

*“Mary is going to be the next Kofi Annan.” — Kirsten Cahoon*

## 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**

**Volunteering** to serve on a Fund committee

Mary Maker Nyiriak Malou is a refugee from South Sudan now attending St Olaf College who used her entire scholarship for her former students in the refugee camp in Kenya where she grew up.

Born in South Sudan, Mary grew up in the Kakuma refugee camp where she moved with her mother and sisters at age 4. After both her parents died, she survived by looking after her sisters and attending school. Against the odds, Mary completed high school and became a high school teacher herself. Kakuma, begun in 1992 to hold 32,000, now has nearly 200,000 stateless people with an average age of 17.



**Mary Maker**

2020 JACOBSON SCHOLAR

Because Kenya does not allow refugees to work at jobs that could otherwise be filled by a Kenyan, education is the only way out of the camp and necessarily means leaving Kenya. Mary was one of two students selected to study in Uganda to improve her chances to study abroad. In August 2018, she presented a TED talk titled, *“Why I fight for education of refugee girls (like me)”* < [https://www.ted.com/speakers/mary\\_maker](https://www.ted.com/speakers/mary_maker)>. As a role model for hundreds of students (120 in each classroom; the number taught each day is doubled by splitting between morning or afternoon class sessions), Mary offers her students HOPE to leave the misery of the refugee camp by completing a high school education. She feels an obligation to give back to those in her community. Through theater, she hopes to reach others like her in the male dominated camps to encourage a collective response to sexual predation of young people.

“From the moment she arrived on campus in August 2019, it was obvious she would be a campus leader for social justice,” according to Kirsten Cahoon, Mary’s academic advisor at St. Olaf. “Mary commands attention; she has a wonderful way of leading people and projects that is way beyond her [24] years. Even now, she works with teams of people from all around the world. ... The most remarkable

thing about Mary is that it’s not ‘all about her’ – she is focused on the people in the communities she’s from. ... Mary is totally exemplary. She’s going to be the next Kofi Annan.”

At the conclusion of her interview for the Hawkinson scholarship, Mary was asked how she would use the funds if she were to receive a scholarship, since the covid-19 lockdown required her to change her initial plans. Without hesitation, Mary described how she would obtain materials for high school students in the refugee camp, reminding us (who were interviewing her via Zoom) that without electricity education is done ‘the old fashioned way.’ Then she described how fortunate she is to work on campus in the food service area where there is always enough to eat.

Mary was nominated by Nate Jacobi, Associate Director of the Piper Center for Vocation and Career at St. Olaf.

**UPDATE:** Watch an online video about Mary’s work to bring wi-fi to ten locations in Kakuma, serving hundreds of students. Go to [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org) and search for “Mary Maker” and “Mary Maker Update”.

## Mission Statement

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

- providing grants and scholarships to students committed to peace and justice
- making nonmonetary awards to individuals 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](http://www.hawkinsonfoundation.org) or [www.graceattheu.org](http://www.graceattheu.org)

Select “How to Give” to make an online donation.

## Follow Online

Go online at [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org) to hear from the 2020 scholars:

**Mary** focuses on education in a refugee camp

**Tre’** provides an alternative role model for black youth

**Elena** envisions justice for all in America

**Gabrielle** prepares the way for other Native American students

**Oforiwaa Pee** seeks sustainable development in Africa

**Daina** helps deliver fresh food in an urban desert

The Vincent L. Hawkinson Foundation was created in 1988 to honor Rev. Vincent Hawkinson, pastor of Grace University Lutheran Church from 1955 to 1985. In 2017, the Foundation became the Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice at Grace University Lutheran Church.

During its history, 50 community leaders have been recognized for their contributions to peace and justice. Over \$350,000 has been awarded as scholarships to 151 outstanding students pursuing peace and justice activities. This year Mary Maker received \$5,000 as the Jacobson Scholar; four other remarkable students each received \$3,500, with one receiving \$1,500 as an Honorable Mention scholar.

