

Chairman's Recent Visit to India

“This visit gave me an excellent opportunity to meet with over 140 scholarship recipients and listen to their heart beat and personal stories at Faridkot, Amritsar and Ludhiana”, said Amar Jit Singh Sodhi, Chairman SHDF, who just returned to US after a productive two month long tour of India. Several parents, who travelled long distances by bus and accompanied their kids to the meetings with Mr. Sodhi, expressed their deep gratitude as more and more scholarship recipients are getting employed in good jobs after completing their SHDF supported professional college education. For example, Shahbaz Kaur, an SHDF scholarship recipient for four years, who completed her B.Sc. Nursing recently, has been employed in PGI Chandigarh on a salary of Rs. 30,000 per month, a great leap from her father's monthly salary of Rs. 4,300. A poignant moment came when, in a three hour long meeting of some 50 scholarship recipients with the SHDF Chairman in Parker House, Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana, Shahbaz Kaur stood up to offer financial help to another scholarship recipient who was distressed and in tears, because his parents were simply unable to meet their share of his education expenses. “I want to help just as I was helped when I needed somebody to hold my hand and see me through the nursing course which looked like an impossible dream at that time”.

“My meetings with three vice chancellors of universities in Punjab as well as meetings with heads of institutions, parents of students, heads of statewide NGOs, members of the interview panels at some locations for the award of SHDF scholarships, and with the management of Nishkam - SHDF's cooperating NGO in India – left me convinced that SHDF is doing the right thing and is doing it the right way” said Mr. Sodhi. “But the need out there is huge, particularly in the face of a cruel but astonishingly accepted reality of pervasive and mounting drug and alcohol abuse in Punjab, which threatens to engulf the youth, who are mired in poverty and find an escape through professional education almost impossible because of the skyrocketing college fees. We need to make professional education affordable for them fast before they are inundated by alcohol and drugs.”

“It is a huge challenge and we need community's understanding and greater financial support to further expand and enrich the scholarship program” said Mr. Sodhi.

Faridkot Scholarship Distribution Event



Faridkot, Scholarship Recipients View 1



Faridkot, Scholarship Recipients View 2



Faridkot, Scholarship Check Distribution



Faridkot, Chairman Addressing Students



Faridkot, Female Scholarship Recipients



Faridkot, Male Scholarship Recipients



The neediest Scholarship recipient: mother is blind and father is crippled.