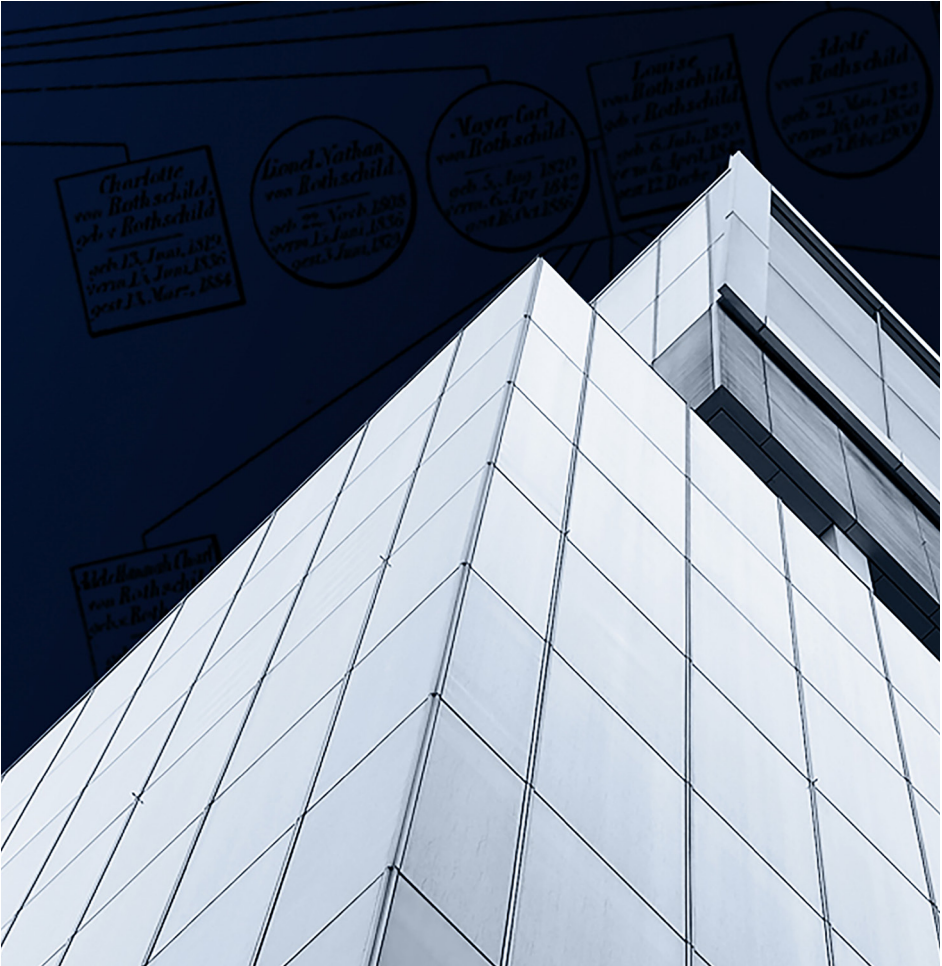




# Celebrating Five Years of the Rothschild & Co South Africa Foundation

2018





# Table of contents

---

CEO's Message	01
Chairperson's Message	03
The story so far	05
Rothschild & Co South Africa Executives	07
Foundation Trustees	13
Rothschild & Co South Africa Mentors	15
Foundation Beneficiaries 2013 - 2018	18
Foundation Beneficiaries 2018	19
Foundation Alumni	23

# Corporates have a responsibility to contribute to education

## CEO's Message



South Africa faces many challenges, of which one of the most pronounced is education. It is everyone's responsibility to help address this challenge, none more so than corporate South Africa where each of us has a vested interest in developing the human capital potential to ensure everyone maximizes their contribution as a South African.

Consequently, when Rothschild & Co South Africa was considering looking for a new BEE partner in 2012, we decided that postgraduate tertiary education would be our focus. Postgraduate degrees are a much neglected area

in terms of outside funding, yet this level of education is essential for our prosperity.

When the Rothschild & Co South Africa Foundation was established in 2012, we agreed that our focus would be on postgraduate degrees related to the financial sector, as there is a dearth of previously disadvantaged South Africans who work in this industry. The field of investment banking and the provision of strategic financial advice, which Rothschild & Co South Africa specialises in, is particularly demanding and unforgiving and requires a strong academic foundation at this level.

