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Sir Robert Jones
Refugee Daughters
Scholarships
Fund



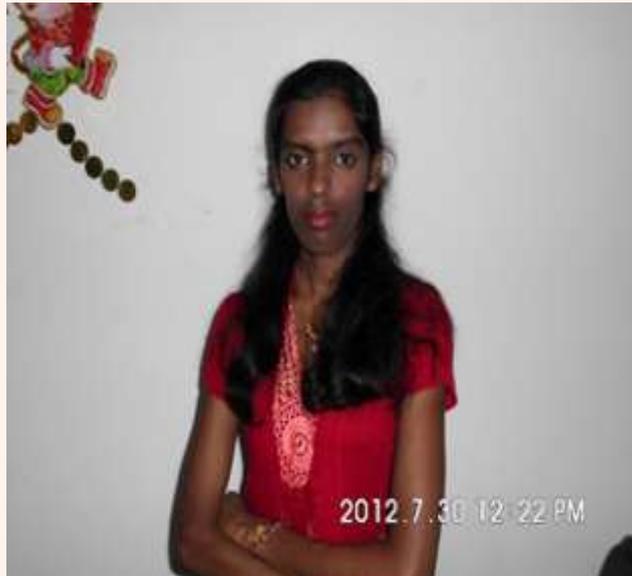


Hello my name is **Arwa Ibrahim** and I arrived in New Zealand at the age of seven from Nairobi Kenya. Throughout my time at school I have always enjoyed science and the magic behind it. Now I plan to pursue a tertiary education in the field of medicine and hope to conquer my dreams of becoming a doctor. The Sir Robert Jones Scholarship that I have been awarded is the best thing that has ever happened to me, I would never have dreamed of an opportunity like this. There are girls back home my age that are not able to attend school so to be given this chance, is truly beyond words. I would like to extend my upmost gratitude to



Joelle Kusimweray

I am originally from R D of Congo, I left my home country at a very young age, we moved to Uganda and that's where I grew up. I arrived here in New Zealand as a former refugee in 2008. Coming from a broken family things are not easy as the oldest child in the family. My father left us, his now out of New Zealand and we do not get any support from him. I live with my mother who looks after five children by herself with no job. The opportunity of getting to be one of the winners of the Sir Robert Jones undergraduate scholarship is a miracle to me. My aim is to complete the Bachelor of nursing and become a registered nurse. This scholarship gives me the chance and support for me to follow my dream. This is one high light of my life that I will never forget. I strongly believe that education is the key to the future. Being a very committed person I am prepared for anything that may come along. I promise to push through in order to get to my destination. Huge thanks goes to everyone who had participated in organizing the under- graduate scholarships for daughters of the former refugee families, mainly to Mr. Sir Robert Jones. May God bless you.



My name is **Karthika Sakhivel**, and I come from Sri Lanka. I have always been a great student achieving very high scores in my subjects. As such, I am very focused in continuing my studies further and become a professional in accounting. I was one of the top students in the last year at my high school. Due to the political violence and war, my family had to flee to the north, Jaffna, just only three months prior to my final GCE (Advanced level) exam. It is extremely difficult to get admission into a university, especially the University of Peradeniya, which requires the highest amount for entry. It was really a miracle that having gone through shocking experiences of living in bunkers and being displaced with bare minimum, I got high aggregate to enter the University of Peradeniya and could continue my studies. At the university, I studied for one year and sat 2 out the 3 papers and passed them. But I couldn't sit the 3rd paper because I got the visa to go to Bangkok.

My father was a farmer and my mother has never worked. Hence, we are financially insecure. In addition, I am not eligible for the student loan as I do not meet the criteria of having lived in New Zealand for more than two years. I am the oldest in my family, and I have two younger sisters. Fortunately, my family (my parents and sisters) arrived last year in December.

Being the oldest child, it is my responsibility to support my family, so this scholarship will be a huge benefit to study and get a job to support them as well as use my skills and knowledge productively as a New Zealand citizen.



My name is **Jenny John**. I came from a refugee camp in Thailand but my parents were originally from Burma. In terms of academic achievements, it is my goal to successfully complete and obtain a Bachelor degree from the Victoria University of Wellington.

Back in April 2006, my family and I came to New Zealand under the refugee migrant intake. One of the reasons my parents chose to come to New Zealand was to gain a good education for myself and my siblings. In New Zealand, language difficulties and illness have impacted on my parents work opportunities. My family is not in a stable financial position to support me throughout my tertiary studies to make my Uni life a little easy, therefore.

I therefore strongly believe that this very unique Scholarship will definitely make a huge difference to my ability to complete my tertiary studies successfully.

If I was not awarded one, I would definitely need to borrow huge amount of student loans from StudyLink with the implications of huge costs to pay back at the end of my studies. While relying on the StudyLink, I will also need to get a part-time job to ease the financial pressure, which will make it difficult for me to give my studies my full attention.

