

Newsletter of the Shimshal Trust, January 2016



2015 Scholarship round complete

Thanks to the improved responses of applicants and the tireless efforts of our treasurer, Liz Thomas, the scholarship round was completed before Christmas last year. The process was unusual in that our meeting to decide on the successful applicants was conducted entirely by skype, as I was in London, Brenda in Reefton, Liz in Golden Bay, Kim in Palmerston North and Matt in Masterton. After the meeting, we informed the applicants about the decisions, giving reasons in each case. Then, bank account details being forthcoming and accurate, the money was disbursed. Last year we were able to do very little fund raising but some large one-off donations enabled us to award 13 scholarships after all. Many thanks to the generous donors who responded to our pleas for extra help! You may be interested to know that scholarship money is routed through the US, and the US banks sometimes query the transfer of funds to someone whose name is on their suspect list. We now

supply date of birth so they can reassure themselves that in fact none of our recipients is a wanted person.

Orphans in need

Hussn Bibi, our good friend from Shimshal, has started up her own business, a hostel for girls in Aliabad, the nearest town to Shimshal on the Karakoram Highway. Hussn has sent us this short PowerPoint presentation (attached) about five of the hostel girls who have no parents to support them in their quest for education. The presentation is a moving testimony to the hardship of life for women in rural Pakistan.

None of us will ever experience the sort of difficulties they describe, so we thought we would pass on this request for help. It is possible some of you would like to sponsor one of these girls for one, two or three years of education, or to make a donation specifically to assist these girls, or one of them. We will set up a separate bank account for them.

Kiwi Maddad alliance

Meanwhile, we are also channeling money from a Wellington based community group, the Kiwi-Maddad (help / assistance) who are continuing to support Ariba, the girl who had a cochlear implant and who now needs funds to go to deaf school so she can learn to speak. They are also helping to fund medical treatment for a young Shimshali woman who has a brain tumour. In addition they will support the orphans in Hussn's hostel. This is proving to be a very positive alliance and we are thrilled about the help they are giving us and the Shimshal residents.

Best wishes to all our supporters, Pam Henson
Secretary, the Shimshal Trust.

This newsletter goes to a list of about 150 Trust supporters as well as to members of the Shimshal community who have email. Please email me if you no longer want to receive the newsletter.

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