American Youth Raises Funds for SHDF Scholarships - A Shining Example of Service to Humanity

News Release April 10, 2009 (Richmond, VA)

Kabir Singh Sodhi, a high school student in Richmond, VA, set a true example of Seva (Service of humanity), as taught in Sikhism, when he successfully raised $1,000 for the SHDF scholarship program.

Kabir thought of several projects related to learning and came up with one which provided a meaningful experience and touched every member of his family. He arranged a tennis tournament in his school and raised $1,000 to sponsor SHDF scholarships for needy students in Punjab. It is noteworthy that Kabir had to put in much hard work, dedication and persistence into the project to make it successful. He handled the whole tournament in a meticulously professional manner by paying attention to each detail, such as keeping the courts clean, providing drinks and snacks to players, and making many other arrangements. He encountered several hurdles in arranging these matches, but he overcame each one of them with patience and skill.

Kabir says, *"In addition to my family I have always been influenced by my religion. I am a Sikh, and as stated in our religious texts, those who are well off enough to do so must give duswant, meaning one tenth of our annual income to charity. For me, it is not only being told that we must all donate, but also my past experiences that show me what it means to those who are receiving the donations.....SHDF is a charity that provides bright young children in India funds for a better education, so that they too can someday be well off enough to give their duswant (for this cause). To me, it is as if by giving one child the ability to better him or herself, they will one day be able to do the same for others. I believe that through this process of donation and trust in others, we can all better the world -- one child at a time."*

Through this initiative, Kabir not only displayed and honed his leadership and entrepreneurial skills at this young age, he also set an example of selfless service across national boundaries. We need many more Kabirs to bring peace, progress and harmony in this strife-torn world.

The Sikh community in Metropolitan Washington and Richmond areas, in fact all communities in USA, must feel proud of Kabir and be thankful to his parents for inculcating true human values in their children.

SHDF welcomes the new trend in American youth to play their part in helping the financially disadvantaged students in India without distinction of color, race or gender.