



About Roshan Thomas (Continued)

Roshan opened her home to these students who seek opportunities outside their war-torn country. Students receiving these scholarships must return to Afghanistan to continue the work of education for all. Roshan believed that a civil society depends on education. On March 21, 2014 while in Kabul to conduct interviews for scholarships, Roshan was killed when rebels attacked the dining room of the hotel where she was staying.

Roshan was a special friend of Texas IB Schools. She personally brought the story of Sparks Academy through her presentations at Texas IB Schools state meetings and through Texas IB School's 15 Days of Caring. Roshan's first name means "light" or "bright" in Persian. In establishing the Roshan Thomas Day for Children, Texas IB Schools seeks to honor Roshan and her work. Funds raised by schools will support scholarships for students to study at IB schools and return further education for all in Afghanistan through Sparks Academy. The light of Texas IB Schools will join Roshan's light to make the world a more peaceful place.

Be the Light

By John Jacobson and Cristi Cary Miller

In a world full of darkness shadows linger everywhere
Who will stand full of promise
Who will lead us from despair
Like lighthouse by the ocean
Like a comet in the sky
Like a candle in the darkness, or a twinkle in the eye.
When all hope is lost in shadows and the day seems more like night,
Open up your heart and you can be the light!

Be the light to brighten up the world.
All the light that you can be.
Be the light that beams a ray of hope
Be the light for all to see
(2x)

Oh, a simple burning candle can pierce the darkest night.
And a single star in heaven can bring us home all right.
Keep your fire burning.
Let your true light shine.
Together hope can grow when you shine your light with mine!
Shine your light with mine!

Be the light, the light in the darkness.
(10x)
You can be the light!

Be the light to brighten up the world.
All the light that you can be.
Be the light that beams a ray of hope
Be the light for all to see, for all to see,
for all to see
Be the light
The light!

Performance Notes:

It is essential as individuals that we search for and discover the fire that burns inside of us. After discovering that fire, we should share it with the rest of the world, to pierce the darkness and illuminate the earth. As you perform this song, both individually and collectively, may you "Be the Light." -- John Jacobson and Cristi Cary Miller



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE: ROSHAN THOMAS

*My life began with duty's pride,
My life shall live with beauty's light.
My life shall sport with reality's soul,
My life shall end with Divinity's
height.*

"My Life," by Sri Chinmoy



Roshan Thomas Day for Children

January 30, 2015



Agenda

- ❖ Opening Remarks, *Karen Phillips*
- ❖ Video, *Ashton University Honorary Doctorate Presentation*
- ❖ Celebration of Life, *River Oaks Elementary School*:
 - “Be the Light,” lyrics and music by John Jacobson and Cristi Cary Miller
 - “My Life,” poem by Sri Chinmoy
- ❖ Tribute from IB, by Drew Deutsch
- ❖ Presentation of IB Learner Profile Bracelets, *River Oaks Elementary*
- ❖ Presentation of Scholarship Gift, *River Oaks Elementary and Lamar High School*
- ❖ Words from Roshan’s Family
- ❖ Closing Remarks, *Karen Phillips*
- ❖ Reception, *Lamar High School String Quartet*

Texas IB Schools had the opportunity to take action to support the **Roshan Thomas Day for Children**. Schools could design their own memorial activity or choose one of the following:

- ❖ Read an age-appropriate narrative about Roshan and develop a call to action as a way to continue the work Roshan started.
- ❖ Use IB Learner Profile bracelets for fundraising.
- ❖ Share Day for Children activities with Texas IB Schools for posting on the TIBS website. Please email activities to alejandra@texasibschools.org.

If the school includes a component which raises money for scholarships for Sparks Academy students, donations should be sent to the following address:

Texas IB Schools
Attn: Courtney Smith
550 Middle Creek Dr.
Buda, TX 78610



About Roshan Thomas

Although born in Uganda and reared in Great Britain, Roshan Thomas was truly a citizen of the world. She understood the journey of refugees because her parents fled persecution and received help from charities as they relocated in Uganda.

Despite becoming an optometrist and being married to a doctor, Roshan did not turn her back on those who were refugees. As a result, Roshan and her husband spent their personal money and vacations establishing medical clinics in refugee camps in Africa. This work led them to Pakistan and finally to Kabul, Afghanistan. One young mother said to Roshan, “Our children are dying, and they don’t have to die.” Roshan heard the cry of the mother’s heart. She spent a year living with these impoverished people to learn their challenges. She also took university education courses to better understand how to provide a quality education.

In 2003 she established Sparks Academy (www.sharethespark.com) to provide an education for both girls and boys. Sparks has grown to serve more than 900 girls and boys. Additionally, the school provides scholarships for students to study at an IB High School and university. >>>