On June 25th 2010 Tasmanian lawyer Alexander (Sandy) Duncanson died at the age of 37, after surviving cancer for sixteen years. Sandy is greatly missed, and was widely respected for his work in the community legal and housing sectors.

In recognition of Sandy’s profound commitment to social justice, his friends and family have established a fund in his name through the University of Tasmania Foundation. The Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Fund is now open for donations.

The Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Fund will grant a bursary each year to a University of Tasmania student with a demonstrated commitment to social justice. Applicants will be asked to nominate a social justice project or activity, and to explain how they will use their bursary to support it. This may involve working with an established organization on a recognized issue, or involve an entirely new initiative. Selection will be through an application process managed through the Faculty of Law and the Centre for Applied Philosophy & Ethics at UTAS.

The University of Tasmania will also hold a public lecture in Sandy’s name each year, inviting prominent commentators, activists and academics to speak about social justice. Bursary recipients will also be invited to share the outcomes of their project or activity at this event.

The lecture will raise awareness of social justice issues amongst UTAS students and staff, legal practitioners and other professionals, and across the wider Tasmanian community.

In 2002 Sandy visited Woomera Detention Centre and interviewed refugees seeking asylum. At the time he was still a law student and this experience had a lasting impact, inspiring Sandy to dedicate his working life to social justice. The bursaries allocated by the Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Fund will give others the opportunity to have their lives enriched by such an experience. It will also encourage more UTAS graduates to pursue careers with ethical integrity.

Contributions to the Sandy Duncanson Social Justice Fund can be made as once-off donations or recurring donations at intervals of your choice. All donations are tax deductible. Your donation can be anonymous or named.

In support of the endowment to provide the bursaries, the UTAS Foundation has agreed to match dollar for dollar all funds raised until the end of 2011.

Our goal is to raise a minimum of $60,000, which will enable the award of bursary funds of $2,000 each year. The Faculty of Law at UTAS has agreed to underwrite the bursaries for the first two years.

Donate online now or download a donation form to mail at www.utas.edu.au/foundation or phone 03 6226 1920.

Please join us in continuing to build upon Sandy’s legacy.