
The SHARE Institute Newsletter- Fall 2001
(Social, Health, Assessment, Research, & Education)

A quarterly newsletter written for The SHARE Institute Community.

Feel free to share this newsletter by forwarding it to those who may be interested in learning about making a positive difference in people's lives. We are proud to include you as part of our community and plan on incorporating you in future SHARE Institute mailings. We respect the privacy of your email address and do not share such information with any other organizations. If you wish to be taken off the mailing list, contact sstolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Greetings From The SHARE Institute President

Dear Colleagues:

The last quarter has been a very busy time for all the staff of the SHARE Institute. We have moved into a nice space, funded two mini-grants in India, held a Board meeting, participated in a public advocacy event (Women Take Back the Night), started a new leadership program, held a T.V. interview, and written three proposals!!

As you might imagine, the September 11th events had a major effect on our spirit. We were all saddened for the loss of lives and worried about the effect of the events on the U.S. and the whole world. Suddenly, I was asked to speak on television, in the newspapers, and in public forums. There was a great deal of interest in learning about the Middle East, Afghanistan and the Muslim world in general.

For those of you who have written us supportive e-mails and called, I am humbled and appreciative of your kind thoughts. This spirit of togetherness and love is what drives us today to carry on with our tasks despite of our heavy hearts. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

I hope you find this edition useful and interesting for your programs. Most of the sections of the Newsletter are written by our associates, volunteers and friends of the Institute. If you have comments, suggestions, or would like to share your talents, feel free to contact me at sstolba@theshareinstitute.org or (916) 966-7482.

Soheir Stolba
President, The SHARE Institute

The September 11th Events Through the Eyes of a SHARE Institute Associate

Welcome to the 4th issue of the SHARE Institute's electronic newsletter. As an associate of the SHARE Institute, I volunteered to be the editor of this issue of the Newsletter. We are eager to share with you some of our work and humble efforts to empower women in different parts of our rapidly changing world. In this issue we will relate to you our news and reflect on the September 11th events. Also, for those of you who work in the area of sexual assault, we will have useful tips to help victims of sexual assault.

As with many of you, it took me quite some time to sort through my thoughts and feelings about the events of September 11th in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. These events were tragic for the victims, their families, friends and community. We were suddenly in not only a national but world crisis.

In times of crisis we are called to consciousness, to re-evaluate where we are, where we have been and where we will go. Many people across the nation affirmed their relationship to our country and expressed this by flying the flag. While I joined with my community to support a friend who lost her husband on the fated Pennsylvania flight, I still had time to reflect on how I and the SHARE Institute would be involved in what was undoubtedly a rapidly changing world. Dr. Soheir Stolba has been given many public speaking events to explain some of the intricacies of the politics of these events. I felt compelled to increase my volunteer hours at the Institute to reach out to some of you and get involved in making the world a better place.

I considered the role of SHARE and the impact it could have as an organization in aiding those who most suffer in crisis – the women and children of less developed nations. Many of the SHARE Institute initiatives aid individuals and groups in the Middle East, especially Pakistan, including Afghani refugees residing there, India and Yemen. We are all concerned about the effect of war on many of our friends and partners. We hope and pray for a peaceful world.

Elizabeth Torrano
SHARE Institute, Associate

22nd Annual Women Take Back the Night: Lesson Learned About Organizing Against Violence

Many of you are involved in efforts to combat violence against women. The SHARE Institute staff was asked to participate in an event called Women Take Back the Night. This annual event encourages women to speak and act out against violence towards women. This year, the SHARE Institute participated by hosting an information booth about our local and global initiatives. In addition, Dr. Soheir Stolba spoke to those assembled on a variety of issues including FGM and the trafficking of women. It was also a chance for us to connect with other organizations working toward the empowerment of women and informally share ideas and information. There

were some exciting connections made with many organizations. One local non-profit has a grant to teach self defense techniques to adolescents, women and could possibly contribute to our young women's leadership initiative.

The event was attended by a couple of hundred women, men and children. It is held at the state Capitol. Three speakers gave presentations about the effect of violence on women's lives. This was followed by testimonials from rape victims and women who have been domestically abused. The names of victims of violence were read and flowers were placed on the platform to honor them. The event ended with a march where participants walk together to protest violence. The event is an excellent strategy to raise peoples' awareness about the effect of violence on women's lives. The SHARE Institute will be happy to fund organizations who are interested in a similar event.

ADVOCACY: WOMEN UNDER THE TALIBAN
A Presentation to the World Affairs Council Chapter in Marin County, California

The Presentation through the Eyes of a Young Student

I was fortunate enough to see Dr. Soheir Stolba give a guest lecture for the World Affairs Council in San Rafael entitled, Women Under the Taliban. I came seeking knowledge and understanding along with three hundred other individuals crowding into the room with overwhelming anticipation to hear her stories of female survivors, political chaos, and individual determination over oppression.

I was inspired by The SHARE Institute's dedication to fight for women's rights. Moving beyond words, Dr. Stolba took action by traveling to countries most dangerous for women, in an effort to empower them through education and political action. In doing so, she not only spread knowledge and awareness to their society, but also to ours by bringing back their personal stories of struggle and triumph. After the discussion, I was greatly touched by the sense of community the presentation created, with more than a half-dozen caring women and men approaching me wanting to join together to make a difference.

Women fleeing from the Taliban are of the most oppressed in the world, suffering from the restriction of their basic freedoms of employment, education, safety, and the rights associated with human dignity. Obtaining this education offered me a powerful level of objectivity when considering the war we are currently facing. Also, I am left with the feeling of urgency to join in a collective action to combat these injustices.

It is due to discussions such as these that the instigation for social change is spawned, drawing forth a culmination of cross-cultural efforts to tackle the challenge of such human rights travesties. I commend The Share Institute for having the courage and commitment to support oppressed women of the World.

Rebecca Gooch, 23 yrs.

Recent Graduate
UC Berkeley

Welcome to a New Associate

Susan Scheuble comes to The SHARE Institute from WEAVE (Women Escaping A Violent Environment), a non-profit organization helping victims of domestic and sexual violence. She spent the last two years as WEAVE's Sexual Assault Emergency Response Coordinator. Susan earned her Master of Arts degree in Communication with an emphasis in Cultural Studies at California State University of Northridge and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication at San Diego State University. At Homeboy Industries in East Los Angeles, Susan worked with Latino youth trying to get out of gang life. Susan's passion for social change began while living and working in Caracas, Venezuela, a country greatly effected by poverty. If you have any questions about assisting victims of sexual assault, please e-mail Susan at The SHARE Institute.

**The SHARE Institute Receives a Small Grant from the Perinatal Foundation
The SHARE Institute Leadership Program**

The National Perinatal Foundation (NPF) was founded in 1994 as a non-profit research and educational benefit organization dedicated to funding of culturally sensitive projects and programs that would contribute to the health and well-being of women and families. The SHARE Institute received a project grant from the NPF in July, 2001 in the amount of \$2,500. The project, entitled "Mentorship for Leadership" supports the activities of young men and women in activities that foster the development of global leadership skills that can be applied both domestically and internationally. The main objectives of the leadership program are to enhance the leadership capabilities of young professionals (e.g., skills in cross-cultural communication, program development, and networking) and to provide these young leaders with opportunities to practice these skills under the mentorship and guidance of one of the Principals of the Institute. Four young leaders are currently serving as Interns. They are engaged in a wide variety of activities such as advocacy, administrative tasks, and fundraising. We congratulate these young professionals on their selection as project Interns, and look forward to seeing their projects in action.

Mini-Grants Program

The SHARE Institute is committed to carrying out activities that support its mission of empowering non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the areas of health and education. One avenue for lending support is through the mini-grants program, which helps NGOs pay for necessary expenses. Below are brief overviews of two mini-grants awarded in September 2001.

All funding is by private donors giving to others. Mini-grants are based on individuals or groups directly assisting another individual or group.

