

# GIFT OF LIFE TO UMAR MUSHTAQ

By

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**Chairman District Gift of Life Programme**

**Rotary District 3272 (Pakistan & Afghanistan)**



A boy eight (8) years old Omar Mushtaq son of a Plant Operator from Swabi, Khyber Pakhtoon Khwa (KPK) was suffering from congenital heart disorder and the poor parents came to know when he was just four months old. The process of visiting the doctors started. The boy kept on growing and his parents took care of the disease through medicines prescribed by the paediatric doctors. When Umar was only six (6) years old he was operated by a cardiologist in Peshawar and the expenses of the operation were borne by the poor parents through Social Security of the factory he worked in. Unfortunately the disorder could not be set right 100 percent. The parents

COL SAJID started running from pillar to post. The boy was brought to Children Hospital in Lahore and ultimately the parents were informed that the operation of Umar was too complicated and he be taken to India. The parents could not bear the expense involved for operation in India. At some point of time Mushtaq came to know through someone that he should try his luck through Rotary Authority in Pakistan who was running a Gift of Life (GOL) programme under which many children in the past had received gratis heart surgeries carried out home and abroad and were enjoying new lease of life. In December, 2010 he approached Rtn. Jamil Qamar President of Rotary Club of Peshawar Khyber who forwarded the case to District Governor (DG) Shehzad Ahmed heading the Rotary District (RD) 3272 (Pakistan & Afghanistan). DG Shehzad got in touch with his counter parts in India and finally his friend DG Ashok Agarwal heading the RD-3240 West Bengal, India who responded by offering free of cost heart surgery under his District's Heart to Heart (H2H) Programme. Both the DGs set in motion their co-ordinators GOL and H2H programmes, Chairman Rtn. Col (R) Sajid Baseer Shaikh and Co-chairman Rtn. Gaurang Desai respectively for co-ordinating the Hospital admission, Passport and Visa obligations, logistics, etc.



DG ASHOK GAURANG

The medical reports were sent to coordinator H2H programme who forwarded them to Dr. Satyajit Bose, Chairman and Senior Consultant Cardio Thoracic Surgeon of The Mission Hospital, Durgapur, West Bengal, India. Dr. Satyajit accepted Umar for the operation as a challenge though the case was complicated and risky. The invitation letter from him was received in the last week of December, 2010 this year and coordinator GOL informed the family to get their passports ready and apply for the visa. The passports formalities were completed by first week of March, 2011 DR. SATYAJIT and the family applied for the Indian visas which they received the same day. The Council General, Visa Section, Indian High Commission, Islamabad is highly complimented as he has always been courteous to have completed the formalities of the interviews and issue of visas to Pakistani heart patients and their wards in one day. The co-ordinator GOL lost no time and got the seats booked by luxury bus that plies between Lahore and New Delhi under an agreement arrived between the governments of Pakistan and India. The representative of H2H in New Delhi Mr. K. G. Biju got the train seats booked in advance for onward journey to Durgapur.



Umar was seen off for New Delhi with his father and mother by DG Shehzad and Col. Sajid on the morning of 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 by luxury bus. The family reached the destination the same evening and were received at the bus terminal by Mr. K. G. Biju who settled them in a nearby guest house at his expense and also got the police reporting formality done. Next day in the night the family boarded



DG SHEHZAD & COL SAJID WITH UMAR & HIS PARENTS

Kolkata bound 'Sealdah Rajdhani Express, the best and fastest train in India. En-route the train stopped at Durgapur Railway Station where the family was received by the hospital staff and they were driven off to the hospital. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2011 DG Agarwal informed that Umar was successfully operated after a very complicated operation and asked all involved to pray for post operation recovery. According to Dr. Satyajit it was a Fontan operation in a case of DILV with a BDGlen done by him a few years earlier. Umar remained in



ICU for more than usual since the ventilators could not be removed due to his critical condition. However, with doctors day and night efforts Umar was able to get rid of the ventilators on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 and

**UMAR WITH VENTILATOR IN ICU**

**UMAR W/O VENTILATOR & HIS MOTHER**

started responding to the medicines. Unfortunately, after a few days he landed into more trouble, this time his lungs became full of unwanted water. He had to undergo another minor operation for this. But his ordeal was not yet over. Once again he was ready to be discharged fully healthy but he developed mums. Finally he recovered and was discharged in May, 2011. Incidentally Umar was the first child to be operated in West Bengal under the umbrella of RD-3240 Rotary H2H and also happened to be the first child of RD-3272 GOL programme.



**PP GUARNAG DESAI WITH UMAR & HIS PARENTS**



**DG AGARWAL & RTN. SATYANARAAYAN WITH THE FAMILY**



**DG AGARWAL & RTN. RAMESH JAVINDIA PRESIDENT ROTARY CLUB DURGPUR WITH UMAR**



**DG ASHOK AGARWAL & RTN. SUGBIR ROY WITH UMAR & HIS PARENTS**

Umar and his parents have since returned with smiles and beaming faces with treasures of loveable memories of support and affectionate care by the hospital authorities and the Indian Rotarians. These handful of Rotarians of diversified communities of Muslims, Hindus and Christians unknown to each other prior to Umar's operation gelled them closer because their hearts drummed on the same wavelength to keep a soul alive. Rotarians are strengthening their feelings that human beings are one and the same and to do service, there are no boundaries and barriers. Long live Indo-Pak Rotary to see many more such ventures that may be a drop in developing understanding, goodwill and peace and in mitigating the frosty relations created by the hard liners on both sides.

The District Governor Shehzad Ahmed, District Chairman Gift of Life Col. Sajid Baseer, Rotarians of RD-3272 and the family of Umar are profusely gratified to DG Ashok Agarwal's offer of Umar's gratis heart surgery; to the Council General, Indian High Commission, Islamabad for quick grant of visas to the family of Umar; to Past President and member executive Committee Rotary India Humanity Foundation Gaurang Desai's for administrative, incisive monitoring, timely information, and apt logistic support; to Dr. Satyajit Bose for undertaking most risky and complicated open heart surgery and providing air travel from Kolkata to New Delhi to the destitute family bypassing the rigours of train journey; to Madam Sayanti Das who is the face of 'The Mission Hospital' for giving extra-ordinary attention to the family in the hospital; to Rotarian Subir Roy of Rotary Club of Durgapur who has been maintaining a close liaison with the Mission Hospital and arranging for the blood required for the surgery; to the regular visiting Rotarians, President Ramesh Janandania of Rotary Club Durgapur, to Rotarian Satyanarayan Agarwal of Rotary Club of Tagore Land for visiting the family in Durgapur, to Past President Arshad for arranging their travel back home and transit stay in New Delhi and to Past District Governor Arjun for bearing the expenses of their transit stay at New Delhi.

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