
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Fall 2004
(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 website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear friends:

I have spent most of the summer in both Yemen and Egypt. In Yemen, I finalized our female genital mutilation project which ended due to the end of funding. The project achieved a great deal by empowering non-governmental organizations to provide parent counseling and explain the negative consequences of FGM. At our end of project survey,

Also, I visited the Safe Childhood Center and was pleased with the progress made with SHARE funding of street children. In Egypt, I worked on a new family law that facilitates the use of courts in fertility matters. I also visited EWADA and funded them to hold more reproductive health training courses. The demand is great for these workshops.

We have a full schedule for SHARE this fall. I hope to see you at our sponsored activities.

Sincerely,
Soheir Stolba

International Speaker Nights – A Huge Success!

The SHARE Institute's first fall International Speaker Night was September 16, 2004. Kathleen Collihan, Professor of Political Science at American River College, gave a talk entitled "The Global Politics of Oil: the Good, Bad, and Ugly." Over 70 people attended the event, including SHARE board members Derrill Bodley, Kathleen Collihan, Patricia Grady, and Shaku Shankar. SHARE Intern Heidi Lidgett cooked six large pans of lasagna for the event's dinner.

The next International Speaker Night will be Thursday, October 21, 2004 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the SHARE Institute office. Dr. Soheir Stolba, President of the SHARE Institute, will give a talk entitled “The Politics of Darfur.” Several years ago, Dr. Stolba visited and worked in Darfur on relief efforts for a famine caused by drought. Nature and culture presented major challenges to all those who tried to help. Today, a new crisis in Sudan is drawing world attention. Who is guilty? Is it simply ethnic rivalry or is it intended genocide? As always, the event will include an international dinner and the event is \$15 (\$10 for students). The event will be outdoors if weather permits, so please bring a sweater or jacket in case it gets chilly in the evening.

The November International Speakers Night will be Thursday, November 18, 2004 from 6:00-8:30pm at the SHARE Institute office. Mr. Andrew Lidgett will give a talk entitled “Understanding South Africa” and will cover the people of South Africa and the socioeconomic issues they face.

Don't Miss Our Women's Relaxation Day Sunday, November 14!

The next Women's Relaxation Day is Sunday November 14, 2004 from 12:00 – 5:00. The day will include facials using minerals from the Dead Sea and special hand creams. The fee includes a lunch. Please feel free to bring your bathing suit and a towel to enjoy the Jacuzzi after the facial. A chocolate cake and tea will be served to complete the day of pampering. The fee for the event is \$50. Proceeds will go to support abused street children in Yemen. Our project funds 30 children to go to school and learn skills to keep them off the streets. Enjoy yourself and know that your money will save a child from a difficult life on the streets. Bring a friend! Reservations are limited to 10 people, so please reserve your place early!

A Special Visit to SHARE by Ms. Maria Lorena Cuellar Barandiaran

September 29, 2004 the SHARE Institute was visited by Ms. Maria Lorena Cuellar Barandiaran. Ms. Cuella is Director of Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, an organization in El Salvador that works for economic and social justice for women through small business development. SHARE gave Ms. Cuellar's organization a minigrant to fund a women's group to purchase supplies and containers to produce natural medicines and sell them.

The SHARE Institute also sponsored a visit by Ms. Cuellar to American River College. Ms. Cuellar gave the students an overview of the problem of domestic violence in her country and its connection with poverty. Ms. Cuellar was in the US to speak at the Sacramento State University conference “Making the Connection: An International Dialogue on Violence Against Women.” Through Ms. Cuellar, the SHARE Institute

hopes to establish stronger ties with non-Governmental Organizations in South America.

A Special Visit to SHARE by Ms. Reeva Sood

On September 28, the SHARE Institute was visited by Ms. Reeva Sood, Executive Director of Indcare, an organization in India whom the SHARE Institute has collaborated with in the past. SHARE funded a training workshop for a group of women squatters in India who were kicked out of their homes. The workshop taught them how to build their own homes after a government settlement was made. SHARE refunded her organization to start a feeding program for the children of the women who previously received the homebuilding training. Some of the women are currently building their new homes, and their children attend educational programs. Because of the high poverty level in these families, the children's nutritional status suffers. SHARE's minigrant will allow the children to receive nutritious meals.

A Visit by a SHARE Board member

Dr. Saira Mian visited the SHARE Institute and was briefed by Dr. Stolba about the progress of the SHARE Institute's technical programs. Dr. Mian has been working on extending the SHARE Institute's network into the Bay Area.

Domestic Programs

Leadership Program for College Students

Over the past three and a half years, the SHARE Institute has graduated six leadership groups and is currently working with the seventh. Almost 100 young women leaders have spent a semester working on learning fundraising, communication, and community development skills. The above activities would not have been possible without the hard work of the interns.

The SHARE Institute extends a warm welcome to the fall 2004 Leadership Program Interns.

