 to honor Rev. Vincent Hawkinson, who served as pastor of Grace University Lutheran Church for over 30 years. In 2017, the Foundation transferred its funds to Grace Church to continue its original mission and, by leveraging volunteers, ensure that your donations go directly to support that mission.

48 community leaders have been recognized for their long and significant contributions to peace and justice, with Sister Char Madigan selected as the 2019 Hawkinson Honorary Award recipient. We also remember the passing of Helmut Diefenthal, one of the 2009 Hawkinson Honorary Award recipients and a long-time member of Grace Church, on June 30, 2019. Dr. Diefenthal received two humanitarian awards as the founder of the Kilimanjaro School of Radiology in Moshi, Tanzania.

During the past 31 years, over \$300,000 has been awarded as scholarships to 139 outstanding students pursuing peace and justice activities. This year Hanna Wedajo received \$5,000 as the Jacobson Scholar; three other remarkable students each received \$3,000.

Where did that \$14,000 come from?

It came from YOU!

The Hawkinson Fund uses all donations to directly fund our programs, primarily scholarships, or to increase our current long-term funds (when designated by a donor) as we are now a volunteer-run organization. We hope to limit annual spending to the funds raised during the previous fund-raising year, which runs from October 1st to September 30th.

The Legacy Circle (see page 8) identifies planned estate gifts to the Hawkinson Fund. We received funds from the estate of William Pore this year, bringing our total long-term funds to over \$120,000. When we've reached our goal of one million dollars in long-term funding, we will provide additional scholarships on a permanent basis to future generations of peace and justice leaders.

We are proud to continue the mission to inspire bold action for justice in honor of Rev. Hawkinson.



William B. Pore
Legacy Circle Donor

NOMINATE NEXT YEAR'S HONORARY AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

2020 Honorary Award - Look for the nomination form online in March, 2020.

2020 Scholarship - Look for the scholarship application online in January, 2020.

Read about previous Honorary Awardees and Scholars online at www.hawkinsonfoundation.org.

Hanna Wedajo

Hanna Wedajo, 27, is a PhD student at the University of Minnesota whose primary interest is improving school success for Ethiopian students. When she was a student growing up in Ethiopia, Hanna received help from the Gates Foundation. In response, she vowed to help others, a decision she recently described as empowering and life changing.

In 2013 she created *Help a Child Go to School* as a crowd-sourced initiative to support needy students in Dire Dawa, near her home village. That program – to help 14 students with basic supplies so they could stay in school – grew by 2018 into help for 300 students: 150 in Dire Dawa and another 150 in Ethiopia’s capital city Addis Ababa.

Today a \$25 donation covers annual school expenses for one student’s basic supplies & books, school uniforms, sanitary materials and awards for outstanding students. The program is run by volunteer parents of students and reminds students to become change-makers, not passive beneficiaries.

2½ million Ethiopian children of school-age don’t attend school. Needs – such as farming chores, earning family money, suitable clothing and sanitary napkins, gender norms limiting girls’ school access – frequently interrupt children’s lives. Hanna knows first-hand how easily plans to attend school can be derailed; she recalls being advised to find a rich husband rather than stay in high school.

Hanna’s PhD research will use Amartya Sen’s capabilities approach to delve into the many issues that cause students to leave school early.



2019 JACOBSON SCHOLAR

Hanna Wedajo is the 2019 Jacobson Scholar, the highest Hawkinson Scholarship.

The Jacobson Scholar is designated annually in honor of Stan Jacobson, for his service to the Hawkinson Fund and its predecessor, the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation.

Hanna has been the producer and host of a weekly radio program in Ethiopia. The show featured on-air discussions with the audience about the rights of women and children under Ethiopian law. She also worked part time at a local television station as a TV anchor. While in law school, Hanna volunteered with an organization to raise awareness about children’s rights and provide training on the ethics of working with vulnerable children. She also helped students apply to college through a church charity club.

