

## Shimshal Trust newsletter – November 2018

Greetings to all our supporters!

This newsletter highlights the plight of some of the students from Shimshal village whom we help out with scholarships. Cash is always in short supply in Shimshal even if parents are alive and working. For many of our students, though, this is not the case. Getting a chance to work and support a family becomes really hard if the father of the family is dead and the mother is left to look after the smallholding and bring up the family.

**Meet Irfana Zaman.** Admittedly Irfana was four when I took this photo and she is now 16. However you can certainly tell what a lively personality she has. We'd love to support Irfana because her father was killed in a shooting incident only a couple of years after this photo was taken, and her mother is bringing up four children alone. We gave Irfana a scholarship last year and she has done quite well, staying at a girls' hostel in Aliabad and attending the local school.



### This application is from Kanwal Jabeen

How are you?

My name is Kanwal Jabeen healing from Shimshal , D/O Aman Khan (late).this is for the first time I am writing this letter to you just because of my education, my father died when I was a 6 month old child today Thanks God I have successfully completed my I-com (Intermediate) with a good percentage / mark by the support of my uncles. Now I am going to continue my further education in the University. But I may not continue it because of some financial issues, I am looking for your kind support and encouragement. I progressed very well in the previous years of my education, I will provide you all my educational records, including my current mark sheet which will help you to take decisions on my situation. I shall be very thankful to you for your kind support dear MAM.

With best regards

Kanwal

**This is Saif Ulla.** Saif's mother Fatima is a retired teacher and she also received one of our scholarships when they were first on offer. Saif received a scholarship from us last year and we are keen to support him as he is doing well. He's going to study medicine in China and his first year was spent learning Chinese. If a student receives a scholarship and wants to get another one, we insist on a report of their year's study and living conditions. Here is Saif's report:



*During the seven months, I studied medical preparatory classes and Chinese language course and passed the Chinese language level 3 , that i have mentioned earlier. This is important before my medical course starts.*

*From September 3, 2018 my first semester of medical course started.*

*I am officially a medical student now and will hopefully get my MBBS degree in 2023.*

*Being a medical student in this university my hopes and my confidence level has grown up which i think i wouldn't be without the help of this scholarship. With the 8 months of living experience among other medical students, I can feel it that I am in the right place with the people of the same interest and profession. I met people from different nations who have different culture and different thoughts.*

*The scholarship has helped my family well. My family*

*is already proud of me and are happy for what and where i am.*

*The scholarship needs to carefully balance the requirements or goals of the SNT donors with the needs of the students, The scholarship should make the biggest impact where it is needed the most.*

*i.e the higher education. Also the donors should carefully evaluate the needs that how much money the student requires to support themselves either it tuition fee, hostel fee or food.*

We ask the students for suggestions about how we can improve our scholarships scheme, and Saif clearly thinks he needs money more than someone going to high school. His courage and success in working in China and in speaking out in his report are a recommendation to us. Saif was a tiny boy when I first lived in Shimshal, and it's great to see him flourishing now.

## Personal Statement from Anmol Khan

*I am Anmol Khan from Shimshal, and currently studying pre-medical at Aga Khan Higher Secondary College Sher Qilla. I have completed my matriculation from D J School Shimshal with 68% marks. I'm the first student in the history of Shimshal who got 68% in matric examination while studying in Shimshal. Moreover no student from Shimshal Schools has ever got admission at one of the prestigious institutes such as Aga Khan higher secondary college.*

*I'm applying to this scholarship both on the basis of merit and need base. My two older sisters are studying in cities, one in Air University Islamabad and another in Punjab University Lahore. My father and brother are supporting them in their studies and it's impossible for my parents to pay for me because my college fee is very high as compare to other colleges of Gilgit-Baltistan due to its prestigious status. Without the support of Shimshal Trust it will be difficult for me to continue my studies, as I had an operation last week and more than \$1000 was spent on my operation.*

*I'm studying medical and I'm confident that one day I will become a doctor to serve my community, and people of Gilgit-Baltistan.*

*I hope Shimshal Trust will give me a scholarship which will help me to study without any stress because my college and hostel fee is very expensive.*

*Warm regards*

*Anmol Khan*

Anyone who can use apostrophes correctly gets my vote ☺ Anmol is right in saying that students in the local school don't usually get good grades in public exams. This is why many young people are sent down county to study instead of attending local schools. Anmol really is an achiever.

## What you can do

If you would like to sponsor one of these students for one or more years, you would be benefitting the whole community and enabling a cash-strapped student who really wants to study to do so. Our scholarships amount to \$700 each, which funds a student for half a year only. We expect them to find the other half-year's money themselves. This is never easy for them. We once helped out a student who was literally starving because his family did not have the resources to help him while he was job-hunting. **Any amount you can give will help the students.**

Despite our efforts at fund-raising this year we would still like more money so that we can award scholarships to 14 of these hard-working students. We currently have enough money for 11.

If you would like to contribute to the education of these students, you can make an electronic transfer to our bank account:

**SHIMSHAL TRUST**

Account number:

38-9001-0596230-01

Or you can pay via Paypal

[paypal@shimshaltrust.org.nz](mailto:paypal@shimshaltrust.org.nz)

Whatever you do, please let us know by putting your name as a reference and sending us an email. If you want to support a particular student, you can tell us that. If you are interested in following the student's progress, we can arrange that too.



**Congratulations to Talha Rashid** who has completed her degree in bio sciences with flying colours. She's now going on to do a research project for a Master's degree. Talha has consistently gained straight As in her studies, and we have awarded her five scholarships. As well, Talha wins prizes for debating in English and has been on BBC world service as a representative in the youth parliament. She's a volunteer in numerous organisations. Her plans include doing a PhD, becoming a medical doctor and doing cancer research.

I met Talha last year. She arrived at a dinner party on the back of her dad's motor bike. We were equally thrilled to meet each other.

Khuda hafiz – kind regards, Pam Henson

