



Making connections - Shimshal friends

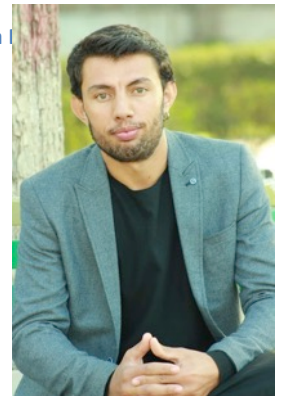
Scholarships awarded in 2019

We awarded 14 scholarships last year, and for the first time to more young women than to young men.

- Aqila Karim - at 15 she is our youngest scholar, funded because of her A average and large family
- Maria Rasheed - sister of Talha and like Talha has A grades. Studying Psychology.
- Reema Tahir - studying biotechnology at Lahore University.
- Sajina Mirza - studying English language and literature.
- Samana Rahim - at Karakoram University, Gilgit studying Tourism and Hospitality
- Fazima Amir – at college in Lahore
- Rani Inayat - attends the University of Arid Agriculture in Rawalpindi where she studies Economics.



- Ghazala Nigar – loves Development Studies, and enrolled at Karakoram University.
- Sana Marry – Also following Development Studies.
- Sheraz Udin – Studying to be a vet in Peshawar
- Munawar Shah – a sports Science student at Lahore
- Saif Ullah – studying medicine in China (came home during the Covid crisis)
- Aliya Nisa – Another Development Studies student
- Shah Nazar – In his third year of studying Environmental Sciences at Lahore.



Samana Iqbal

Sheraz Udin

We are delighted to be supporting such a talented group of students, many of whom have studied hard to overcome the double handicaps of coming from a remote home, three hours drive from the nearest tarmac road, and living in harsh conditions, with no electricity for the most part.

Aqila Karim's family is unlikely to be able to pay for her education despite her good grades. If anyone would like to consider supporting her for a few years at, say, \$1000 a year please let us know. If she continues to do well, however, this may be a 10 year investment! Her scholarship would depend on her grades, of course. She would need to continue to do well. \$1000 a year would help her with study fees and accommodation. \$2000 a year would probably cover nearly everything.

Kiwi Maddad

Wellington Muslims continue to support the Shimshal Trust extremely generously, and Jamil Khan has produced a magnificent chart to follow the progress of the 15 girls they are now supporting with grants for accommodation, education and holiday treats.



James and Helen in Shimshal

Trust Board Members

We are happy to have new people interested in being on our board in the last few months: James de Hamel and his partner Helen. James and Helen visited Shimshal two years ago, and were inspired to join us and help out. In another development, Lydia Bradey has asked us to handle a scholarship she wants to award to a student in the Skardu region so that she doesn't have to form a whole new trust. This would

be easy for us to do.

We were sad to see Stephen resign from the Trust. He has been an enthusiastic member for a few years after his visit to Shimshal in 2005, always giving a useful contribution to our deliberations.

Tax status

The Inland Revenue Department has advised us that the Shimshal Trust's application to be included on Schedule 32 of the Income Tax Act has been successful. The decision was made by Cabinet and gives us 'donee status' which enables our supporters to qualify for a tax rebate on their donations. This will take effect from 1 April so all donations to the Trust received on and after 1 April 2020 will qualify for the rebate.

Financing the Trust

The Shimshal Trust has given 187 scholarships over 15 years. The average scholarship was \$600 and the total amount transferred to students was more than \$110,000. Kiwi Maddad has probably donated half that figure again in the last few years.

Due to retirement and other factors a few of our major donors have recently stopped their contributions to the Trust. We'd like to thank them for their long-term support. However, if we are to continue we do need a few more donors prepared to make automatic payments. If you think you can help by making a small regular donation, we would be most grateful. It's a way of sharing our relative wealth to others and readjusting the imbalance of the world a little.

SHIMSHAL TRUST

Account number:

38-9001-0596230-01

If you decide to help the Trust in this way, please use your name as a reference and email Liz Thomas, our treasurer, to inform her so that she can keep track of our finances and send you our heartfelt thanks. lizthomaspost@gmail.com

The picture at the top, 2017, shows me with Ainul and her husband Baqir, who were incredibly hospitable to me on all my visits to Shimshal. They live in a little valley above Shimshal where they built a beautiful new house some years back. I saw a rose finch in their garden (not my photo).



Khuda hafiz – best wishes, Pam

Pamela Henson, Secretary, the Shimshal Trust