**“The Group is highly supportive of the Foundation, and it is lauded and respected globally as an example of its values.”**

**Martin Kingston**

Chief Executive Officer at  
Rothschild & Co South Africa

From the outset, the Foundation was committed to ensuring this scholarship programme would not only provide financial support to students, but also play an active role in stewarding them through all aspects relating to their degree.

The Foundation is a manifestation of Rothschild & Co’s global culture, which encourages the values of care, engagement and social awareness. The Group is highly supportive of the Foundation, and it is lauded and respected globally as an example of these values.

The students are not the only ones who benefit from the Foundation’s opportunities. Our employees, who are very involved with the programme,

have found it to be a humbling and rewarding experience. who are very involved with the programme, have found it to be a humbling and rewarding experience. Most of us who work here need to be reminded of how privileged we are. Our involvement with the Foundation’s students ensures that we become better citizens and appreciate how we can make a broader contribution to society.

In the future, we aim to scale up the Foundation by fine tuning our relationships with the universities we work with, co-opt like-minded institutions, and leverage and replicate the Foundation’s model with other companies. However, what is most important to us, is that we maintain and nurture what makes the Foundation unique – the personal involvement and full support that we offer and the privilege of ensuring that we are closely associated with enabling those who have been less fortunate to achieve their full potential.

I want to thank each and every person – from the Rothschild & Co South Africa employees, to the Board of Trustees, to the Foundation alumni – who has helped build this Foundation and had such an impact on the lives of our 40 students, their families, and their communities.

# Addressing the postgraduate gap to build our industry

## Chairperson's Message



**“Our research into the tertiary education landscape showed that there was very little financial support for postgraduate study.”**

### **Dolly Mokgatlhe**

Chairperson of Rothschild & Co South Africa Foundation

I've been involved with the Foundation since 2012, when I was asked to assist in its establishment. It was important to crystallise the empowerment vision of the Foundation and precisely how this would be actualised. Education would be our focus area.

Our research into the tertiary education landscape showed that there was very little financial support for postgraduate study, so we thought that this would be a good gap to address. It also made sense to focus specifically on Honours degrees in financial services, in order to help build

capacity in the industry that Rothschild & Co South Africa operates in.

As trustees, our role is to uphold strong governance, which ensures the Foundation's sustainability. Because we are independent, we are able to bring different perspectives to the table, and act as a sounding board, even outside of the scheduled meetings.

I'd like to thank the team at Rothschild & Co South Africa, and

the current and former trustees of the Foundation's Board, for being so committed to this programme. It's also important to acknowledge Rothschild & Co South Africa as a company with a strong vision of making a significant, tangible contribution to improving the lives of these students.

In addition, Martin Kingston's continued focus on this vision, as CEO, has proved invaluable in guiding the Board.

# The Rothschild & Co South Africa Foundation

## The story so far

The Foundation has been in existence since 2012, after Kagiso, Rothschild & Co South Africa's empowerment partner at the time, sold its shares in the company. The Foundation was established as Rothschild & Co South Africa's new BEE partner, and cemented Rothschild & Co South Africa's commitment to BEE in accordance with the spirit and purpose of the BEE Act and the principles of transformation.

Most importantly, the Foundation also confirmed Rothschild & Co South Africa's strategic and long-term commitment to investment in education for black South Africans.

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide full postgraduate scholarships to historically disadvantaged South Africans, thereby maximising the opportunity for long-term employment. Scholarships are offered to students studying towards a commerce or finance-related degree, to develop resources for the financial services

sector in which Rothschild & Co South Africa participates.

The scholarships were designed to ensure that students are fully funded and able to secure tuition, textbooks, accommodation, meals, a monthly allowance and additional academic support without worrying about finances, as well as to provide other support, to ensure successful completion of their Honours studies. Students are also provided with mentorship, work readiness training and dedicated 24/7 personal support.

