

## Shimshal Trust newsletter, October 2020



Shimshal personalities, from top left clockwise: Shamshad Begum, teacher and i/c women's craft centre; Majida, girls' hostel resident; Daulat Amin, first qualified teacher in the valley (photos 2017).

We've just received 42 applications for scholarships, which is a record. The rigours of Covid 19 have greatly reduced the tourist industry and thus the ability of villagers to make money as porters. Each year we give between 8 and 18 scholarships of either \$600 or \$700, which help students pay their university or sometimes high school expenses. The expenses include accommodation and food as well as fees and books.

During October our president Matt Grant will put all this application information onto a huge chart and circulate it to Trust members. These days the information comes to us by email attachment. Each student sends an application form, a scan of last year's grades, a letter of application and a scan of enrolment or fees paid documentation.

In early November we meet to discuss Matt's short list and decide who should receive scholarship awards. Our doughty treasurer, Liz Thomas, then begins the tedious task of sending money to Pakistani bank accounts. Fortunately she has willing and helpful aid from Kiwibank international department.

As usual we have rather less money than we would like to disburse in scholarships. If you are able to make a donation towards scholarships, now would be a really good time. In recent years a few generous donors have made up any shortfall. Please help out if you can!

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

If you make a donation please reference your name so we can send a receipt. Donations are now tax deductible – you would receive back 1/3 of your donation. Also email Liz at [lizthomaspost@gmail.com](mailto:lizthomaspost@gmail.com)

Khuda hafiz, and best wishes,  
Pam Henson,  
Secretary,  
The Shimshal Trust.