



HDF-THANKS SCHOLARSHIPS

37

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Dasti Scholarship

**In Loving Memory of my deceased parents
Abdul Rahman Dasti and Mushtaq Fatima Dasti**

BY

ZAHID KALEEM DASTI

My father, Abdul Rahman Dasti was a simple person, soft spoken, and a noble soul. I vividly remember that both, father and mother, worked very hard to raise five children, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Later, they also helped to pay for their marriages. He worked two jobs: one in the office and then going daily to the 2nd job of tending and tilling small pieces of agriculture lands that he bought through his hard-earned savings throughout his life. My mom worked at home from dawn till late night. They both were God-fearing honest persons and were respected by whoever they happen to meet and had honest dealings. My dad did not miss his daily prayers and went to the mosque regularly.



Abdul Rahman Dasti



Mushtaq Fatima Dasti



Abdul Rahman Dasti Family

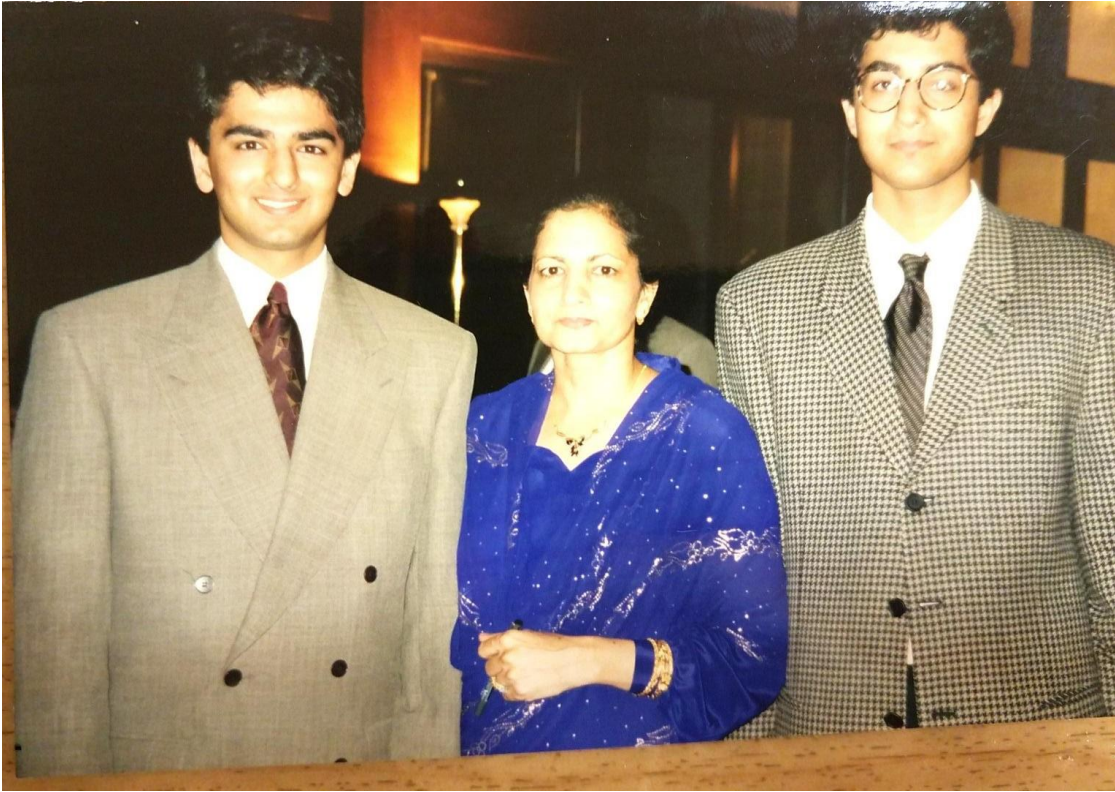
When I was in 8th grade, I saw an ad in the well-known daily provincial newspaper, Nawai-Waqt, regarding admissions to Cadet College located in HasanAbdal. I quietly requested for school admission application and applied for 9th grade. Soon I got the invitation to appear in the written exam that was held in Multan, 21 miles from our town. Everybody at home, my parents and both elder brothers were surprised since they were unaware that I had applied for admission. Ultimately, I passed those tests including in-person interviews with the school Selection committee including medical examination. As I finally received admission letter for 9th grade, my father refused because he was unable to afford Rs 150.0 as monthly fees. This was the time my elder brothers were studying in colleges in Multan city in the year 1956. Again, I quietly wrote back a letter to the school admission committee stating my parent's yearly income and college expenses of my two elder brothers asking for any scholarship/stipend opportunities. Soon I was awarded Rs 100.0 per month as a scholarship and the school monthly fee was reduced to Rs 50.0 per month, which my dad agreed to manage.