Heidi Lidgett, and intern with the SHARE Institute for over two years, continues this fall as the first intern to earn university units from UC Davis for her internship. Heidi is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Nutrition at UC Davis.

Rachel Niemi, another longtime SHARE intern, is a continuing student at American River College. Rachel's goal is to become a motivational speaker, and she hopes to

continue learning about international women's issues and work with abused women while she interns with SHARE. Through SHARE, Rachel has begun a program to offer emotional support services to women, especially college students, escaping violent environments.

Jennifer Miller, an artist from Fair Oaks, has joined the SHARE Institute. Jennifer is interested in international relations and helping the less fortunate, especially women. Jennifer plans on pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts degree.

Ana Sanchez-Camacho, a physician in nuclear medicine, has joined the SHARE Institute to learn about the small nonprofit world and to learn more about global women's issues. Ana plans on continuing to work in the health field.

Dave the Computer Guru is a computer expert who is currently attending ARC to finish his degree. Dave helps SHARE with networking and upgrading the office computers.

New Internship Program Through the University of California, Davis

SHARE is offering a new intern training program through the UC Davis. Through this program, UC Davis students can receive college credit for interning with the SHARE Institute. SHARE veteran Heidi Lidgett will be the first intern to take advantage of this program. The internship will be tailored to the student's course of study and will offer them many opportunities to build leadership skills.

Clothing Drive for El Salvador

In early October, the SHARE Institute conducted a short-term clothing drive for women and children in El Salvador served by Salvadoran Enterprises for Women. In just six days, SHARE's network and students at American River College donated more than twenty bags of clothing for women and children! The clothing most appropriate for El Salvador's climate has been taken and delivered by Ms. Maria Lorena Cuellar Barandiaran when she returns to El Salvador. The remainder has been donated to St. John's for the homeless in Sacramento and some will go with Dr. Stolba on her next overseas trip. The SHARE Institute thanks everyone who opened their hearts and closets on such short notice.

Our Mini-Grants Making a Difference

NEW MINI-GRANTS

Salvadoran Enterprises for Women received a grant from the SHARE Institute to teach women in El Salvador about producing and selling natural medicines and buy supplies to make the medicines. Salvadoran Enterprises for Women works to create economic and social justice for women in El Salvador through small business development.

Indcare, an organization in India whom the SHARE Institute has collaborated with in the past, has been funded by SHARE to start a feeding program for children. These children are the children of women squatters who had their homes demolished. SHARE previously funded Indcare to teach these women how to rebuild their homes. Some of the women are currently building their new homes and their children attend educational programs. Because of the high poverty level in these families, the children's nutritional status suffers. SHARE's minigrant will allow the children to receive nutritious meals.

The SHARE Institute funded the **International Support Group** to provide ten wheelchairs to poor people with disabilities in Thailand. The wheelchairs are made in a factory staffed entirely by people with disabilities. The wheelchairs are very simple and are made from parts that are easily and cheaply replaceable. With these wheelchairs, ten people who could not afford wheelchairs on their own will have their mobility back and will be able to become more self-sufficient. SHARE Associate Marilyn Lembcke raised the money for this grant through the sale of textiles from Thailand and your donations.

Omar Al Farouk is an NGO outside of Cairo, Egypt. The SHARE Institute funded two nursery school teachers' salaries. SHARE also funded a reproductive health workshop through EWADA for students in the association's sewing classes.

The SHARE Institute has funded the **Egyptian Women and Development Association**, EWADA, to hold monthly reproductive health lectures and workshops on breast cancer. Instead of the expected 25 students, 55 young women attended the first lecture! They were enthusiastic pupils and their questions indicated the need for further information, so SHARE has funded a series of five more lectures.

The **Safe Childhood Center** received a grant from the SHARE Institute to help pay for supplies and activities for street children. The Center provides education, meals, outings, and a safe place for these children, many of whom have been abused. Funds for this grant were raised in part through the efforts of Kate Fisher.

SHARE Associates and Interns on the GO!

Marilyn Lembcke, and Associate of the SHARE Institute, visited SHARE-funded projects in Egypt and Yemen in July, and Intern **Jessica West** volunteered in Zambia and Zimbabwe this summer. Their articles appear below:

July in Yemen and Egypt
By **Marilyn Lembcke**, SHARE Associate

I joined Dr. Stolba on a trip to Yemen and Egypt to visit the non-government organizations (NGO's) funded by SHARE and to distribute new funding. In Yemen, the highlight of the trip was the visit to the Safe Childhood Center in Aden. We arrived by taxi and were immediately surrounded by the 15 children we have sponsored. They were dressed in the new clothes that SHARE provided. Some of the children are orphans and some from homes where they have suffered abuse. It is heart wrenching to hear individual stories from the Director. The new SHARE funds will be used to provide better nutrition for the children and some will be reserved for doctor visits when the children are ill. UNICEF provides the money for the rent and is in the process of helping the Children's Center find larger quarters. I saw young boys sleeping on the streets of Aden in the morning so the need is great. If you are interested in contributing to this project, contact Kate Fisher, a SHARE Associate who is the primary fundraiser for this project, through the SHARE Institute.

