
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Fall 2003
(Social, Health, Assessment, Research, & Education)

A Quarterly Newsletter Written for the SHARE Community:

Feel free to share this newsletter by forwarding it to those who may be interested to 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>.

A Few Words from The SHARE Institute's President

Dear friends:

I hope you had a pleasant and productive summer. I am back after a very busy summer working with women in Afghanistan, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan. In Afghanistan, I was able to work with representatives of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on teaching advocacy skills. I visited our English language and literacy classes. We graduated 240 women and girls with a third grade education certificates. Many of the girls joined public schools. Women are using their sewing skills which they learned in SHARE-funded classes to make a decent living for their families. SHARE funded new classes in Kabul. In Egypt, we funded a number of women-led NGOs to offer computer and English language skills classes for women who have finished business school and are seeking employment. We started a new initiative in Nicaragua by funding women to attend sewing classes. Please see the expanded mini-grant sections of this newsletter.

At SHARE we are proud of our International Speakers' Series – about twenty women attended the first speaking engagement on the topic "Women in Afghanistan." We hope to meet on a regular basis for dinner and a discussion on the second Tuesday of every month. Please, think of joining us. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet people and to discuss international topics. Finally, SHARE is proud of the 10 new interns and wishes them an exciting semester of learning and helping others.

Sincerely,
Soheir Stolba

International Speakers Series

The SHARE Institute has started an International Speaker series to take place every second Thursday of the month. The event starts with a catered dinner in the institute's office and begins at 6:30 and usually ends at 8:30.

The first speaker was Dr. Soheir Stolba, who spoke about "Women's issues in Afghanistan." Participants asked questions and had dialogues about the topics presented. This first event was attended by eighteen women.

Occasionally, the institute will bring international experts to speak about foods from different cultures.

If you're interested in joining the second speaking event, with guest Kathleen Collihan speaking on the topic "U.S. Foreign Policy: Two Years After 9/11," please contact the institute at (916) 966-7482. Please RSVP by October 2. The cost of the dinners is usually between \$12.00 and \$15.00.

Leadership Program Interns

Congratulations to Graduating Leadership Program Interns!

The SHARE Institute would like to recognize the accomplishments of three former SHARE interns and congratulate them for their hard work and continuing dedication to public service.

Rochelle Hampton graduated from the University of California, Davis in June of 2003 with a B.A. degree in Cultural Anthropology. Rochelle volunteered at events and helped to write and edit the newsletter for the Institute during the 2002-2003 school year. Rochelle hopes to soon travel to Japan to study the Japanese foster care system.

Michelle Thompson will be graduating from Columbia University in December 2003 with a degree in film. Michelle worked as an intern with the SHARE Institute and contributed to the writing of the newsletter. In a recent visit to Sacramento, Michelle stopped by Soheir Stolba's office to reconnect with SHARE.

Another former intern, **Carly Schenck**, is currently working for Surf-Aid International, a non-governmental organization in Indonesia that provides malaria control, immunizations, outreach health service, health worker training, and provides medical supplies. Carly is public health staff member and works on project design, project monitoring, and fundraising. Carly finds her work both challenging and rewarding.

Heidi Lidgett, a faithful and hardworking intern, has worked with SHARE for a year and a half and has headed the Domestic Program. She has been accepted to the UC Davis campus. She plans to pursue a degree in Nutrition.

Alexis Morell has completed her AA degree at American River College and is now pursuing her education at California State University, Sacramento.

New Interns Joining the Institute

Tempie M. Blueford joined SHARE to help communities and make a difference. She hopes to travel to some far off countries and help children of different nationalities.

Alana Fletcher attends American River Community College and works full time. She is also the secretary on the Board of Directors for the Korean American Coalition. She is majoring in International Relations and hopes to do humanitarian work overseas. She joined the SHARE Institute to get involved with community service.

Angela Harris joined the SHARE Institute because she enjoys working with children. She hopes to set up literacy programs for homeless children around the Sacramento area.

Katherine Hutchinson is pursuing a B.S. in Anthropology. She comes to the SHARE Institute through a desire to become more involved in the community and to help those who are less fortunate.

Lauren Kelly is planning to transfer to UC Davis as an Economics major. She works for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and joined the SHARE Institute to help publicize the organization around Sacramento.

Punnaka Kim joined the SHARE Institute because he wants to work with Dr. Stolba, and to make a difference in the world. He is always available to offer his help to those who need it.

Malorie Lucich would like to someday be a journalist, and also has a great interest in Anthropology. She wants to travel to other countries, study their cultures, and to do what she can to help others.

Ruth McGuire wants to get involved in the Sacramento community by helping out people. She joined SHARE because she enjoys volunteering with nonprofit organizations.

Alyssa Rasmussen is an English Literature major with a minor in Photography. She has thought about joining the Peace Corps after college, and wants to see South Africa and Central America.