After graduating from law school, Hanna was executive director of Vision for Generation supporting 300 needy elementary school students and 500 female university students. In doing so, she helped overcome Ethiopian societal expectations that consider young women incapable of leadership.

Next, Hanna conducted research for the Center for Human Rights at Addis Ababa University while pursuing a master’s degree in human rights. One project focused on why women with disabilities did not seek help from the legal system; the second investigated human rights abuses of female factory workers.

Hanna’s previous education includes an MA in Human Rights from Addis Ababa University and an LLB from Dire Dawa University in Ethiopia.

Her long-term goal is to secure permanent funding and expand the program she started to *Help a Child Go to School*. For additional information, contact hannawedajoy9@gmail.com.

Hanna was nominated by Emily Springer, a PhD candidate and research associate at the University of Minnesota. Emily was selected as the 2012 Jacobson Scholar by the Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation.

“Starting from my childhood, I saw how easy it was for girls who desperately wanted to stay in school to be pulled into lives they did not want, like having affairs with old people or resorting to prostitution in order to continue in school or feed their families. ... I believe I have an obligation to ensure that vulnerable children have the necessary support to overcome barriers to go to school.”

Asma Adam

Asma Adam, 25, is a second-year student at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. “As the daughter of Somali immigrants ... I understand the challenges of leaving the land one calls home, living in a refugee camp, adapting to life in the United States, and working towards the American Dream.”

While attending Concordia University in St. Paul, she helped start a Muslim Student Association but encountered opposition from the school’s leadership who saw this as a rejection of its Lutheran tradition. Asma gradually built a relationship with the University president while attending several meetings of the university board of trustees. She explained to the trustees that the Muslim students were grateful for the education they were receiving. Their purpose was to create a stronger sense of community within Concordia by promoting interfaith dialogue and fulfilling the Concordia Promise that “All Are Welcome.” Looking back, Asma cites this experience as a highlight because she challenged latent xenophobia and sought systemic change to address social inequities.

Growing up in the ethnically diverse communities of Fridley and Columbia Heights, she was inspired by her father, a high school principal, who consistently reached out to help others. In high school, Asma had a growing realization about health care inequities. This led to her desire to practice medicine. She points out that the United States is the only developed nation without universal health care. “As a Somali-American Muslim woman and future physician, I believe I have a unique perspective and ability to serve as an advocate for change. As the demographics of our local patient populations change, the backgrounds of our physicians should also reflect our communities.”



While in medical school, she helped organize a community health fair so people from underserved groups could receive information about available social and health care services. They were also able to visit with a physician for general health care tips, participate in a group exercise class, and win yoga mats and lessons, recipe books, and cooking utensils.

“Even though a community health fair is not a solution to the systemic barriers faced by many in our communities, this experience inspired me to continue my work advocating for health equity. The ideas of preventive medicine and routine medical examinations are unfamiliar to immigrants accustomed to seeing physicians only when they are ill.”

“I look forward to the opportunity to treat patients from underserved communities with an understanding of the unique challenges and barriers they face and then providing informed, compassionate care.”

Asma has also been involved in a research project using faith-based messages during Ramadan to encourage Somali males to quit smoking and in a breast and cervical cancer education program for Somali women that encourages screenings in ways that are religiously and culturally appropriate. “Two commonly held beliefs preventing women from seeking screening include a belief in predestination and modesty between genders. By informing women that screenings were not against predestination and that the health care providers would be female, the women were more inclined to seek mammograms and Pap smears.”

Asma is currently Co-President of SNMA (Student National Medical Association) Twin Cities. Its mission is to increase the number of clinically excellent and socially conscious physicians by supporting current and future underrepresented medical students through mentoring and networking and ultimately to eliminate disparities in health care access and delivery. Asma helps pre-med undergraduate students select appropriate classes and find extracurricular opportunities, such as research and hospital volunteering, and advises them about applying to medical school.