Time passed on, I completed 12th grade from college at HasanAbdal, and was admitted to University of Engineering at Lahore through competition process. After graduating and few years of job hunting in Pakistan, I moved to USA in April, 1974 under US Immigrant visa. Right at the outset, I joined night school for a Master degree while working with an engineering firm in

the city of Chicago. Right around that time, my wife, Shahnaz, joined me in Chicago with two children, Mahnaz of 3 years and Aizad of 2 years. While we were settling down in USA, my dad, back home, joined a group of relatives to perform Haj in Saudi Arabia. While in Mecca, my father started getting sick. The group, as part of their schedule, visited the city of Medina where my dad became sicker, was hospitalized and eventually passed away in the hospital in Medina, Saudi Arabia on Dec. 1, 1974 at age 75. His funeral prayer was performed by thousands in Masjid-i-Nabwi in Medina. He is buried in Jannatul-Baqeeh cemetery located just across Prophet's mosque. May Allah forgive his sins and accept him in Jannatul-Firdouse. A year later in 1975, I visited Pakistan to meet my grieving mother and family. During that trip to Pakistan, I stopped in Saudi Arabia to perform Umra, and pay homage (Fatiha prayer) to Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and to my dad. Back in USA, our second son, Salman, was born in Chicago in 1976. I completed my Master's degree program in 1977. We moved to Augusta in 1985, and have lived here since. As time passed, children became adults, did well in their education while attending week-end Islamic School in Augusta Masjid. My mom lived another 22 years and passed away in Pakistan at age 97.



Zahid Kaleem Dasti with wife Shahnaz Dasti



L-R: Aizad, Shahnaz, Salman (our boys with their mom)



L-R: Kaleem, Junaid, Salman, Mahnaz, Shahnaz



L-R: Najma, Badar, Ammi, Zahoor, Mami Zahoor, Saleem, Firdous, Neeli



L-R: Faisal, Munir, Hasan, Firdous, Fizza and Mamoon



Saleem and Kaneez Dasti Family



L-R: Kausra, Rahman Balooch, Amjad Dasti, Shahnaz



L-R: Hashim, Naeem, Shahida, Aasim

Coordinator's note:

This scholarship will recognize the brightest students of the 11th grade (in the Sciences and Arts program) at Government Post-Graduate College in Muzaffargarh. Every year, the top 3 students at the end of 11th grade going into 12th grade will receive these awards.

A committee of faculty members, constituted by the College Principal, will supervise student selection and awards distribution. The College Principal will be one of the members of the selection committee.

The monetary awards from this scholarship will commence in the year 2021. The top student will get at least 40%, the second 30%, and the third 25% of the total award. Since these awards are part of HDF THANKS Endowment, they will last forever.

It is indeed an honor for my family and me to be friends with Dasti's for more than 30 years. Every person in the Dasti family in Augusta has been actively involved and made significant contributions to our community's betterment. They have been generous financially and with their time. Our community feels fortunate to have this very kind, humble, caring, and compassionate family. May they be blessed with the best here and in the hereafter.

Bashir Chaudhary