Brandy Sykes loves to help children in any way possible. She has always loved helping others and is currently planning on becoming a nurse. Improving the quality of others' lives is very important to her, which is why she joined SHARE.

Ashlee Wilkins is a Biological Anthropology major with Pre-Medical coursework. She is interested in working abroad with different cultures, as well as helping teen mothers and children.

Domestic Programs – Please Help

A Computer for All Hallows School

SHARE's interns donated a computer to the All Hallows School of Sacramento. The computer will be used by students interested in learning graphic design and using the internet.

Collecting Winter Supplies for Homeless and At-Risk Teens – Please Help

The SHARE Institute is making care packages and collecting winter clothing for homeless Sacramento teens. Winter is coming and these young people will need something to keep them warm. Items needed for the care packages include small snack-size food items (packaged crackers, juice, small bags of chips, cereal bars, etc.), backpacks, fast food bucks (or other fast food coupons), phone cards, soap, clean socks, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Some winter items needed by the teens are sleeping bags, umbrellas, jackets or coats, gloves, hats, socks, and any other warm winter clothing. Donations can be made at the SHARE office at 4750 Siesta Lane in Fair Oaks or call (916) 966-2991 for special arrangements. Donations to SHARE are tax deductible.

Art Supplies Needed for Homeless and At-Risk Children and Teens – Please Help

The SHARE Institute is also collecting art supplies for the Wind Youth Center, a school and counseling center that serves homeless and at-risk teens, and Mustard Seed School, a school for homeless children. Items needed for the art programs include construction paper, scissors, markers, pens, pencils, glue or rubber cement, white paper, erasers, and other miscellaneous art supplies. Donations can be made at the SHARE office at 4750 Siesta Lane in Fair Oaks or call (916) 966-2991 for special arrangements. Donations to SHARE are tax deductible.

Mini-Grant Report

SHARE's Mini-Grant Program has expanded to include non-governmental organizations in many countries. The following list covers new mini-grants to NGOs.

Women in Action: Women Helping Women in Nicaragua

Women in Action (Compas de Nicaragua) is an organization consisting of 30 poor women who live in a squatter settlement in Managua, Nicaragua. Women in Action runs a gourd art cooperative and has a sponsorship program, backyard garden, and animal husbandry project. SHARE supported scholarships for women to learn sewing skills in this poor area of Managua. Three women have received these scholarships.

Jennifer Laskin, a SHARE Associate, recently visited Managua to see Women in Action's programs. She reports that the three scholarships and the child sponsorship program have inspired more of the women to want to go to school. The women have plans to make and sell school uniforms once they finish their course. They already have three sewing machines!

Cultural Information & Humanitarian Services Center: Feeding Children in Yemen

This mini-grant from The SHARE Institute funds the cultural Information & Humanitarian Services Center to provide breakfast for a month to poor students of an elementary school in the Sheik Othman District in Aden, Yemen. The meals will be prepared by staff members of the school.

Enviro-Slums Improvement Association: Job Skills Training in Egypt

The SHARE Institute funded Enviro-Slums Improvement Association to purchase sewing machines and materials and hire a trainer to teach women sewing and needlework skills. Many poor Egyptians use sewing services, and women can make a handsome living doing needlework. /this NGO works in very poor neighborhoods in the Giza Governorate. The SHARE Project adds a new dimension to the existing literacy and environmental awareness work of the Enviro-Slums Improvement Association. The project will target young teenage girls and women. The new trainees will produce school uniforms and use the money to improve their economic conditions.

Egyptian Women and Development Association

The Egyptian Women and Development Association has completed two workshops that targeted young adolescents and women. The workshops were about reproductive health and community participation for women.

A Workshop on Reproductive Health and Gender. The first workshop, reproductive health and gender, was attended by 54 participants. The participants engaged in many participatory discussions and dialogues about the problems women encounter and ways to cope with social problems.

A Workshop on Community Participation. The second workshop, Empowering Women in Community, was attended by 25 participants, mostly women from the faculty of Politics and Economics. Many of the participants stated that they were inspired by the

participation in the workshops and requested further assistance in the area of community development.

Computer Training for Young Women Business School Graduates. The success of the first two workshops led The SHARE Institute staff to fund a third initiative with The Egyptian Women and Development Association. Young graduates of business schools need to learn and practice computer skills and English language skills. These skills enable young graduates to find jobs in the highly competitive market of Egypt.

The majority of middle level business school graduates come from poor socio-economic backgrounds. They are not able to pay for private computer or English-language tutoring. With the help from The Egyptian Women and Development Association and The SHARE Institute grant, young women will be better prepared to enter the job market.

An Agricultural Seed Bank for a Village in Uganda

SHARE funded a Women's Committee in the village of Kiyunga to establish an agricultural seed bank. Poor and widowed women will be able to procure seeds at nominal prices. A small revolving fund will enable women to plant small gardens to feed their families and sell surplus produce in village markets.

