



**ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNDATION**

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April 10, 2019

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To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to render comments about the outstanding support, both financial and in-kind, that the SunTrust Bank had provided to the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation over the past five years. That partnership has resulted in eight (8) students, from ethnically diverse backgrounds, having their dreams of having the opportunity to attend college realized.

In 2014, Ms. Muriel Garr from SunTrust Bank approached the Foundation with an initiative to support four (4) Pell Grant eligible students with scholarship funds of \$10,000 each (\$2500 per year, renewable over four years). It was the Foundation's first venture in receiving financial support from a major corporation to support the Foundation's goal of providing scholarship funds for students who were in need and who had excellent academic achievements despite their economic conditions.

This partnership has been a resounding success. To date, SunTrust has invested \$82,500 in scholarships to eight financially needy students who have excelled (GPAs of 3.0 and above) in colleges and universities, such as, the University of Maryland (College Park), Hampton University, Boston University, North Carolina A&T State University, University of Rochester, Temple University and Dickinson College. Several students have studied abroad. Five of these eight students have graduated and are pursuing careers in their chosen fields. The others are continuing their studies.

Not only have the students benefitted from the financial contributions from SunTrust but the Foundation has also benefitted from the expertise that Ms. Garr has provided to us. First as a member of our Scholarship Committee, Ms. Garr has annually screened hundreds of student applications, interviewed about 60 candidates and selected the winners of about 40 scholarships given by individuals, the church and other entities. This year, Ms. Garr has been asked to join the Foundation Board as a Director.

I could say so much more about the Foundation's appreciation for SunTrust's benevolence, however, it is much more meaningful coming from the students who benefitted from their generosity. SunTrust Bank has truly changed their lives. See attachment for comments from some scholarship winners.

Again, we thank SunTrust for their partnership with the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation. We fully support the merger between SunTrust and BB&T and look forward to partnering with the new combined entity. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on 301-292-9412.

Sincerely,

Deacon Patricia L. Wallace  
President, ASBC Foundation

## Comments from SunTrust Scholars

### **G. Gudiel – SunTrust Scholar (2014 – 2018) GRADUATED IN 2018**

It has been a true blessing to come across such a generous committee that has voluntarily helped me financially on achieving my educational goal of becoming a Public Relations specialist. As I began the whole college process of applying, my main focus was getting accepted. Once accepted into Temple University, my biggest concern was the tuition and all the fees that had to be paid. Luckily, there are thousands of organizations that are willing to help; but there was none like the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation and SunTrust Bank. I remember the very day I received the “miracle phone call”; it was June 11th, 2014, just a few weeks before my journey began. Before receiving this phone call, I could recall stressing and asking God for signs to give me strength and courage that all would turn out just fine and that somehow I would be able to cover the debt that I was about to face. Then, as always, he worked his magic and answered my prayers within a few days. I am now fulfilling my dreams on completing the second milestone in life, college.

Overall, my sophomore spring semester was my stepping stool to beginning my path towards my career. None of this would have been possible without the help of Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation and SunTrust Bank, who are always there with open arms to help those pursuing a higher education. I could never say thank you enough.

### **A. Morefield – SunTrust Scholar (2014 – 2018) GRADUATED IN 2018**

I want to thank you, Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation (ASBCF) and SunTrust Bank, for your continued financial support – it has been so helpful. It was great seeing you all again at the College Student service.

I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities I had this year, to see more of Europe and its various cultures, and to also improve my French more than ever before. This year has just been another testament to how grateful I am to not only Dickinson University, but also the SunTrust Bank's aid each year. This year abroad would not have been possible, and although tough at times because I did not have my usual consistent job as I did on campus, I was able to see more of the world and make lasting memories.

Thank you so much! I am so grateful for the ASBC Foundation and SunTrust Bank - you all truly helped make that degree possible! Next, I have a Fulbright grant for an English Teaching Assistantship in Ivory Coast.

### **Z. Alabo – SunTrust Scholar (2014 – 2018) GRADUATED IN 2018**

On May 20th, I graduated from the University of Rochester with a degree in Digital Media Studies. I'd like to thank the donors from the SunTrust Bank for contributing to my education. I am grateful for the chance to pursue higher education as it has given me a great starting step to my career.

### **J. Reaves – SunTrust Scholar (2015 – 2018) GRADUATED IN December 2018**

First I would like to again say thank you to SunTrust Bank for everything you have done for me. Instead of graduating in May 2019 I will be graduating in December 2018. This last semester allowed me to reflect on my journey through college. I was able to see how far I have come despite the many trials I have faced. This gave me the extra push to finish strong. Entering my last semester I am filling with joy.

### **A. Pena – SunTrust Scholar (2015 – 2019) GRADUATING IN 2019**

I feel my college experience so far has been incredibly successful. By combining extracurriculars involving journalism and film, I am inching ever closer to my goal of one day becoming an entertainment journalist. None of this would be possible without the help of the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation (ASBCF) and SunTrust Bank. I hope one day I can give back to you all as much as you have given to me. The happiness and success I feel in my life today would not have been possible without your help. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

As you can see, my journalistic career has already taken off at a breakneck pace. None of this would be possible without the opportunities afforded to me by Boston University, and attending BU would not be possible without the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation and SunTrust Bank. I thank God every day for my good fortune and continue to work hard to make sure nothing is taken for granted. I cannot express enough gratitude to you for you have truly changed my life immensely. I know that one day I will give back so that others can have the same chances I had. Thank you again and God bless.

### **L. Lewis – SunTrust Scholar (2017 – 2020) GRADUATING IN 2020**

Thank you Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation (ASBCF) and SunTrust Bank soo much! We have come a long way from the time I stepped into that conference room that changed my life forever. Words cannot describe how I feel knowing that this is the next big step to bettering my future. I am not sure where I would be without your help and support throughout this entire process, and I just want to make note that everything that you've done to help me get to this point hasn't gone unnoticed.

### **M. Menendez – SunTrust Scholar (2017 – 2020) GRADUATING IN 2020**

I would like to once again thank the Alfred Street Baptist Church Foundation (ASBCF) and SunTrust Bank for their efforts in establishing a scholarship foundation to allow students like myself to achieve a higher education. I could not have done this without your support and I think about that every day. In all of my actions and endeavors, I think about all the organizations and people, like the ASBCF and SunTrust, that are behind me and use that to light my fire. I hope to, in the future, be there for a student in the same way that ASBCF and SunTrust are for me today.

I knew that in coming to the University of Maryland I would be taking the biggest risk of my life. Financially, the University of Maryland was a reach school. Only because of my involvement in the community I grew up in was I able to raise the necessary funds for my first year- and how lucky was I. Knowing that I have the support of scholarship donors, institutions, and organizations has grounded my college journey around community and a sense of "it takes a village." Personally, it took a village to get me to where I am today and where I will go in the future. Each day, with the help of the SunTrust Scholarship, I am one step closer to being the first in my family to graduate in the United States and leaving a lasting legacy and mark at the University of Maryland.