In November 2016, the Foundation repaid its vendor loan, which had provided the necessary funding to acquire the shareholding. Given the Foundation's materially improved financial position, it subsequently implemented a revised strategy in 2017, which entailed a partnership with SAICA's Thuthuka Bursary Fund. Thuthuka assists with administration, as

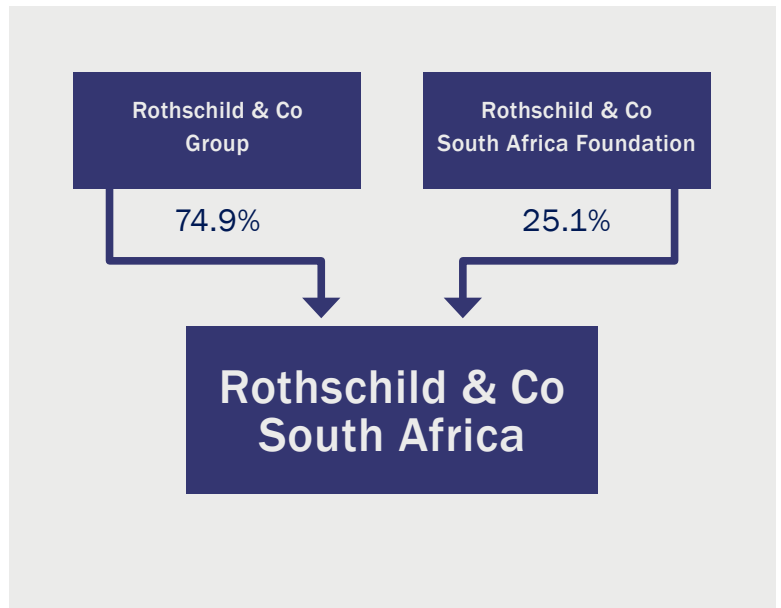


well as recommending its own undergraduate students for the Foundation's scholarships.

The Foundation was able to award bursaries to 12 students in 2018 – double the amount of the previous year, as a consequence of the Thuthuka partnership and improved financial position.

Forty scholarships, to the total value of R5.2 million, have been awarded between 2013 and 2018. With increased reserves, the Foundation intends on gradually increasing the number of scholarships awarded to between 20 and 40 per year.

The Foundation also plans to fund other financial services degrees beyond accounting.



# Education is key to addressing South Africa's challenges

## Executive



Rothschild & Co South Africa believes that education is the key to addressing South Africa's triple challenges of unemployment, poverty alleviation, and inequality. It is important for corporate South Africa to go beyond CSI initiatives that focus only on the symptoms of our country's ailments, and rather provide solutions that address the root causes of these problems.

What distinguishes the Foundation from other bursaries is the wraparound support that it offers. I think one of our graduates captured it perfectly in her description of what makes our scholarship so unique when she said, 'I felt

like someone had my back'. Our executives spend a lot of time with the students to ensure that they get all the support they need, which is no easy feat, as their roles at Rothschild & Co South Africa are extremely demanding.

Another key aspect of our success is the solid leadership of our Board of Trustees. Their guidance has been invaluable and goes well beyond matters of governance. They also ensure that the Foundation continues to strive for excellence in the way that it meets the needs of our students while building a pipeline of talent for the financial services industry.

In the near future, we hope to expand the reach of the Foundation even further. Our partnership with Thuthuka over the past year has allowed us to double the number of the students that we were able to support, without having to compromise on what makes our scholarship programme so unique. We also intend to focus on increasing our coverage of financial services disciplines with our scholarships, thereby broadening the pipeline of talent for the financial services industry.

“It is important for corporate South Africa to go beyond CSI initiatives that focus only on the symptoms of our country’s ailments, and rather provide solutions that address the root causes ”

**Thevendrie Brewer**

Chief Operating Officer  
at Rothschild & Co South Africa

# Success requires more than a degree

## Executive

The students who are offered scholarships by the Foundation face more challenges than just those related to financing their studies. More often than not, they are from rural areas and are the first generation of their families to attend university. Consequently, their families do not understand the unique pressures and difficulties that come with studying for a degree, especially when finances are tight, and their school environment did not adequately prepare them for tertiary education.

Even after they have completed their undergraduate degree, these students are often unsure of how to deal with the emotional, academic, social, and mental trials that postgraduate study poses. This is why the comprehensive support offered by the Foundation is so valuable. The philosophy behind this support is something that I personally believe in: the importance of developing each student holistically. A degree alone is not going to help them develop the social skills, 'real-world' knowledge, and understanding of the workplace environment they



need in order to be successful. In addition, the Foundation encourages them to develop clear goals for themselves beyond just finishing their degree and then completing their articles. We also teach them how to budget, as it is very easy for them to get into debt once they start earning a salary after years of financial struggle. They need to be able to balance their financial responsibilities to their families back home with creating a good life for themselves.

