Who we are and what we do: Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF) provides scholarships for higher professional education to bright students from low income families in Punjab and other Northern Indian states. Beginning with 2001, SHDF has provided more than seven thousand scholarships to underprivileged albeit bright students, over 75% of which have been women.

What is our motivation: Seva (service) to humanity is the basic tenet of Sikhism; and what better way to serve humanity than by assisting deserving individuals obtain higher education and an opportunity for better lives for themselves and their families.

Who benefits: SHDF’s Scholarship recipients are selected based on need and merit. They have included children of; widows, terminally sick parents, farmers who committed suicide, agricultural laborers, domestic servants, female tailors, Gurdwara sewadaars, orphans and other economically disadvantaged families. Most of the recipients are victims of extreme poverty and live in rural areas. Students also need to have clear academic ability. Scholarships have transformed the lives of not just the recipients, but also their families, and sometimes even whole communities.

What is the selection process: SHDF follows strict guidelines for the selection and awarding of scholarships. Students are selected via a thorough, transparent, and rigorous process and must meet clear standards to be considered eligible. Main criteria are:

1. Annual Family Income for an applicant must be below Rs. 240,000. This translates to approximately $3,300 per year or $9 per day by US standards.
2. Scholarship recipients must enroll into a professional degree in a higher educational institution.
3. Scholarship recipients must maintain a minimum of 60% (B grade or higher) in their field of study.

Our operations: SHDF has been awarding scholarships since 2001. The average cost of an SHDF scholarship is $550 per year per student which covers a major portion of their educational expenses.

To help implement its mission, SHDF partners with Nishkam Sikh Welfare Council (Nishkam), a highly reputed non-profit organization based in New Delhi. SHDF has its own full-time staff, who work in Nishkam headquarters in New Delhi undertaking the day to day operations of our program. Together with Nishkam, SHDF operates seven centers in Punjab and Delhi. These centers are responsible for communicating directly and regularly with a large number of universities and other educational institutions as well as potential recipients to ensure an effective, efficient and successful implementation of our program.

SHDF and Nishkam follow a clearly defined process for the program –

1. We invite scholarship applications.
1. Annual Family Income for an applicant must be considered eligible. Main criteria are:

- Must meet clear standards to be considered for the selection and awarding of scholarships.

What is the selection process:

SHDF follows strict guidelines for the selection and awarding of scholarships. The selection process is based on academic ability, financial need, and merit.

Who benefits:

Most of the recipients are victims of extreme poverty and live in rural areas. Students also have included children of:

- Widows
- Terminally sick parents
- Farmers who committed suicide
- Agricultural laborers
- Domestic servants
- Female students

SHDF's Scholarship recipients

Who we are and what we do:

Sikh Human Development Foundation (SHDF) provides need-based scholarships to students from low-income families. SHDF began providing these scholarships in 2001.

Why should you support SHDF:

Education is the only sustainable and effective solution to dealing with poverty and the challenges facing the youth, particularly in Punjab (including a rapid rise of drug addiction) but also elsewhere in India.

1. SHDF's creation is inspired by the very philosophy of our Gurus and scriptures. Your actions consolidate this noble endeavor.
2. By supporting SHDF, you are helping transform lives.
3. Our funding is based on voluntary donations, and potential needs for scholarships far exceed our financial resources.
4. We are the only organization outside of India that provides funding to young women and men who have ability and aspiration to go into higher education and yet their poverty does not allow them to do so.
5. Our operating principles are based on transparency, accountability, and low administrative cost. Our accounts are audited every year and are available to donors.
6. Your contribution is critical for the struggling youth. Their future, their family's and communities' future is dependent on education. They must not remain excluded from the economic opportunities. With your contribution, you can help us make it happen.

How can you help:

SHDF urges you to donate generously towards this immensely worthy cause.

- Please become a champion of youth and SHDF's partner in this endeavor of transforming lives.
- Donations can be made in celebration of life events such as marriage, birthday, anniversary, start of a business, in memory of the loved ones or simply for the most noble of reasons to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate.
- SHDF welcomes Bequests through Will or Revocable Trust. Donors may assign their financial or other assets (which can also help with capital gain and tax planning).
- SHDF also participates in workplace donation matching programs.

We look forward to your Seva with immense gratitude!

1. Donations can be made online at website www.shdf.org or via post by mailing a check to 10504 Rivers Bend Lane, Potomac, MD 20854, USA.
2. Our funding is based on voluntary donations, Sponsor one or more students by donating $550 per student per year.
3. Become a Major Donor by sponsoring 10 or more scholarships per year.
4. Donate monthly $25, $50 or $100 or any other amount.
5. Become a program “Ambassador” or a Volunteer to help with various activities.

SHDF’s accomplishments to date:

- Number of Scholarships Granted since inception: 7,300+
- Funds Disbursed for Scholarships: Over 3 million dollars
- Number of Students who have Graduated: 4,000+

Our Current Goals:

Provide 1,000-1,200 scholarships annually.

Increase the number of soft-skill development workshops for the graduating students.

“I sincerely hope that you and your colleagues will be able to raise sufficient resources to facilitate implementation of your noble mission which is based on the Sikh principle of Seva and render service to humanity without expecting any reward in return.”

Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister of India

…You are putting your "Daswand" to the best use for the needy students. This is an era of education and on the basis of it a person can rise to any level.

Harvinder Singh Phoolka
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India
Number of Scholarships for FY 2001 - 2020

My father’s earnings with extensive labor work are quite low. Meeting everyday expenses is a struggle we go through. I sincerely urge SHDF to help me with a scholarship to overcome my daily struggles so that I can stand on my own feet and uplift the status of my family.

Name: Amandeep Kaur
District: Sri Muktsar Sahib
Course: BCA

My father is doing a job and he earns very little income/salary. The condition of our family is very poor. I am pursuing engineering in Food and Technology. I have seen a lot of struggles. I really want to study and become the support system of my family. Please help me.

Name: Manmeet Singh
District: Rampur- Uttar Pradesh
Course: B.Tech. (Food Technology)

Contact Us:
SHDF
10504 Rivers Bend Lane,
Potomac, MD 20854, USA

E-mail: info@shdf.org
Phone: (240) 780-1530
Website: www.shdf.org

SHDF Executive Board Members
Manmohan Singh Kumar  Chairperson
Simmi Singh  Vice-Chairperson
Harbaksh S. Sethi  Treasurer
Gajinder S. Ahuja  Advisor
Devender Singh  Board Member
Gunvir S. Baveja  Board Member
Jaytee Kanwal  Board Member
Kanwal Singh  Board Member
Mehak S. Bhatia  Board Member
Ravi Singh  Board Member
Upjit S. Narula  Board Member

Program Director: Manpreet Singh

Number of Scholarships

Years: 2001 to 2020
Scholarships: 22, 48, 47, 82, 100, 123, 153, 200, 314, 368, 412, 504, 507, 538, 583, 539, 550, 656, 688, 888