Asma hopes her future lies in political advocacy, mentoring and medical education. She intends to continue advocating for immigrant rights, health care access and women’s rights. For additional information contact asma.adam786@gmail.com.

Asma was nominated by Mary Tate, Director of Minority Affairs and Diversity at the University of Minnesota Medical School.

“God has opened a door that cannot be closed and that all can enter. A time will come when the trauma of war is replaced by a collective mindset of peace.”

Ingrid Kubisa, 23, is a junior at Gustavus Adolphus College pursuing majors in international relations and communications. She was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 6 months before a civil war began that would claim over 6 million lives since 1996.

“Due to continuing wars destroying families, my father created an organization called Let Africa Live (LAV) in 2000. LAV offers former child soldiers, and women raped by soldiers, job training and psychological support to re-integrate into society. My parents took me with them on their travels around the country to search for women and children who were victims of war. I did not really understand what was going on then. As I got older, I started to understand what my father was doing and I was inspired by how my parents helped people. I started to feel a call to do similar work. In high school, I gave food to some “street kids” who did not have families or a place to live. We became friends and I encouraged them to go to LAV for free job training. I was happy to see some of them changing their lives. Seeing kids watch those of us who were able to afford school pushed me to work hard so that one day I could come back and offer them something more than food.”

After graduating from high school, Ingrid began working at LAV. She worked with women who had been raped and with their children. The DRC government does not recognize a child born of rape as a citizen because both parents must be identified and these children do not know who their fathers were. Ingrid joined with others to challenge government officials to change the policy. So far, the reform has not been successful.

One day Ingrid was interviewing a woman with two children who said that Ingrid was too young to be working in the office. Ingrid replied that she was 19; the woman began to cry, saying she too was 19 and had been raped twice. *“Since that day I promised myself that one day I will help these women and children.”*

Ingrid’s parents told her that when she was 6 months old, as her grandfather was dying, he prayed that she would live to give hope to others – even those born during war, as she had been. So, in response to a Gustavus class assignment to find a hometown issue students wanted to change, Ingrid focused on the high rate of miscarriages in her hometown of Bukavu, DRC. She identified the causes as war, poverty and traditions that do not allow women to talk about their sexuality. *“Surprisingly, with more research, I found this problem is not only in my hometown but around the world. This made me curious about how to find solutions for my hometown and everywhere else. I felt grateful for the opportunity to practice what I am passionate about: advocating for social justice.”*

After graduation, Ingrid hopes to put her education in international relations and communications to work with international organizations to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in the eastern DRC and around the world. Ingrid can be reached at kubisaingrid@gmail.com.

Steve Solbrack, a retired executive who nominated Ingrid, wrote that her calm demeanor, maturity, and wisdom cause others to look to her as a role model. *“She cares deeply about the people of the Congo ... and I have no doubt she will provide leadership on the Congo’s journey to a more peaceful, less violent, more democratic future.”*

Ingrid Kubisa



E Ornelas, 33, is a PhD candidate in feminist studies at the University of Minnesota with a BA from Portland State University and an MA from University of Wisconsin/Madison.

“Statistically, I am one among as many as 1 in 3 people of color assigned female at birth who will experience intimate violence in a lifetime. I am devoted to a career in academia where people of mixed racial and ethnic heritage—specifically, my family is Chicana, European, and Indigenous Mexican (dispossessed of land, culture, language, and tribal identity)—have historically been underrepresented or forced to assimilate. Therefore, I feel a responsibility to illuminate the experiences of these forms of interpersonal and institutional violence.”

Inspired by middle school and high school teachers, E has engaged in many activities responding to marginalization and violence against LGBTQ+ and women-identified people of color.