The students know that they are free to contact me at any time if they need some guidance or even just a sympathetic ear. Personal problems do not keep working hours! Rothschild & Co South Africa truly does become the students' other family in their Honours year.

I am extremely grateful to Rothschild & Co South Africa for allowing me the freedom to give these students all the help they need and more. The reward for me personally is meeting up with the Foundation's alumni a year or two down the line and seeing how they are progressing in their careers and achieving their full potential.

**“The philosophy behind this support is something that I personally believe in: the importance of developing each student holistically.”**

**Ethel Otobo**  
HR Business Partner  
at Rothschild & Co South Africa

# We look for students committed to giving back to their communities

## Executive

It is always a humbling experience for me to be involved in the annual interviewing process of the scholarship candidates as the facts emerge about their disadvantaged backgrounds. At times, an interview is quite emotional for both the student and us, the interviewers. When it comes to selecting the candidates, we don't just look for financial neediness and solid university results. We also want students who are motivated and focused, and who are committed to giving back to their communities. The depth of questioning in the interviewing phase is much more

intense than other educational trusts. Some bursary organisations don't even meet their candidates, and just assess their suitability from the application forms they receive. Our personal involvement and interest in the students is one of the differentiating factors of our Foundation.

My own involvement with the Foundation started indirectly in 2011, when I dealt with the legal side of the sale of shares of our previous BEE empowerment partner, Kagiso. The Foundation was established with the aim of



investing in Black tertiary education, specifically in the finance industry. My role here was to assist in the legal aspects of setting up the trust. Since then, I have continued to steer the Foundation from a legal and compliance perspective. It's very important that we keep on top of the administration needed to maintain our status as a public benefit organisation (PBO). Our Board of Trustees also ensures that the Foundation remains independent of Rothschild & Co South Africa. Each one of the trustees brings something unique to the table, and their diverse experience and perceptive counsel are invaluable in ensuring that the Foundation makes as big an impact as possible.

**“Our personal involvement and interest in the students is one of the differentiating factors of our Foundation.”**

**Philippa Stratten**

Legal Counsel and Compliance Officer  
at Rothschild & Co South Africa

# Holistic approach needed to prepare students for the world of work

## Board Trustee



A focus on truly considering the needs of students – whether financial, social, or psychological – holistically is one of the most powerful factors setting the Foundation’s scholarship programme apart from other similar initiatives in South Africa. As a trustee of the Foundation since 2013, I have seen first hand the positive impact of its ongoing, personal contact with the students.

Another unique benefit is that the Foundation looks at the total costs of study, unlike most funders that provide a lump sum, which is not always adequate to fully cover the financial requirements of the students throughout the year.

Previous recipients of the scholarship also serve as mentors to the students, so they have someone who clearly understands their situation and also has the knowledge to help them. The students also become a group of peers who support one another, which has many advantages for them.

Lastly, the Foundation exposes the students to the world of work through internships at Rothschild & Co South Africa, a Work Readiness Programme, and the mentorship that they receive from Rothschild & Co South Africa employees. This experience is invaluable in easing the students’ transition to a corporate environment once they graduate.

**“This experience is invaluable in easing the students’ transition to a corporate environment once they graduate.”**

**Loyiso Nongxa**  
Trustee of the Foundation



# Guidance beyond monitoring grades helps students thrive

## Board Trustee

What I really like about the Foundation is its focus on the personal touch. Many other trusts tend to treat students just as numbers, and all they care about is their results. In contrast, the Foundation looks after all aspects of students' university lives. The people behind the Foundation are cognisant of the fact that a student's true potential is not realised by just monitoring their grades. They know that the best results can only be achieved by supporting the students in all aspects of their lives. These students really thrive under the guidance and care of individuals

like Ethel Otobo.

Although I have only been a Foundation trustee for the past year, I have already witnessed the significant impact the Foundation has had on the lives of the students it supports. I also value being part of such a strong, no-nonsense board that really focuses on the task at hand and does not compromise on achieving its mandate.



