

Greetings from Laurie Schoendorfer Endowment for Education (LSEE). As a result of COVID-19, we send this update in lieu of a formal newsletter. In many respects it has hit developing countries harder than it has hit us. As you know LSEE's focus is on three countries: Uganda, Peru and Vietnam. All three governments have imposed strict mandatory isolation. People cannot leave their homes, go to work, and in many cases, obtain food for their families.

Things are just starting to relax. We will report on what we believe is encouraging news about our scholars. We hope you can appreciate the high level of determination in our scholars. COVID-19 elevates the importance of education. Without education, without our scholarships, these wheelchair users would be lost. These LSEE scholarships will help create a higher standard of living for them and their families.

-Don Schoendorfer

LSEE Co-founder & Board Member



Leslie Pomiando, Peru

Scholarship Report: Peru

Juan Jose's life was forever changed when a stray bullet from a gang fight made him a quadriplegic, and he had to drop out of school. He modified his car so he can drive himself, and this enabled him to attend the classes from his first LSEE scholarship (~\$600). He continues to earn money by applying what he gained from our scholarship and practice his trade. He recently submitted a second scholarship application so that he can attend the Technological University of Peru for a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Automotive Engineering Program. This is a 5-year program at a cost of \$2,853/year, totaling \$14,267. His goal is to design cars for people with disabilities.

Luis Ruiz recently received an LSEE scholarship (~\$1200) to enroll in an online intensive one-year English class he started in January. He was born with Cerebral palsy. He has a BS in Industrial Engineering. He feels he will be much more employable if he is fluent in English. Our English-speaking partner in Lima had an interview with Luis Ruiz and was impressed by his progress.

Leslie Pomiando was hit by a car when she was 8, resulting in a spinal cord injury. She is now 27. She is a paraplegic. She graduated from high school in an accelerated program, started studying Graphic Design, but had to stop due to lack of funds. She likes to bake. She helps her family by selling bake goods in her neighborhood. She wants to start

a business in the food industry. Leslie wants to take online classes in Marketing and Graphic Design. “These classes will give me a background that will help me be successful in business,” she says. We plan to provide her with a laptop computer, internet modem, a subscription to the internet, and pay for her classes. This will cost approximately \$725 for a full year including the two classes.

Uganda

Awino Mary was born with a birth defect. The left side of her body is paralyzed. We granted her a scholarship to obtain a BA in Library and Information Sciences from Kyambogo University. Mary was well into her first semester at school when the virus struck Uganda. A few weeks later the university was shut down. Residents were forced to leave the dormitories. This led to some stressful days for Mary. She was rejected by her family years ago, so there was no going home. She did find lodging near the university. It is not clear when the university will reopen, and if the traditional classroom teaching style may change. Mary is looking into continuing her work online.

Vietnam

Tiep was injured from a work related accident and was left unable to walk. At age twenty he got a laptop and started learning on his own how he could use these skills to support himself and help his family. Our partner discovered his ambition and introduced him to LSEE. We gave him a scholarship to take a series of graphic design classes at his local university, HueCIT, where he successfully graduated with honors. Tiep uses a Vietnamese equivalent of Upwork.com, bidding for online contracting projects. He is making over \$175/month. In Vietnam a family of four would struggle on that income. Tiep lives with his parents and his contribution to their income is significant.

Tam was born with severe polio, affecting both her arms and her legs. You may remember our photos of her using a keyboard and a mouse with her foot. Her mother quit her career as an accountant so she could home-school Tam. Once Tam was old enough and with much determination and assistance from her mother, Tam was admitted to a local school where she is learning graphic arts. We funded Tam for two online classes so she could also study at home. We just heard that the used laptop computer her mother purchased five years ago is broken. Tam applied to LSEE for funds for repairing her old laptop. We prefer purchasing a new one for \$620 with the power needed for graphic design.

Ding Duc Hoa was well into his career, with a BS in Civil Engineering, specializing in water supply systems for buildings. A year after receiving his degree he had an accident on the job resulting in a spinal cord injury. We granted him a scholarship for \$60 to take a full six months of Microsoft, Adobe and Corel online courses. He got off on a great start back in November. In January he got a urinary tract infection. After two weeks in the hospital he developed a pressure sore. He is now fully recovered and resumed his classes.

Donate to LSEE

We truly appreciate your support during these challenging times. If you are able, please consider donating any amount towards scholarships for our motivated and talented students with disabilities. You may send donations to the address below, or make a secured online donation at:

www.lsendowment.org/donate

LSEE, P.O. Box 7849, Newport Beach, CA 92658-7849

To learn more about LSEE, please visit lsendowment.org or send us an email to info@lsendowment.org