

Shimshal Trust newsletter – October 2019

Greetings to all our supporters!

1. Our new website went live earlier this year: www.shimshaltrust.org.nz it is beautifully designed and contains some new features including more detail on our projects and the Trust itself.

2. Matt Grant (president) has been busy working on an application to IRD to have the Shimshal Trust put on Schedule 32 of the Income Tax Act that would give us 'donee status'. As the Trust spends most of its money overseas, we must be on this schedule before our supporters can qualify for tax relief. This is a time-consuming process and has taken most of this year.



3. Members of the Trust gathered in Wellington for Eid celebrations in early June. We ran a little stall to tell people about the Trust and enjoyed meeting old friends from the Wellington Islamic Community and Kiwi Maddad, the aid group that supports the Trust.

Matt Grant, Liz Thomas, Pam Henson, Kris Ericksen. June 8th in Wellington

4. The Nelson members of the Trust ran a mountain style dinner party hosted by the Gilbertson family.

Joanna and Liz perform pre-dinner hand-washing ceremony.





Gwen enjoys conversation with Paul. Looks like he just bought a hat.

5. Our next round of scholarships is upon us already. If you like to give one off donations rather than APs, this is the time to do it. We and the students of Shimshal would be very grateful for your interest and your generosity. Here are some extracts from the students' letters of application:

"This scholarship program has brought tremendous changes in our community. Many students benefited from this program and today they are enjoying their professional lives. I am requesting your esteemed organization for the first time to consider positively my application for the University level Scholarship." Saeed Khan, 21.

"I am playing (women's) football for my university because the admission given for me was sports based and they were providing me my tuition fee as well as my hostel fee but due to some changes in HEC budget policy the sports scholarships were closed and our university has also closed our scholarships." Sajina Mirza, 21 (See our Facebook page for videos of girls' football at high altitude)

“I live with my brother with my cousins in a rented house in Lahore, we all contribute monthly to cover up our expenses... at least one person pays pkr (Pakistan rupees) 6,000 so it is pretty expensive for us because we are two figures and we have to pay Pkr 12,000 each month just for our accommodation expenses and our educational expenses are beside of this.”
Amin Khan, 18

“The core reason for applying for this scholarship is financial constraints which I am facing these days my husband is the one who is supporting the whole family including his siblings studying in private college in Gilgit and at university level also. Besides of these he has to support the house hold. I am very keen to continue my education it’s the aim of every women to complete their education but due to some family issue and other problems they cannot complete their education. You are well aware that mostly women cannot complete their studies and depend on their husbands but I don’t want to be one of them I want to be an independent woman.” Maliha Numa, 21

Most of our applicants now have good grades and high aspirations. Please help us to help them, if you can. If you decide to make a donation by e-transfer, please put your name as a reference and send an email to lizthomaspost@gmail.com

Here’s the bank account number

SHIMSHAL TRUST
Account number:
38-9001-0596230-01

If any of you would like to be more involved in the Trust board, our dinner parties and fund-raising events, we meet about every two months by skype. Our members live in Wellington, Nelson, Reefton, Golden Bay and Palmerston North. But you can be anywhere in the country. Or even in another country. Please let me know if you are interested.

Khuda hafiz, Pam

Pam Henson, Secretary, the Shimshal Trust

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