**“I have already witnessed the significant impact the Foundation has had on the lives of the students it supports.”**

**Thero Setiloane**  
Trustee of the Foundation

# Mentors provide support to overcome pressures

## Mentor

Students, especially those who have bursaries, are often under immense pressure to perform. In most instances they feel that this bursary is their only chance of obtaining a degree, as their parents would otherwise not be able to afford the university fees. Students often can't see the wood for the trees; their friends are in the same situation and their parents don't fully understand, so it's useful to gain an outside perspective from someone who is not already in their circle.

Mentoring is key to students succeeding in their studies. The provision of financial support alone is not sufficient, as many smart students with comprehensive bursaries fail because of other pressures and lose this financial backing.

I've been a mentor for the Foundation for three years now. Engaging with students is something I love and do outside of the Foundation as well. The experience of being a mentor is incredibly rewarding. I myself am the product of a bursary scheme that had a mentorship programme. It's very important not to forget where you came from and pay it forward.



**“It’s very important not to forget where you came from and pay it forward.”**

**Zimasa September**  
Rothschild & Co South Africa Mentor

# Mentorship should depend on the needs of the individual

## Mentor

I was lucky enough to have a mentor when I was at university and it really helped me. No one in my family was interested in banking and finance, or had any experience in it. Just being able to talk to someone who knows the ins and outs of the industry you want to be a part of can really make such a difference. It is always refreshing to see the enthusiasm of these students, as you often lose that excitement when you have been working in a job for a while. They help re-ignite my passion for banking.

My discussions with my mentees can range from focusing on how best to prepare for an exam, to questions about why company cultures differ, to chats about

defining your goals and making them happen. The responsibilities of being a mentor are incredibly varied, and really depend on the needs of each individual student.

Most importantly, I have learnt to always be led by each individual student when determining what kind of mentor relationship they want. Some students are just shy, and need to feel comfortable before they start really engaging, whereas others simply prefer to keep their conversations at a high level and to the point. It takes a while to gauge what each student feels comfortable with and how I can best enhance their mentorship experience.



**“Just being able to talk to someone who knows the ins and outs of the industry you want to be a part of can really make such a difference.”**

**Alexandra Patte**  
Rothschild & Co South Africa Mentor

# Supporting students also benefits mentors

## Mentor

One of my high school teachers was my mentor and she invested a lot of time in me, so mentoring programmes are very close to my heart. I was given a great opportunity and want to do the same for the youth who need guidance.



I'm passionate about growth and development and always pushing

for more, even within my own family. I always encourage my nieces and nephews to be the best version of themselves. Very few students come from households that have the resources to further their education. Mentoring provides an opportunity to motivate and inspire the students and support them academically.

At the beginning, I was slightly hesitant to become a mentor as my job is very pressurised. I was barely finding a balance between work, friends and family. I didn't think I would be able to give these students adequate support. However, as I became more and more involved with the programme, I realised that I was also benefiting significantly from the mentoring. The students bring a fresh energy and perspective. I try to motivate them, but they motivate me more.

**“The students bring a fresh energy and perspective. I try to motivate them, but they motivate me more.”**

**Velli Baloyi**

Rothschild & Co South Africa Mentor



2013: Prashani Veerasamy, Akhona Notshikila, Aphinda Njokweni, Mankwana Maunatlala, Khumo Balepile



2014: Lerato Mthembu, Londiwe Mahlambi, Mfundo Khumalo, Mandisa Mabunda, Rebekah Naidoo



2015: Ayanda Ngwenya, Tinah Sebuse, Shirley Mabasa, Tumelo Mlalazi, Nkanyiso Nxumalo, Tyron Moya



2016: Tebogo Mabitsela, Nkululeko Gama, Patience Mnguni, Mamello Monoane, Fhulufhelo Ramphabana, Mthokozisi Ndimande



2017: Paula-Simone Nkabinde, Lungile Gama, Suzette Molokwane, Maropeng Seshoka, Mohammed Gumede, Sydney Mashile



2018: Dimakatso Radebe, Kwena Mosenya, Simingayo Njoko, Reneiloe Madi, Nomthandazo Kasibe, Luyanda Njilo, Azwianzi Tshikovhela, Yolanda Mbola, Khanyisile Kambule, Amanda Masuku, Kealeboga Riet, Phuti Moloto

# Charting the path to becoming a chartered accountant

Beneficiary 2018



I still clearly remember the look on my grandmother's face when I explained exactly what my scholarship from the Foundation offered.