- For five years, E has provided emotional support to a trans person in prison whose life would have ended without this support.
- In 2016 and 2017 E was a key volunteer organizer of Fed Up Fest, a queer and trans music festival in Chicago that focuses on social justice and anti-oppression.
- E currently leads the Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project and previously volunteered for Black & Pink in Chicago; both are efforts to connect incarcerated transgender people, who are largely people of color, with support outside prison.
- E has been involved in mentoring students of color to prepare for higher education and, while in Madison, Wisconsin, served as an advisor on diversity for the Willy Street Cooperative and for SHIFT, a national social justice consulting group.
- E has held leadership positions at the University of Minnesota’s Gender and Sexuality Center for Queer and Trans Life as well as the Trans Studies Colloquium at the University of Wisconsin.

E is committed to restoring self-determination to those most marginalized. One ambitious but hopeful approach is to transform the judicial system to rely on restorative justice rather than retribution. E’s doctoral research examines community-based programs in Minneapolis that use restorative justice, hopefully leading to a compelling rationale about its benefits for victims, offenders and the entire community.

E will use the Hawkinson scholarship for this research with an ultimate goal to teach.

“... teaching in higher education [is a] place I can continue to critically engage with issues of gendered and racialized violence with a wide audience. Ultimately, I am motivated by a deep sense of responsibility to [study people] who, like me, have been targets of gendered and racialized violence.”

E can be reached at ornelas@umn.edu.

E was nominated by Taylor Marx at the MATCH Cooperative in Minneapolis.

E Ornelas



“As someone who has lived a life on tangible and intangible borders – being racially and ethnically mixed, being fluid in gender and sexuality, being an activist and an academic – I have continually sought to create and be part of a community that feels diverse and accepting.”

Hawkinson Honorary Awards

Selected annually, the Hawkinson Honorary Award is given to an individual or group who have made a significant and long contribution to the causes of peace and social justice. Nomination forms, available on line or by request, are reviewed each spring. The recipient is recognized at the annual awards presentation each fall. To nominate someone for the award, call 612-331-8125 or email hawkinsonfoundation@gmail.com. A list of those receiving the award in prior years is available on our website: www.hawkinsonfoundation.org

Hawkinson Scholarship Qualifications

Hawkinson scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduate or graduate students who are residents or currently attending school in Minnesota. To qualify, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to peace and justice by:

- Completing a specific peace or social justice project
- Demonstrating courage in pursuing their convictions about peace and social justice
- Displaying ongoing commitment to, and leadership in, a peace or justice organization
- Serving as a role model for others to move society into new realms of thought and practice regarding peace and social justice.

Applicants must also demonstrate how use of the award money for study, an internship, or a special project will deepen their personal commitment to peace and justice and thereby promote peace and justice for others. Scholarships are awarded without regard to religious affiliation.

Volunteer Committees

The Hawkinson Fund is entirely run by volunteers. We are grateful for all the current members whose service sustains the mission of the Fund. We invite others to consider offering their talents by serving on a committee. Please contact us with your interest at:
www.hawkinsonfoundation.org

Hawkinson Fund Committee

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Stan Jacobson
Jared Oasheim

Scholarship Selection Committee

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Honorary Award Selection Committee

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2017-2019 Donors to the Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice

Following is a list of donors to the Fund from the date of our 2017 transfer to Grace Church through August 15, 2019. We extend our most sincere appreciation for your generous support to our efforts to honor and encourage those pursuing peace and social justice throughout the world. We apologize for any errors or omissions; please report them by contacting us at 612-331-8125.

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The following donors have made planned gifts to the Hawkinson Fund. You may make a planned gift by including the Fund in your will or by designating the Fund as a beneficiary of an IRA or other retirement fund.

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c/o Grace University Lutheran Church
324 Harvard Street SE
Minneapolis MN 55414



Your donation helps the next
generation of peacemakers!

Hawkinson Scholars are making a difference to the world —locally and abroad. Your gift encourages their passion and commitment.

Help us celebrate this year's Scholarship and our Honorary Awardee, Sr. Char Madigan on Sunday, October 6, 2019 at 3 pm.

Grace University Lutheran Church
324 Harvard St SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota