
The SHARE Institute Newsletter- Fall 2002
(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.

Visit our updated website at <http://www.theshareinstitute.org>.

Greetings From The SHARE Institute President

Mini-Grants Reports

<<>>

Women's Health Issues and Women in Nigeria

The SHARE Institute has funded the Women's Aid Collective (WACOL) to design and provide rural women in Nigeria with basic information on sexual and reproductive health. The information will be presented in a newsletter and then distributed to women in their communities. Expected topics will advocate against female genital mutilation, child marriage, abuse of widows, and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. The newsletter will be written with the help of women from the rural communities. Focus groups will be held and rural women will express their fears and feelings toward social problems. This is the second mini-grant to be given to WALCO. We look forward to working with WALCO again.

<<>>

Micro-Credit Loans

The SHARE institute funded a Nigerian non-governmental organization located in the State of Imo to provide small loans to rural and impoverished women. Women borrow \$50.00 and sell goods and products in the local markets. The profits benefit their families. The \$50.00 has to be returned to an interest-free revolving fund. The Akunnema Micro-Credit Loan Scheme will be responsible for the implantation of this project. \$50.00 doesn't sound like much, but it can make

a real difference in the lives of women and their families. Women who have received loans are grateful for this Micro-Credit Loan Scheme.

<>

The Association for the Alleviation of Poverty in Aden

The Association received a mini-grant to collect qualitative data on female genital mutilation that do not include cutting. Data for forty case studies were submitted to The Share Institute. A second mini-grant was given to the Association to increase the size of the study sample.

<>

Afghan Girls' Literacy Program

The SHARE institute funded the Afghanistan Feminine Association who specializes in teaching girls basic sewing and tailoring skills. SHARE funded a fast-paced literacy program for young women in Afghanistan. The young women targeted in the program were between the ages of 13-14 and have not been able to receive an education because of the Taliban's ban on girl's education. The home-based Literacy Program provided basic education to young girls who were too old to attend grade school or they had to earn an income for their families.

<>

Share Institute and NAWA (New Afghanistan Women Association): Afghan Literacy Program a big Success.

NAWA has sent their technical report about the SHARE funded Literacy Program. NAWA reports a big success for the program. During the last five months, the local non-governmental organization operating in Kabul, has been working to provide literacy for Afghani women. NAWA has three literacy home schools in three various districts of the city. In each home there are at least 15 girls who are gaining the literacy skills they were unable to learn due to the Taliban government and their suppression of women's education. This mini-grant program has provided these girls the opportunity to gain basic literacy skills. NAWA expressed their gratitude for the mini-grant provided by the SHARE Institute and reports that this program is making a positive impact in the lives of women. All three of the homes schools have completed the first grade and have now started teaching second grade to the girls. The mini-grant has helped provide the funding to purchase essential learning materials for the girls. In addition, qualified teachers were selected to tutor the girls and their wages are paid by The SHARE Institute and their mini-grant program.

Now, 45 girls are currently gaining literacy skills that prior to this program they would not have had the opportunity to learn. NAWA has sent The SHARE Institute beautiful photographs of the classrooms and the students. It has been wonderful to see pictures of the girls actively participating in their education. The SHARE Institute is excited to receive news of great success for the literacy program and we look forward to continuing our collaboration NAWA and bringing literacy to Afghani women.

The Women's Foundation: The sisterhood fund Leadership in Action Program: SHARE success (LASS).

The SHARE Institute's leadership program had been funded by the Women's Foundation. The program started two years ago and provided internships to more than thirty women. This fall we welcome nine new interns. The interns started their first module of "Fundraising for a Social Cause" in late August 2002. All nine interns worked hard to prepare for the October 3rd fundraiser. The group consists mostly of women and two men. The fundraiser module's mentor was Dr. Soheir Stolba. Each one of the interns worked on a specific task to accomplish. Some worked on publicity, others prepared the jewelry for sale, and many joined the food committee. Our food included sambosas, shish kabobs, nachos, and delicious strawberries dipped in chocolate.

One of the committee's worked on the entertainment part of the fundraiser. They invited a talented musician and two belly-dancers. The event was joyful and we sold all the foods within a few hours of starting the activities. The interns have selected the cause of promoting literacy in Afghanistan as their topic and have used all the profits of their fundraiser to go directly to Afghani women gaining literacy. Many people stopped by to donate money to this worthy cause. Please, welcome Clair Cunningham, Deva Chopyaule, Feryal Said, Timothy Thomas, Heidi Lidgett, Sukmindee Kaur, Patrick Platt, Spring Packard and Rochelle Hampton.

Internships

The SHARE Institute has received numerous inquiries about internships and is proud to welcome the following interns to the Northern California office.

Rochelle Hampton is a former student of Dr. Stolba at American River College, but is currently a senior at UC Davis majoring in Cultural Anthropology. She comes to The SHARE Institute to gain experience working for a non-governmental organization after spending the summer in Japan working in a children's home for children who are considered emotionally disturbed. After having the experience of being abroad she has deepened her desire to work for meaningful causes to promote positive social change in the world today. After working with emotionally disturbed children in Japan, Rochelle has learned about family dynamics and the importance of family in the Japanese culture. This experience had heightened her interest in the health and well-being of families all over the world. Having the opportunity to work with children from difficult family backgrounds was a challenging, yet rewarding experience for her. She is excited to join the SHARE Institute and learn how a non-governmental organization can help to empower the lives of individuals and promote positive social change with respect for cultural diversity.

Internships are open to students, professionals, or the general public and will be developed depending on the Intern's interests, skills, time commitment, and the Institute's current projects

and activities. Interns can be based in the Northern California office, Southern California office, or, occasionally, internationally. Please contact Soheir Stolba for more information about internships.

Scholarship Fund

Visitors and Friends of SHARE

The month of July has been a busy month for SHARE staff. Dr. Patricia Grady, Director of the woman's Resource Center at CSUS and Ms. Jessica Higgins, program coordinator. They visited the SHARE institute office and discussed possible forms of collaboration.

Also, a photographer from the Sacramento Magazine, Ms. Hope Harris visited the office to take photos for an article that will feature the activities of the SHARE institute. It is expected that the SHARE institute will be featured in October issue of the Sacramento Magazine.

Dr. Stolba recently met with Heather Lauter-Clay of the Spirit in Flight organization. Ms. Lauter-Clay formed this organization to help bring honor, respect, and acknowledgement for the Flight Attendants acts of heroism after the September 11th attacks. The Sacramento Bee featured an article about Ms. Lauter-Clay and her efforts to raise money for a retreat for Flight Attendance to help them heal, as well as honor them for the job they perform. The SHARE Institute supports the efforts of Ms. Lauter Clay and we look forward to continued collaboration with her program.

Website

Please take a look at the new additions to our website www.theshareinstitute.org. As our organization grows, the website is a useful tool to keep up-to-date on the people and projects of the SHARE Institute. .

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