In Egypt we visited EWADA, the computer training center for young women. It started with one laptop donated by SHARE and now, thanks to the generosity of the American and Korean embassies in Cairo, they now have 60 computers. SHARE has funded trainers for this highly successful project. SHARE has also funded EDWA to hold monthly lectures on reproductive health and several workshops on breast cancer. Instead of the expected 25 students, 55 young women attended the first lecture! They were enthusiastic pupils and their questions indicated the need for further information, so SHARE has funded a series of five more lectures.

We visited the Omar Al Farouk Association outside of Cairo where SHARE funds a nursery school for poor children in the Saqqara area. This organization also maintains a women's health clinic and teaches sewing and life skills to poor young women. SHARE funded two reproductive health lectures through EWADA for the sewing class. SHARE funded the salaries of two nursery school teachers.

These are just a few of the highlights of the trip. It was a wonderful experience to see the result of SHARE's investment in small NGOs. Although the mini-grants are small, they make a huge difference in people's lives.

Editor's note: No SHARE money is used for travel/accommodation expenses. These costs are born by the travelers.

An Internship In Zambia and Zimbabwe

By **Jessica West**, SHARE intern

Through the SHARE Institute I was able to travel to Africa to spend 7 1/2 weeks in Zambia and Zimbabwe. I went to Zambia to work with local orphanages, sharing my knowledge about HIV/AIDS. I stayed in the capital city of Lusaka where I was welcomed by many schools, orphanages, and church youth groups. I was able to travel all over the city talking with hundreds kids between the ages of 4-19. While in Zambia, I also temporarily adopted a young street kid who was hit by a car. I spent mornings and

nights with him in hospital and tried to schedule my talks around visiting hours. He had no family so I went to care for him until I could take him to a local orphanage. The experience was unbelievable and made possible by the resources and support of the SHARE Institute.

I had a small 2 week internship arranged in the Chidamoyo Hospital in Zimbabwe. Because of a shortage of staff members I was taught how to administer an HIV test. I spent most of my time in the lab doing tests and making Malaria slides for the lab technician. I was also taught to draw blood so I could help with a pregnancy clinic. I was able to travel with a team of nurses into small communities doing well-baby clinics where I gave polio vaccines and vitamins to babies and small children. In the two weeks in Zimbabwe I gained the most knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a lot of first hand experience that I hope to use in the future.

The SHARE Institute'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 especially needs volunteers interested in researching grants, developing or updating web sites, and fundraising. No matter what skills you have, the SHARE Institute always welcomes dedicated volunteers.

The SHARE Institute Gives Special Thanks To...

SHARE is grateful to Associate Kate Fisher for her work to raise money for the Safe Childhood Center in Yemen. Kate organized a dinner and a charity walk to raise funds. Thanks, Kate, for all your work!

Project Management Training

The SHARE Institute sponsored three volunteers to attend a project management class on August 21, 2004 through the nonprofit organization **Project Management Institute**. The three recipients are **Robyn Bobisud**, volunteer and the SHARE Institute's employee, **Ethan Ireland**, a videographer who recently finished a documentary of SHARE, and **Jan Wynholds**, a computer guru who volunteered his time and skills to SHARE this spring. The one-day class taught the basics and essential tools of project management. All three participants are recent college graduates and found the class very useful and informative.

Funding of the Leadership Project by the Soroptimists

Soroptimist International of Sacramento donated \$4,000 to the SHARE Institute for SHARE's Leadership Program. Dr. Soheir Stolba, SHARE President, and Heidi Lidgett, a SHARE intern, received the grant at the Soroptimist's September 17th luncheon. The SHARE Institute will use the funds for its Leadership program.

Making the Connection: An International Dialogue on Violence Against Women

Dr. Soheir Stolba, President of SHARE, was invited to speak at the conference "Making the Connection: An International Dialogue on Violence Against Women" on September 25, 2004. Dr. Stolba was one of eight dynamic women who spoke about violence against women around the world.

Public Speaking and Social Events

September 17, 2004

Soroptimist International of Sacramento

Dr. Soheir Stolba gave an update on the SHARE Institute's activities

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Andiamos Restaurant

September 25, 2004

Making the Connection: An International Dialogue on Violence Against Women

9:00am – 4:00pm

California State University,

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 21, 2004

International Speaker Night

"The Politics of Darfur" presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

6:00 – 8:30 pm

The SHARE Institute

November 14, 2004

Women's Relaxation Day

12:00 – 5:00 pm

The SHARE Institute

November 18, 2004

International Speaker Night
A talk on South Africa presented by Mr. Lidgett
6:00 – 8:30 pm
The SHARE Institute

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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