

THE KING'S GARDEN BRACELET

AFGHAN WOMEN LOVINGLY STITCH TOGETHER THOUSANDS OF TINY GLASS BEADS TO MAKE THIS EXQUISITE BRACELET REPRESENTING KING ZAHIR SHAH'S BEAUTIFUL GARDENS.

THE ARTISANS COMMEMORATE THE LATE KING'S LIFE WHOSE REIGN WAS KNOWN FOR PEACE, NEW EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, AND CREATING THE FIRST AFGHAN DEMOCRACY WITH ELECTIONS AND A PARLIAMENT.

YOUR PURCHASE PROVIDES VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND INCOME-EARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFGHAN WOMEN SO THEY CAN PROVIDE FOR THE BASIC NEEDS OF THEIR FAMILIES.

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SHAKAR'S STORY

Shakar, like many Afghan women, has suffered much in her 27 years. At 11, she lost her father. A militant group kidnapped her brother and forced him to fight. Her sister also died of cancer, leaving 2 children behind. As a widow, her mom had trouble taking care of her and, Shakar was married at 14. She had her first child at 15. When her father-in-law died, he left 7 children behind in Shakar and her husband's care. With four children of their own, they care for 11 children between two and 18, a heavy financial responsibility. Even so, she loves her adopted children as dearly as her own and has persuaded her husband to wait to have the girls married until later as life can be more difficult when girls marry so young. She would like to send

all of them to school, but can't afford to at this time. Shakar also has health issues resulting from being hit by a tank as a child. Sometimes she passes out for 20 minutes at a time. Both she and her husband have jobs now and are hopeful that they can make a better life for themselves. In spite of her difficulties, her eyes are bright and she always has a beautiful smile on her face as she works.



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