

District Grant – 1061

Final Report, May 2016

Background

In 2014, the E Club of the United Services obtained a District Grant to enable an Afghani medical student to complete his residency at The Mission Hospital in Durgapur, West Bengal, India. Dr. Baha worked under the supervision of Dr. Satyajit Bose, Chairman and Senior Cardiac Surgeon at the hospital. At the conclusion of his studies, Dr. Baha returned to Afghanistan

District Grant Overview

The project was a unique partnership that spanned 3 continents - Australia, Asia and North America, 4 countries (Australia, India, Afghanistan, and USA). District 3240 (where the hospital is located) in partnership with an Australian club obtained a Global Grant to fund pediatric cardiac surgeries. The beneficiaries of the surgeries were young children who were born with a heart defect - a hole in their heart. This hole must be repaired within the first few years of life. Otherwise, as the child grows, its heart grows and hole grows larger. Eventually, the child dies. Patient screening, passport and visas and travel arrangements were provided by the Rotary E-Club of United Servicers, RC Camp Pendleton, and RC La Jolla Golden Triangle.

It is our hope that ridding children of this debilitating disease will make them productive citizens of their community. It will improve a child's environment by reducing the income drain on their parents. The surgery will also enable a child to attend school and get an education and that is the only sure path to a better life. Thus, this grant could also be considered addressing the focus area of basic education and literacy.

Patients

1. Aisha



The first candidate was a 20-month old child who became an orphan as a result of a drone strike in Afghanistan. “Doing good in the world” comes with its share of disappointments. For the team, of Rotarians from RI District 3240, such a disappointment came on December 15 when they lost little Aisha, the 20-monthold Afghan girl, who was born with four holes in her heart. The highly complicated six-hour long surgery required to fix her by a team of four doctors led by its Chairman. How Aisha, an orphan child who had lost her father in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan was able to reach this Indian hospital is a poignant story. Aisha’s story is compelling because of the meticulous planning, co-ordination across three continents, and time and effort to get the child and guardian to Durgapur from Kabul, and then overcoming the language barrier.

Her surgery was difficult and she developed complications that her frail body could not bear. Our Rotarian friend Gaurang Desai wrote this: “I feel so sad about the death of Aisha. She played in my hands after the surgery, shook hands, and smiled the cutest ever. I could not attend to my business yesterday because of

Aisha....remembering her hand shake which will never repeat”. Here is what he and the Rotarians in India had to do while grieving:

- The police in Durgapur, West Bengal had to provide a “no objection” certification but only after obtaining the death certificate from the hospital.
- A local Rotarian asked Spicejet to move the body. But the airline declined because unstated legal issues (possibly security, health, etc.).
- Another called his friend, a Captain at Air India and the body was flown to Kolkata where it was embalmed and kept in authorized morgue called “Peace Heaven”.
- Air India said they could not fly the body to Kabul until her passport was cancelled.
- The passport could only be cancelled by Afghan Embassy New Delhi which is 3 hours by air from Kolkata. Several Rotarians flew to New Delhi with Aisha’s guardian to cancel the passport.
- After this, the body was transported to Delhi and stored in another morgue overnight. Accommodation had to be arranged for her guardian in New Delhi by Rotarians.
- Tickets for her guardian and cargo transportation for the body from the morgue to the airport had to be arranged for the flight to Kabul. In Kabul, transportation had to be arranged to take Aisha to her final resting place.

2. Ahmadullah Ishaqzai

The second patient is Ahmadullah Ishaqzai (pictured with guardian). He is two years old. He is from Helmand province –the most dangerous province in the country. The family home was destroyed by air strikes. They had to dodge insurgents who were coming to their village to attack government forces. He is currently in India awaiting surgery.



3. Shandana

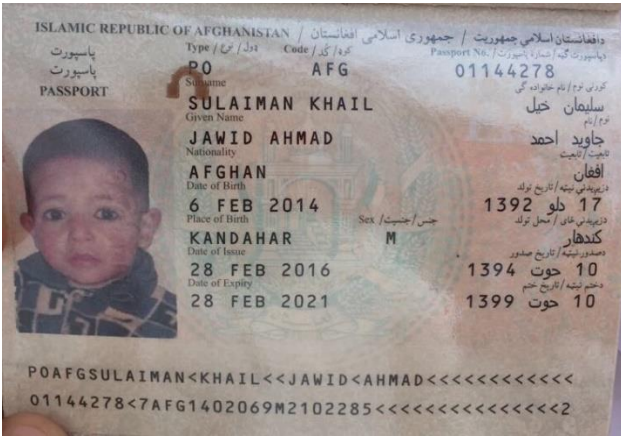


Rotary for saving her life.

She is a 16 years old girl who has knocked every door to get support for her surgery including Red Crescent society but when her health condition was extremely grave, she went on Afghan TV asking for donations to support her surgery. United Services Rotary Member Dr. Bahauddin Baha in Afghanistan went to the TV station and promised to provide free surgery in India, every arrangement was made including Passport, Visas and Operating Theater was booked for her in India. Suddenly her condition worsened so she she was transferred to Pakistan. The total surgery cost her \$9,500. This project contributed \$1,500 for her surgery that would have been free in India. Now that it is easier for her to breathe she hopes to go to school. She is in the process of healing and a full recovery. Pic: Shandana after successful surgery sitting with Dr. Baha - thanking

4. Jawid Ahamad Suliman Khail

He is the 2 year old son of a poor laborer who loads tucks in Kandahar. Every arrangement including visas, passports and air tickets were booked for him to fly to India. He passed away while being driven 8 hours from Kandahar to Kabul to fly to India. He was 4 days away from his surgery when he died. United Services Rotary paid for passports and transportation separate from this grant.



5. Two upcoming patients

Two have been approved by the cardiac surgeon in India. We are in contact with the Red Cross and Red Crescent to get emergency passports. The turmoil in Afghanistan results in long delays even on an emergency basis. The passport office responds to Red Cross requests for children with health conditions.

One child is a 9 year old girl from Kunar province. The other is a 2 year old child from Nangrahar province. As soon as they have their passports, we will arrange for the hospital to extend a formal invitation than can be used to obtain medical visas for the children. Once those are obtained. Travel arrangements can be made by Rotary personnel in Afghanistan and India.

FINANCIALS

Club	Contribution	5340 DDF	Total	
Camp Pendleton	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	
E-Club of United Services	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000	\$1,500 donated by La Jolla Golden Triangle
Bonsall	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	
TOTAL	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000	
Patient	Description		Expense	
Aisha Bibi	Passport charges		\$ 200	
Aisha Bibi	Air Tickets		\$ 1,020	
Aisha Bibi	Transfer Body		\$ 854	
Ahmadullah Ishaqzai	Passport charges		\$ 200	
Ahmadullah Ishaqzai	Air Tickets		\$ 570	
Ahmadullah Ishaqzai	Accom. & travel		\$ 500	
Shandana	Pakistan surgery		\$ 1,500	
Two upcoming surgeries	in Durgapur		\$ 3,200	Estimated costs
TOTAL			\$ 8,044	