*(For a list of all scholarship recipients, please go online to [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org) and select ‘What We Do’: Hawkinson Scholarship.)*

The Hawkinson Fund receives donations nearly all of which are awarded as scholarships the following year. (Our funding year runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.) In 2020, donations of \$20,356 were used to award \$20,500 as scholarships. Expenses were just \$20.

In addition, \$12,960 was received from the estate of Charles A. Taylor and brought the total long-term Hawkinson Funds to \$143,760 as of year-end 2020. The Legacy Circle (see page 7) identifies those who either plan estate gifts or have left estate gifts to the Hawkinson Fund. When long-term funds reach the goal of one million dollars, additional scholarships will be provided on a permanent basis to future generations of peace and justice leaders.

Covid-19 interrupted normal activities, keeping expenses unusually low. In lieu of the annual award ceremony, each scholar prepared a special report that you can find online at [hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://hawkinsonfoundation.org).

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



**Charles A. Taylor**  
Legacy Circle Donor

### NOMINATE NEXT YEAR'S HONORARY AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**2022 Honorary Award** - Look for the nomination form online in March, 2022.

**2022 Scholarship** - Look for the scholarship application online in January, 2022.

Read about previous Honorary Awardees and Scholars online at [www.hawkinsonfoundation.org](http://www.hawkinsonfoundation.org).

## Tre' Edgerton

Last year David Lee Edgerton III (aka Tre') led a get-out-the-vote group at Howard University in Washington DC. He grew up in Cottage Grove Minnesota but is a student leader at Howard, one of the leading Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the country. He will attend a combined seminary/law school program beginning in September 2021.

When Tre' entered middle school, he confronted the low expectations for him as a black male in America: "On the first day of middle school, I discovered that I wasn't placed in the advanced classes I had requested. Believing that it was an error, I went to the counseling office and requested to be reassigned. However, my counselor told me that, statistically, African American males' grades tend to drop drastically in middle school, and she wanted to prepare me for that certainty. Later I informed my parents and the next morning my mother met with the counselor and simply asked:

"Why are you telling my son that he is going to fail?' In the silence that followed, I realized that I had to put my education into my own hands and self-advocate. But what about the others like me? What would become of them? I resolved to become a role model and mentor for other disadvantaged youth who may not have people advocating for them like I had."

At Howard University, Tre' was selected as "Mr. Freshman" 2018-2019 on a 'Black is Cool' platform by focusing on humanitarian projects. Tre' created a Poetrygram initiative, encouraging students to motivate others through poetry. He was chair of the political action committee for Howard's NAACP chapter, encouraging voter registration, political literacy and community engagement on campus and in Washington DC.

Tre' was a national finalist in the HBCU Speech and Debate National tournament, and champion in original oratory at the Harvard National Speech and Debate Tournament.



Tre' was nominated by Charles Holmes, a senior collective bargaining specialist for the National Education Association, who served as Tre's supervisor during his 2019 internship with the NEA.

## Elena Bantle

Elena is studying at St Scholastica in Duluth to be a Physician's Assistant. She has a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. She has served on the executive committee of the Duluth Branch of the NAACP and on the Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Inc. (CJMM) 100-year Commemoration Committee.

Elena was nominated by Teresa Moses, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota Duluth School of Fine Arts: "I have come to know Elena as a truly valuable asset to the anti-racist and problem-solving atmosphere within our community... As someone who has explored her whiteness, she is a true ally to communities of color and indigenous folks – dependable, always willing to learn new things, and incredibly hard-working."

