

# Shimshal Trust Newsletter

November 2013

Dear friends and supporters

There is lots of interesting news at the moment. I have been saving it up!

**Scholarships** We have awarded 14 scholarships to students from Shimshal recently. This is our second award round this year, because we are changing the timetable of awards.

Altogether we've made 21 awards this year, which is a record for us. We have been able to give so many scholarships because of the increase in automatic payments and some regular, successful fundraising.

Names of scholarship recipients will be posted on the Facebook page shortly.

One of our scholarship students this year is Sehrish Karim, who is the first student from Shimshal to study fashion design. She is interested in a fusion of local Gilgit styles with the latest fashion trends. You can see some of her work down the side of the newsletter, and at the bottom is the elegant coat she designed and made.

**Fund raising.** Pam held a Shimshal style dinner for women friends, who were invited to buy some of the craft artifacts we had left over from WOMAD, earlier this year. We ate at floor level, and had a ceremonial hand washing before eating. The evening raised about \$600 for the Trust bank account. While Pam is away next year, Liz will run another WOMAD stall to raise money for the Trust.

**The new Pakistan High Commissioner,** Mrs. Zehra Akbari, has taken an interest in the Trust and bought some of our books. She is interested in giving the good news about Pakistan and recently sponsored a lecture about Pakistani literature, at Victoria University.

**Shenaz Begum,** who last year had an operation on her leg to correct a polio disability, is still living in Karachi with a Shimshal family. The money we raised paid for Shenaz' operation and continues to fund her living expenses and further treatment with associated expenses. You can see photographs of Shenaz on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/118914431455947/?fref=ts>

**Azhar-U-Din** We have been asked to help a 12 year old boy from Shimshal, who has leukemia (pre-B cell acute lymphoblastic Leukemia, according to the hospital report)

Hussn reports: *The possible cost is more than 2 million rupees and the duration of treatment will be for about 3 years. For nine months he has*





costs Rs. 5000.00 Rupees.

*Jalal's wife is in the village looking after her 2 kids and house work. I don't think he will be able to support the family in Shimshal.*

The family is known to us, and we believe they are asking widely for financial help. We'd like to make a contribution to Azhar's treatment costs and living expenses in Karachi, where he attends the Aga Khan hospital. His

doctor is Zehra Fadoo, department of Pediatrics.

If you would like to make a contribution as a one-off donation to Azhar's health expenses, please deposit the money in the Shimshal Trust bank account, reference Azhar, and your name. The bank account number is **38-9001-0596230-01, in Kiwibank.**

Please also email me at [contact@shimshaltrust.org.nz](mailto:contact@shimshaltrust.org.nz) with your name and address so that I can send a receipt.

Khuda Hafiz

Pam, for the Shimshal Trust Board

Mr.Sarwar Akbari, Mrs. Zehra Akbari, High commissioner for Pakistan in Wellington, and Pam Henson. November 2013.