AIDS Research in Eritrea

The SHARE Institute Provided funding for a small KAP survey to be implemented in Eritrea. This Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices survey (KAP) will be conducted among a random sample of rural and urban individuals.

CHEDRES: Prenatal Counseling in Nigeria

The SHARE Institute provided funding for the Centre for Health Work, Development, and Research to strengthen prenatal counseling to 50 pregnant women. The women will receive a medical check-up and counseling in the areas of nutrition, health, and hygiene.

World Organization for Mutual Afghan Network

The World Organization for Mutual Afghan Network (W.O.M.A.N.) received funding from The SHARE Institute to provide training for women in Afghanistan in embroidery and beadwork skills. The trained women will be able to support their families with their newly acquired skills.

Afghan Women's Educational Center

The Afghan Women's Educational Center (AWEC) has received funding from The SHARE Institute to provide training for Afghan women in tailoring skills. AWEC is planning to provide micro-finance training to these women once they have completed the

tailoring course. These women, many of them widows, will be able to use these new skills to better support themselves and their families.

The New Afghanistan Woman Association (NAWA): Literacy in Afghanistan

In the years 2002-2003, The SHARE Institute provided funding for home-based literacy classes to serve Afghan women and girls. Two hundred and forty women finished third grade education using a rapid-paced curricula. Some of The SHARE Institute graduates joined public school to continue their education and others joined the work force. This year, SHARE had funded home-based literacy classes outside of Kabul in rural Afghanistan. In addition, NAWA will give two workshops to educate journalists on their role in civic participation in Afghanistan's elections.

The Humanitarian Services Organization for Women: Help for Afghan Widows

SHARE funded The Humanitarian Services Organization for Women to provide training for widows in making men's coats and help the women purchase sewing machines.

Sense International: Helping the Deaf and Blind in India

Sense International collaborated with The SHARE Institute in the past by providing a special educational program for parents of deaf and blind children. This year, The SHARE Institute funded a scholarship for the training of a teacher in sign language. The teacher will work closely with students to teach basic sign language skills.

INDCARE: Sheltering the Poor and Homeless in India

INDCARE has worked with women in the industrial neighborhood of West Delhi to help them through evictions from their dwellings. Many of the women found themselves homeless after their homes were declared illegal settlements and demolished. SHARE provided INDCARE with funding to provide the women with training on how to arrange for emergency shelter.

Public Speaking and Social Events

September 4, 2003

"Afghan Women Today" presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
World Affairs Council of Sonoma

Dr. Soheir Stolba's talk was well received and the audience was quite participatory and interested. The SHARE Institute thanks the attendees for their generous donations.

September 11, 2003

"Women in Afghanistan" presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
International Speakers Series #1
The SHARE Institute

18 people attended the first installment of the new International Speakers Series, held every second Thursday of the month in the SHARE office in Fair Oaks.

September 25, 2003

“Women’s Issues in the Middle East: Cases From Afghanistan, Egypt and Yemen”

Presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

American River College, Raef Hall 160, 12:20 – 1:20

October 9, 2003

“U.S. Foreign policy: Two years After 9/11” presented by Kathleen Collihan

International Speakers Series #2

The SHARE Institute

Please join us for this event. Please RSVP by the October 2. The tickets are between \$12 and \$15 and include dinner.

October 11, 2003

“Women and Violence in Afghanistan” presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

Women Take Back the Night rally at the Sacramento Capitol Building

November 21, 2003

“Women and War in the Middle East” presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

Soroptimist Club of Sacramento

Special Thanks to the Soroptimist Club

The SHARE Institute would like to give special thanks to the Soroptimist Club of Sacramento for its generous grant. This grant will be used to fund SHARE mini-grants. The Soroptimist Club will also be hosting a talk by SHARE’s President, Dr. Stolba, and contributing supplies to homeless teens through a cooperative relationship between SHARE’s interns and Wind Youth Center. The Institute is grateful for the continuing contributions of the Soroptimist Club of Sacramento and its dedication to helping women and the poor.

Visitors to The SHARE Institute

Ms. Jeanne Iben of the Soroptimist Club of Sacramento has visited the SHARE office to interview Dr. Soheir Stolba about the history and accomplishments of The SHARE Institute.

SHARE’s Volunteers

Join our volunteer groups to help with SHARE's Projects. We are looking for knowledgeable volunteers to work on domestic projects and assist us with vital tasks. Volunteers edit documents, carry out correspondence with technical staff abroad, help set up fundraisers, and help us with office work when needed.

The SHARE Institute Gives Special Thanks To Its Volunteers:

Many thanks to Ms. Betsy Steerman for volunteering her services as an editor.

SHARE is grateful to Ms. Marilyn Lembcke for helping with the mini-grants for India.

Gift Donation Cards

Many friends of the Institute send 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.

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