<<>>

Sense International (India)

Sense International (India) is a young organization what was set up in 1997 to support the development of services for deafblind children throughout India. Among their many programs, Sense International supports community based vocational and teacher training projects for Deaf and Blind people, lobby with the government on deafblind issues, and publish awareness materials related to deafblindness.

The SHARE institute has previously supported efforts in India for the education, health and well-being of the deaf. A mini-grant was awarded to Sense International (India) supporting a program to educate parents and their Deaf and Blind children in community to emphasize the importance of families in the education process.

<<>>

Samraksha (India)

Samraksha is the HIV sector of Samuha, a non-governmental development organization (NGO) working in four districts of Karnataka in Southern India. Samraksha was initiated in 1993 when the HIV pandemic was just emerging in Karnataka. Samraksha's goal is controlling and containing the spread of HIV infection and reducing its impact on individuals, families, and communities. One of the key programs supporting prevention is the Women's Reproductive Health (WRH) program which provides education, clinical services, HIV counseling and support, and training of professionals in reproductive and sexual health.

The SHARE institute supports efforts in reproductive health education world wide. A mini-grant was awarded to Samraksha enabling the education of medical practitioners in Bangalore, India in management of STI/RTIs and HIV.

SHARE Tips on Assisting Victims of Sexual Assault

Do's and Dont's When Someone You Love Has Been Sexually Assaulted

Do Say:

- I'm glad you're alive.
- I'm sorry this happened.
- It's not your fault.
- You did the best you could to survive.

Do:

- Listen
- Ask for permission before you touch.
- Realize that sexual assault affects survivors in many ways and that almost any reaction is possible and not unusual or abnormal.
- Allow them to make their own decisions.

Don't:

- Say what s/he should have done differently.
- Say what you would have done differently.
- Ask for specifics about the assault. But, do listen if they chose to reveal that information.
- Ask why they didn't run, scream, fight, or leave.
- Ask blaming questions (Why were you wearing that? Why were you there?).
- Take control away from the survivor.
- Forget that recovery from rape is an on-going process that takes months, years or a lifetime.
- Forget to take care of yourself.

Seattle Rape Release

Upcoming SHARE Fundraiser and Open House

The SHARE Institute will host an Open House Luncheon and Fundraiser on Saturday, December 1, 2001. This event will showcase our new office complex and include not only food, but information from Dr. Soheir Stolba about our current and prospective projects. Music by local musicians will regale us as we enjoy together the opportunity to view and purchase SHARE holiday cards, jewelry, and textiles from around the world. Invitations with more information will be e-mailed soon! Don't miss this exciting event to open the holiday season with the SHARE Institute in our new home from 12-4 p.m. on December 1, 2001.

<<◇>>

Gift Donation Cards

Many friends of the Institute sent holiday gift donation cards to family and friends. Gift donation cards are a great way to celebrate a holiday, accomplishment, or special occasion by giving to those who are less fortunate. By giving a tax-deductible gift donation, the "gift recipient" will receive a beautiful card acknowledging the donation in her/his name, and health and well-being projects around the world will receive the funds that they so desperately need. Gift donations can be earmarked for a certain project, or be used for the projects that most need funds.

Other ways to help:

**Donate money to the mini-grant program. Tax-deductible donations of any amount will help local people further improve their lives. Contributors may suggest types of projects for the Institute to launch.

**Spread the word. Let others know about the SHARE Institute and how they can help.

**Get involved. We would love to have you make a difference in international and domestic issues. Let us know your interests and how you can share your skills.

The SHARE Institute

WEBSITE: www.theshareinstitute.org

Northern California Office

8370 Sunset Avenue

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

TEL: (916) 966-7482

FAX: (916) 863-0665

EMAIL: sstolba@theshareinstitute.org

sshankar@theshareinstitute.org

Southern California Office

7717 Canyon Point Lane

San Diego, CA 92126-2049

TEL: (858) 693-7585

FAX: (858) 693-7586

EMAIL: jfullerton@theshareinstitute.org