The financial assistance that the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship provides will definitely allow me to focus more on my studies and achieve the goals I have set for the future. It is comforting to know that I will not have massive student loans to pay off when I finished my studies. This means I will be able to not only support my family but also serve New Zealand in some capacity when I've finished my studies. Additionally, it is also comforting to know that the SRJ Scholarship will fulfil my desire to stay in one of the residential halls during my studies period.

I am very determined to accomplish my tertiary studies and the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship will definitely make my journey and destination even more achievable.

I therefore want to take this opportunity to thank Sir Robert Jones, Victoria University of Wellington and the Committee for the SRJ Scholarship. I will never forget your memorable financial support.



My name is **A La Nhkum** also known as **Julyseng**. I am Kachin from Myanmar and I come to New Zealand in 2012. When I come here I have a passion to achieve my biggest dream which was to become a professional Musician. However while I was in my high school I found another path that was more interesting to me.

I feel so blessed to come to New Zealand to be educated when my friends and my family were left in Burma. There is not much opportunity for young people like me to finish high school or to get higher education in Burma.

And Sometimes I could not even believe myself for being in such a great country where there are countless opportunities in front of me. I want to go to Victoria University to study Accounting but I was concerned about the financial support.

I am very honoured to be a recipient of the refugee daughters' scholarship and I am so thankful to Sir Robert Jones for supporting the refugee daughters to achieve our dreams.

This scholarship is very important to me for many. It will help me to focus more on my study. I am a second language learner and it won't be easy for me to work part time and also study at the same time. Also my accommodation is very expensive and I can't afford to pay it from my student allowance. Lastly I will have less money to pay off after university and I will have not much loans from government.

At last I want to say thank you for your financial generosity. It has inspired me to contribute my talents and gifts to society. I also hope that I will be able to help others to achieve their goals just as you do.

Marie-Ange Mumporeze

I am originally from Rwanda, I came to New Zealand with my family at the young age of 3 to take refuge from the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. I aim to expand my knowledge as much as possible during my studies and to use my qualifications to help people in any way that I can. My career aspirations are ultimately to work for organisations like the United Nations and Amnesty International. This is driven by my passion for human rights law, equality under law and overall the idea of people/states coming together for a better outcome for all. Being a recipient of the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship means that there is finally a silver lining for me as a refugee. For once I can say I have benefited from such an unfortunate situation, and I have an opportunity like this because of who I am and what I have been through which makes me proud. I aim to continue excelling in my studies and to be an example for other girls like me who need a silver lining and have worked hard to get it.



My name is **Nasra Said**, I was born in New Zealand shortly after my parents arrived from Somalia. My parents always stressed the importance of education and giving back to our community. This inspired me to study something of my interest, which is health and an area where Somalia's and other refugee communities were under presented. I am studying a Bachelor in health Science majoring in Occupation therapy and I wish to continue on studying postgraduate studies. My future aspirations is to open my own health organization. The aim of this health organization would be to help children with learning disabilities and autism disorder to succeed in education. As well as youth program to empower young men and women to succeed in education and help with employment of chosen career. By having this scholarships it takes pressure off me to get a job straight away and gives me the opportunity to achieve my future goals with less worries.

Nimo Mohamed

I study BHSc Nursing at the Auckland University of Technology and I am currently in my second year. I was born in Kenya, and migrated with my family to New Zealand in 1999. I come from a large family of 7 children, in which I am the middle child. I have 2 younger brothers, and a younger sister. My father passed away when I was eight years old. At the time, he was the main financial provider. As soon as I was able to, I found a job in which I was able to help support my family and minimise my student debt. However, with the increasing standard of work required for tertiary education, and needing to commit more time to my degree, having a part-time job that takes up any spare moment is very hard. The Robert Jones Scholarship means that I will be able to cut-down my hours and invest that time into my education. Receiving the Robert Jones Scholarship not only affects myself, but also the younger community around me. Coming from a minority background, many young Somali children feel that there isn't any point trying to be that 1% of children that do incredibly well.

With this award, I can now tell my siblings and other children in the community that this is why you need to try harder. Although I am keeping my mind open, I do hope to be a paediatric nurse. Nursing is a skill and an art form that once you learn, you can take with you anywhere. In saying this, I hope to take what I've learnt here, and go back to East Africa and offer health services to children back home.



My name is **Roda Shire**, I am a Somali refugee and I have been living in New Zealand for a total of nine years. I am the youngest of four children, and we have all been raised by a single mother who brought us to New Zealand in hopes of a better life. Upon arriving in New Zealand I was four years old, so I do not remember much of Africa. New Zealand has since then been home to me, and it is all I know and have come to love. I am now twenty

one years old, and I will be attending Auckland University of Technology. Growing up I had always been the type of person to lend a hand to anyone who needed it. So it has come of no surprise to me that I have grown interest in the medical field of study. My goal is to graduate as an Occupational therapist. Being a recipient of the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship has given me the opportunity to make my goals a reality. Although becoming a graduate is what I aim for, my focus is also on my mother. This scholarship opportunity has lifted a great deal of stress off my mothers shoulders, and my number one goal is and always has been, to make my mother happy. This scholarship is a blessing that will not be taken for granted, and I am extremely grateful to have been chosen as one of the first recipients. God Bless.