Elena wrote: I have worked in wildlands protection, outdoor education, healthy food access, women's advocacy, girls' empowerment, and healthcare. In Chile and Alaska, I observed that nature is often a resource accessible only to the privileged. I kept returning to the connection between health and the environment—that taking care of each other is a vital part of taking care of our world. As I travelled my eyes were opened to the impact of women's well-being on the health of the community. Eight years ago, I began working in a program to build support for at-risk teen girls. I learned that I was good at building relationships with people in crisis. I saw the failure of interconnected systems manifested in chronic health problems like addiction, diabetes, and the repercussions of living with



domestic violence, housing instability, racism and poverty. Bringing about positive change can happen in every action we take, however small. I gently challenge coworkers when they judge patients. I educate colleagues about gender inclusivity, nonbinary identities, and pronouns. I try to ask open-ended questions, notice when I make assumptions, and approach every patient with curiosity and compassion.

Elena concluded: "I want to create space for culturally traditional medicine. I want to help narrow healthcare disparities for communities of color."

## Gabrielle Farrell

Gabrielle recently graduated from the University of Minnesota where she has been recognized on MPR for her efforts not only to recruit other Ojibwe students to the campus, but also for her work with the U's program with the best record in the entire country over the last decade for retention and graduation of Native American students.

As a member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Gabrielle holds a deep appreciation for the teachings of tribal elders and their history. Native Americans make up fewer than 1% of the students at the University, so Gabrielle was drawn to the U's American Indian Cultural Center. She served as president of the Center, planning events such as the annual U of M Powwow (she was honored in 2019 as the lead female dancer), monthly Frybread Fridays, and the Circle of Indigenous Nations -- bringing tribal elders to campus. She is adept at seeing the talents in others and



encouraging them. She serves as a mentor to indigenous students and has recruited students from her tribe to attend the University.

In February 2020, Gabrielle was interviewed by Minnesota Public Radio. The broadcast highlighted the significant increase in graduation rates for American Indian students on campus and credited student leaders such as Gabrielle for creating an

environment where Native American students feel welcome.

Fluent in English and German, Gabrielle is passionate about Ojibwe language revitalization. She studied Ojibwe and has participated in an Ojibwe language immersion camp on the Fond du Lac reservation. Gabrielle uses language as a tool for healing from historical trauma and views education about the language as a means of empowering her community.

“My main role is to help assist in programming and serve as a guiding upperclassman for first year American Indian students. This program has seen tremendous success with a 100% retention rate and the highest GPA for any first-year community on campus.”

Gabrielle expects to continue weaving her indigenous roots with her education to create social change.

Gabrielle was nominated by Rachael Mills, a residence director at the U.

## Hawkinson Scholarship Qualifications

Hawkinson scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduate or graduate students who are Minnesota 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.

## Oforiwaa Pee Agyei-Boakye



*"Oforiwaa Pee applies a social justice perspective to environmental issues – explaining that violence over natural resources causes irreversible damage to the environment."  
– Gabriel Appiah*

Oforiwaa Pee is from Ghana pursuing a PhD in geography at the University of Minnesota. She has a Master's degree in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Her PhD research looks at how violence over natural resources causes irreversible environmental damage.

- Pee is committed to peace and social justice through academic research, teaching and volunteering. She has witnessed the critical environmental issues caused by climate change in Africa and its impact on the poor, who are disproportionately affected but equipped with the fewest resources to adapt to changing conditions. Indeed, climate change is a form of environmental violence due to its scale and the degree to which it threatens all life on earth.
- Her goal is to transform African development so that it is environmentally sustainable with a positive impact on social justice. While recognizing the complexity of issues facing African communities resulting from human degradation, she believes those communities can be re-developed using an environmental vulnerability analysis and state-based redistribution of resources.
- In college in Ghana, Pee was the first female vice president of a coeducational dormitory. Working with the student government, she organized workshops to encourage female students to develop employable skills and to participate in activities that were male dominated, such as sports, STEM debates, and science programs.
- Pee also volunteered with Black Girls Mapping with Action to Pioneer Progress (BGMAPP). It is a community focused group connecting women of color using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to address social issues and empower change.
- Pee volunteered with the Tanzania Development Trust on a Crowd2Map project in remote parts of Tanzania. It was designed to help young runaway girls find their way to safety to escape female genital mutilation (FGM) and other gender-based violence. It charted unmarked villages in Mugumu in the Serengeti district and resulted in the rescue of several girls and one arrest.
- Pee has volunteered as a Climate Justice Work Group Member for the Environmental Protection Agency National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) for Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice. This was a competitively selected work group of fifteen young adults for a two-year term that developed findings on climate change and recommendations on climate justice.
- In Minnesota, Pee volunteers with the WTS International's Transportation YOU program to introduce high school girls to a wide variety of careers in transportation. These activities have helped her connect with the social justice issues of girls from marginalized communities. She has also mentored girls for global robotics competitions.