My gran raised me, my two brothers and my cousin in the Kanana Township in Sebokeng. In Grade 10, one of my teachers introduced me to Accounting and I immediately fell in love with the subject. Already at that age, I could really see myself as a CA. This teacher very kindly took me into her home so that I could study for my matric exams with few distractions.

I was awarded a bursary for my undergraduate degree and now this

postgraduate scholarship not only gives me the opportunity for a better life, but it also lessened the burden on my grandmother and my entire family. I really can't put into words what it means to me.

It is great to have two different kinds of mentors – one from Rothschild & Co South Africa and the other being a Foundation alumni – as they both help me get through my studies, but in different ways. I know I can go to my alumni mentor when I am struggling with my studies, and my Foundation mentor has valuable advice on how I can prepare for the working world.

**“In Grade 10, one of my teachers introduced me to Accounting and I immediately fell in love with the subject. Already at that age, I could really see myself as a CA.”**

**Dimakatso Radebe**



# Hard work also helps to inspire others

## Beneficiary 2018

My family and I moved to Johannesburg when I was in Grade 8, so that my two siblings and I could have more opportunities.

My mom believed that education was the key to a better life for us. She sent us to a Model C school, even though she couldn't afford it as she was the sole breadwinner.

We lived in Orange Farm, which was very far away from our school. We could take a taxi to Southgate Mall, but couldn't afford another from there and had to walk the rest of the way – which took 45 minutes.

The school fees started piling up. Our electricity was often cut off and often I had to use candles to study at night or go to friends. I worked hard, though, as I knew education was the only thing that would help my family. I was then awarded a bursary for my undergraduate degree.

I felt really blessed when I got the Foundation scholarship for my postgraduate study. The people at the Foundation really care about all aspects of our lives and want us to succeed. They help us to improve our study techniques and our mentors give guidance in preparing

for the next phase of our lives. We are provided with emotional support, which is particularly valuable to me as my mom has been sick this year.

My little sister, who is only 12, can look at me and see what hard work can do for you. As the township environment is not conducive to excellence or motivation, I now run a tutoring programme for 15 students to improve their Maths and English. I hope this can help them to see life in a different way, and see possibilities.



**“The people at the Foundation really care about all aspects of our lives and want us to succeed.”**

**Simingayo Njoko**

# Being a CA is about so much more than debits and credits

## Beneficiary 2018

Where I grew up, poverty is the norm and my family was no different. We lived in Hammanskraal. My dad passed away when I was five and my mom lost her job in 2003, so my brother was the sole breadwinner for our family after he completed matric.

I knew that it was simply not an option to expect my family to fund my tertiary education. So I made sure I worked hard and I was awarded a bursary for my undergraduate degree. I chose the CA path, because numbers make me tick and I believe that this degree enables me to understand the corporate world much better. To be a CA is about so much more than just debits and credits.

The support from the Foundation is very hands-on. Ethel is frequently in contact to ask how things are going. She's like a surrogate parent, believing in me and giving me confidence that I will be successful. I work even harder as I want to make the team at Rothschild & Co South Africa proud.



**Kwena Mosenye**

I have been helped so much to start my career successfully, and I definitely want to pay that forward in the future. I hope to inspire the high school learners in my community by showing them that the sky really is the limit and that they can dream big.

**“I have been helped so much to start my career successfully, and I definitely want to pay that forward in the future.”**



# Failure is only a temporary setback

## Beneficiary 2018

I never knew my father. My mom passed away when I was young and so I was raised by my grandmother, who also looked after my cousins. I went to school, but without any real purpose.

The turning point came in Grade 10. A new student joined our school and quickly became the best student. When I asked her for help with my studies she refused. From that moment I was determined to get better grades than her.

I ended up studying at Wits University by accident. I thought I was applying to play soccer for Wits, the soccer club. But then I was accepted and a NSFAS loan covered my studies. I was very disappointed when I failed my third year,

especially as I had been awarded a scholarship by the Foundation for Honours. I decided not to go back to university the next year.

Then in January 2017 Ethel contacted me and asked me about my plans. I told her I was taking a year off. I didn't know her well, but she encouraged me to go back to Johannesburg and redo my third year, as NSFAS would cover my fees. I went back to Wits, got my degree and in 2018 I was able to take up the Foundation scholarship.