My name is **Pasawhtee Kuku** and also known as Tete. I am now 20 years old. I came from a refugee camp along the Thai-Burma borders but my parents were originally from Burma (Myanmar). I arrived in New Zealand in 2006 with my widowed mother, one younger sister and one younger brother. As the eldest child in my family, I would like to be a great role model for my younger siblings and younger generations in my Burmese community. Therefore, I aim to achieve my education dreams to the highest level of my ability.

I am immensely thankful for Sir Robert Jones' generosity towards us, refugee women/daughters and if I have a chance I would like to thank him in person one day. This scholarship means a lot to me, my family and community and I will always be grateful for receiving this award.

I feel very humbled and honoured to be chosen as one of the recipients of this Sir Robert Jones Scholarship. It is almost beyond my dreams because this Scholarship will be of great assistance to ease the financial hardship related to my education. I will be able to graduate without having to worry too much about student loans but be able to pursue my aspirations for higher education as well. I acknowledge the conditions of the Scholarship and I am fully committed to see that I finish my course through to graduation and also continue for a post-graduate qualification.

My career aim is to successfully complete the Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) as I am in my final year of BAS and continue to study Master of Professional Architecture to be able to become a New Zealand registered architect. Education has always been top of my list of values and beliefs as I firmly believe that education is the key to a brighter future, especially for women. For this reason, I would like to be a good example for young adults, especially those from refugee backgrounds. I intend to encourage them to persevere to the best of their capabilities and to participate in and contribute to New Zealand, our new cultural, social and educational environment. This Scholarship will indeed help me fulfil all my hopes and intentions for the future. Thank you!

My name is **Pyo Pyo Chan** and I'm 20 years old. My family and I arrived in New Zealand a year ago, on 22nd March 2013. We arrived here under the refugee quota through the United Nations. We spent about 6 years in Malaysia before we came here and that's where I gained most of my education. We are originally from Myanmar (Burma). I'm very determined and have strong intention of taking medical related course at University. Therefore, I have made a decision to take Bachelors of Biomedical Sciences at University of Auckland to enable for me to take Medicine in the following year. My goal is to become a successful and talented doctor who will make changes in people lives. However, I have financial issues due to my background. I feel very fortunate and appreciative to have been chosen as a recipient of the Sir Robert Jones Scholarship among 128 young women around the country. Growing up in a less privileged community has not only offered financial and academic challenges, but also helped me realize the value of education in a person's life which is why I am beyond grateful to have been rewarded with this scholarship. I wish to do magnificent things and change people's life with my degree once I have completed my studies at University of Auckland. Thanks to you for this scholarship I am now one step closer to achieving my life goals. By awarding me with this scholarship you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspects of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students to achieve their goals in life just like you have helped me. Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence. I am committed to my education and to the health care field that I will be pursuing in future. I am now one step closer to becoming a doctor, to achieve my goal thanks to your generosity.

Thank you!



Rosy Ca Hlei Bor (Cinzah)

I was born in Bungkhua village, Chin State, Myanmar. My father fled the country in 1996; four months after I was born. The rest of us joined him in Malaysia in 2005 and we arrived in New Zealand in 2006. Since childhood, having a career in medicine has always been my dream as I lived in a small village where I witnessed people unable to access medical help due to lack of money or having to wait multiple days to access proper medical help as they had to travel to bigger cities. After arriving in New Zealand, we were given the opportunity to access proper education; something that wasn't offered to us back home. I have been motivated to make my childhood dream into a reality as I feel blessed and privileged to be studying in New Zealand. I will be studying Health Science first year at the University of Otago in the hopes of being selected for the Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB).



Being a refugee comes with a culture shock, language difficulty and financial struggles. I am immensely grateful for being offered the Sir Robert Jones scholarship. It's a huge honour and I feel very privileged and blessed to have been offered this generous scholarship. This scholarship has become another motivation for me to work even harder during my tertiary study to reach my career aims. I take my studies seriously. I am committed to completing my

My name is **Viyan Basharati** and I am eighteen years of age. I decided to do a double degree



in a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Psychology at Canterbury University. I'm the sixth youngest sibling out of my family of seven siblings. I came here from a war torn country. Where my parents left behind their mother land, family and friends to come to New Zealand where it was not only free from the devastation of war but also the great opportunities that this country had to offer. I am so overwhelmed that Sir Robert Jones has not only given me but also twelve other talented young undergraduate refugee women the chance to achieve their dreams with any financial problems stress-free.