Pee says, "I am passionate about women's role in education, so I have passionately fought for this since college. I believe education is the major way to empower women and girls to make them independent."

Oforiwaa Pee was nominated by Gabriel Appiah, regional planner for the Siouland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council.

Daina is pursuing a master's degree in public health at the U of Minnesota. She worked with Brightside Produce to address food insecurity in the inner-city areas of the Twin Cities and San Diego, CA. She inspired and led volunteers on several college campuses to use innovative techniques to deliver fresh fruit and vegetables to corner grocery stores that could not otherwise provide these for their customers.

Inspired by Bryan Stevenson's book Just Mercy, Daina considers structural racism to be the most pressing social justice issue today. Her social consciousness led to her interest in food justice, because access to good food is a key social determinant of health. She joined AmeriCorps VISTA to work at BrightSide Produce, which delivers fresh fruit and vegetables to small stores in low-income urban neighborhoods.

BrightSide serves as a middleman, buying minimum size orders from wholesalers and re-distributing to retailers without imposing weekly minimum orders. Leftover produce unsold by the retailer is taken by the BrightSide Buyers Club, a CSA-style subscription program, to minimize food waste and generate revenue for store

## Daina Strub

deliveries. BrightSide currently partners with four Universities (University of St. Thomas, San Diego State University, University of Minnesota, and Augsburg University) and delivers to 27 stores in the Twin Cities and 11 stores in San Diego, CA.

Daina wrote about her experience at BrightSide: "In my time working with BrightSide I have led several initiatives. I pioneered a successful expansion project to both the University of Minnesota and to Augsburg University campuses. At the University we launched a successful Buyers Club chapter and began deliveries to three stores in the Cedar-Riverside and Como neighborhoods. Similarly, at Augsburg we launched a Buyers Club in collaboration with their Community Kitchen Initiative, using the Buyers Club as a way to combat food insecurity among students on campus. I also navigated the application process to gain 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status for BrightSide and collaborated on writing and executing a Good Food Access Fund grant that was awarded jointly to



BrightSide and the Minneapolis Health Department.

Daina focused on developing a reliable pool of BrightSide volunteers from the partner campuses. She enjoyed working closely with the volunteers, mentoring some and encouraging all to promote social change as they consider their careers.

Daina was nominated by Adam Kay, Professor of Biology at University of St Thomas. Professor Kay wrote that "Daina is one of the most thoughtful, responsible, and socially oriented colleagues I have worked with during my 15 years as a faculty member."

## Volunteer Committees

The Hawkinson Fund is run entirely by volunteers. We are grateful for their service and welcome YOUR talents. Please contact us to express your interest at: [info@hawkinsonfoundation.org](mailto:info@hawkinsonfoundation.org)

### Hawkinson Fund Committee

Pastor Dan Garnaas  
Stan Jacobson  
Jared Oasheim

### Scholarship Selection Committee

Peder Garnaas  
Stan Jacobson  
Dr. Michael Wootten

## 2019-2020 Donors to the Hawkinson Fund for Peace and Justice

Following is a list of donors to the Fund from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. 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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David & Amy Anderson  
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### Legacy Circle

The following donors have made planned gifts to the Hawkinson Fund (\* indicates deceased):

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 Charles A. Taylor\*

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.



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



Your donation helps the next generation  
seek peace and justice for all!

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locally and worldwide. Your gift encourages their passion and  
commitment. Please mail or go online to give now.  
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