I didn't expect that the Foundation would take care of absolutely everything. I don't ever have to worry about not having enough money for food, or textbooks. I can just focus on my studies.



**“I don't ever have to worry about not having enough money for food, or textbooks. I can just focus on my studies.”**

**Amanda Masuku**

# From not good enough to exactly where she wants to be

## Foundation Alumni

I was born an only child to a strong-willed mother, and an absent father. Through her own life, my mother taught me the concept of resilience and that, with hard work, you can achieve anything. She is a teacher and sacrificed all to ensure that I got a good education.

When I was accepted into Honours, I had so many hopes and dreams for my future. But with my undergraduate studies already funded through a scholarship, I had no idea how I would get the funding to pursue a postgraduate degree. When I heard about a new scholarship that had been started, I wanted to apply, but I was worried that I wasn't good enough. I ended up applying on the day of the deadline.

The Foundation's scholarship changed my life. It exposed me to investment banking as a career. My mentor was a great role model. She too is a black female who had managed to make it in the world of corporate finance.

It was amazing to have the Foundation be so intensely invested in my future. They gave me everything I needed to make it through my Honours year, and were



my corporate family. I am testament to the impact that the Foundation's scholarship can have. I'm now an investment banker at Standard Bank and I'm so glad that the Foundation is growing and able to help more people like me.

**“The Foundation’s scholarship changed my life. It exposed me to investment banking as a career.”**

**Akhona Notshikila**  
2013

# Scholarship and support sets a solid foundation

## Foundation Alumni

I grew up with two unemployed parents. Finances were always a struggle. I had to work really hard to ensure I got scholarships so I could further my studies and create a better life for myself and my family.

I was blessed to be awarded a scholarship to a private school in Johannesburg, which was a great foundation for my tertiary studies. Another scholarship allowed me to go to Wits University to study a BCom Finance degree, majoring in Finance, Insurance and Risk Management. But it was the scholarship from the Foundation for my postgraduate degree that changed everything for me.

The Rothschild & Co South Africa executives were very involved, and their support was invaluable. They were like surrogate parents to us, which my family really appreciated, as they were unable to give me guidance themselves on my studies or my career. In addition, the internship I did at Rothschild & Co South Africa set a solid foundation for the work that I do now. Balancing

my family obligations with my personal life and career can be difficult. However, this year I was able to move out of home into my own place, and I even travelled overseas for the first time, which has always been a big dream of mine.

I have achieved my goals and I am now working as a corporate financier at PwC.



**“It was the scholarship I got from the Foundation for my postgraduate degree that changed**

**Rebekah Naidoo**  
2014

# Support at the right time crucial to postgraduate studies

## Foundation Alumni

I grew up in the Alexandra Township. My mom passed away when I was seven years old, so I was raised by my grandmother. It was a full house as my grandmother also looked after my cousins. We were eight people living in a two-roomed apartment.

I always knew I would study something to do with numbers, as I was naturally gifted in Maths. I completed my degree at Wits University thanks to a NSFAS loan. The Foundation's scholarship came at the right time, as NSFAS doesn't fund postgraduate study. I definitely wouldn't have been able to pursue my Honours without it.

I could go on for hours about the wonderful support the Foundation

gave me. Ethel was in touch regularly and we had access to an educational psychologist, who helped us with study techniques and made sure we were in the right frame of mind to do well in our postgraduate degree. We also got the opportunity to do an internship at Rothschild & Co South Africa – an eye-opening experience that introduced me to the working world. The Foundation even assisted me in getting access to data for an Honours presentation. I don't know how I would have been able to do that assignment without their assistance.

Since 2017, I have been working as a Quantitative Analyst at Nedbank. The work has definitely been demanding, as every day there is a new problem that needs to be approached in a new way. But I enjoy the challenge and am looking forward to an interesting career.



**“The Foundation’s scholarship came at the right time.”**

**Tumelo Mlalazi**  
2015

# A scholarship to build a career and a house

## Foundation Alumni

I am an only child and was raised by my mother in Fernie, a small village in Mpumalanga. She had to work long hours and so I was left alone at home most of the time.

I decided to study Accounting because I had always loved numbers and really liked the sound of the term 'chartered accountant'.

The Foundation's scholarship far exceeded my expectations. Once my laptop stopped working three days before I was due to write an exam. The Foundation organised another laptop for me.

Another highlight was when the Foundation bought us each a new suit. When I started my articles at KPMG, the work environment felt familiar, thanks to the internship I had done at Rothschild & Co South Africa. I write my final SAICA exam in November, so I am almost there.

I have also been able to start building a proper house for my mom. She doesn't have to live in a mud hut anymore or worry about the rains damaging our home. I am so grateful to the Foundation for giving me a great start in the working world.

The scholarship came at a time when I really needed it, and I wish everyone had the opportunity to be part of something great like this.



**“The scholarship came at a time when I really needed it, and I wish everyone had the opportunity to be part of something great like this.”**

**Nkululeko Gama**  
2016

# Scholarship provides much more than paying tuition

## Foundation Alumni

Growing up in a large family was not easy financially, but in hindsight I count myself lucky as this gave me the motivation to be where I am today.

I started my tertiary education at Wits University, where I studied a BSc degree funded by NSFAS. When I got the Foundation scholarship, my family initially were not as enthusiastic as I was. They believed that the best option would be to find a job. However, because of my dedication they soon understood how important it was to secure a better future, as well as how great an opportunity this was. Not only did the scholarship cover tuition, accommodation, meals and an allowance, but I belonged to a new family that I could learn from.

The Foundation understands that it is more than just paying for a person's tuition that contributes to their academic success. For instance, the scholarship also offered mentoring, corporate coaching, and an internship. I also have to mention my student mentor, as well as Ethel, who was like a second mother to all of us.

I am currently working as an Analyst in Investment Banking at Absa Bank and still greatly value the practical insights into corporate finance that my internship at Rothschild & Co South Africa gave me. The scholarship transformed me as an individual. Most importantly, it also put me in a position where I am now able to give back to my community.



**“The scholarship put me in a position where I am now able to give back to my community.”**

**Noxolo Patience  
Mnguni**  
2016

# It's good to feel like I am making a difference

## Foundation Alumni



**“Someone needs to stand up and break that chain of poverty and inequality, and I am doing that for my sister.”**

**Maropeng Seshoka**  
2017

We were a family of four – my mother, father, and younger sister – until my father passed away. I was in Grade 8.

I wanted to be a lawyer, but I fell in love with Accounting and can't imagine studying anything else. I went on to study Accounting Science at Wits University when I

was awarded a tuition bursary by PwC. NSFAS also helped fund my studies.

In my first year everything changed. My mom passed away and I had to look after my younger sister. This became my motivation to excel.

My experience with the Foundation was like no other. Other scholarship programmes would just make the payments and expect you to get great results. But the Foundation had a proactive, holistic approach and looked after our mental health too. The Work Readiness Programme also prepared us for the corporate environment.

I am currently doing my first year of articles at PwC. The Foundation is still a part of my life as I am a mentor now. This is challenging but incredibly fulfilling. It's very important for these students to have someone to fall back on.

My younger sister, who is now 14, is still a big source of motivation for me. Someone needs to stand up and break that chain of poverty and inequality, and I am doing that for her. I now have the resources to create opportunities for others.



# Making a difference through education

“Today, I am filled with so much joy and excitement as I celebrate the confirmation of my second Wits degree.”

“I don’t know where I would be without your unending support.”

“Thank you for believing in me.”



**Ayanda Ngwenya**  
2015

“I felt everyone was there for me through the goodness of their hearts and not because of a work obligation.”

“I felt like I was a priority and that made me confident to make contact whenever I needed to.”



**Nkanyiso Nxumalo**  
2015



“The support was nothing short of phenomenal.”



**Mamello Monoane**  
2016

“The whole experience was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

“I appreciate all that the Foundation has done for me to make this a reality.”

“It was an honour to carry the Foundation’s name on campus and to educate fellow students about it.”

“I have never received such academic support in my life.”

“The scholarship went beyond my expectations.”



**Tebogo Mabitsela**  
2016

“It is great to be associated with this firm and being a scholarship holder did not only come with getting your tuition paid for, but also focused on grooming me as a person and putting me in a better position to achieve my career objectives.”



**Mohammed Gumedé**  
2017



**Suzette Molokwane**  
2017

“The assistance from Ethel was great. The way she would check up on us during the year kept me motivated to work harder. There is no better assistance than that.”

“I will recommend it to my friends and family and could not have imagined anything better to do with my time.”



