
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Fall 2005
(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 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 stolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Visit our website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear SHARE supporters:

SHARE continues to grow and make some differences in people's lives. As the year is coming to an end, we have three events that promise to be great.

On Thursday November 17th, SHARE will host a session on "New Democracies in the Middle East."

On Saturday November 19th, SHARE will host "India Day", a fundraiser to help tsunami orphans. One of SHARE's interns will visit the orphanage to donate the proceeds from India Day. If you cannot come to enjoy Indian foods, dancing, henna, but would rather send a donation to the orphanage, please contact SHARE or send a check by mail.

The third event is an Open House to sell our nice jewelry, and beautiful scarves and shawls. Christmas is coming soon, so save your Christmas shopping for Saturday, December 10th at the SHARE office in Fair Oaks.

I hope to see you at our events. I appreciate your financial support and donations. SHARE is mainly funded by private donations.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Soheir Stolba

India Day

SHARE is hosting its second annual India Day celebration! Come and join us for Indian-inspired food, fun, dancing, music, henna and a short presentation by Dr. Stolba. The event will be hosted at the American River College Ranch House. Tickets are \$10.00 for students and \$15.00 for non-students. All proceeds go to benefit the Tsunami orphans.

International Speakers Nights – Off to great start!

The first event of the International Speakers Night of this quarter was entitled “Change in South Africa.” It was an exciting and rewarding evening for all who attended. The food was great and the conversation rolled! Professor Rudy Pearson, a history professor at American River College, showed an in depth Power Point presentation of his recent trip to South Africa. His pictures documented the changes that have taken place in South Africa thus far and also allowed the audience to see the sort of changes, both cultural and governmental, that need to take place in the future. In addition to Professor Pearson, Ms. Heidi Lidgett, an associate of the SHARE Institute and also a current student at U.C Davis pursuing a degree in Nutrition, gave a presentation on the Angel Care Center. Her pictures showed the 40 children that SHARE provided food and supplies for and she also spoke of the progress the children have made and her plans for the future. The Center is in South Africa. It provides education, food, and simple medical care to orphaned children suffering from AIDS. The International Speaker Night raised enough funds to send a mini-grant for the Angel Care Center for the year of 2006. We wish the South African Angel Care Center luck with expanding its activities for these wonderful children.

A Talk at the UN Anniversary Celebration

The UN celebrated its 60th anniversary at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Monday, October 24. Dr. Soheir Stolba, the President and co-founder of The SHARE Institute, in collaboration with Linda Copeland, MD, and also William Durston, M.D. gave talks to elaborate on the theme of “Child Health and Survival: Millennium Development Goals and the Most Vulnerable”. The talks were all very informative and the SHARE Institute was also able to raise some funds to go towards its mini-grants.

A Talk at Sacramento City College’s Cultural Awareness Center

Professor Soheir Stolba was invited by the Honors Program at Sacramento City College and the Cultural Awareness Center to give a talk to students on the topic of “Voices of Iraqi Women” on Tuesday, October 18. There was an engaging discussion that followed the talk and many students questions were answered. The Awareness Center often sponsors talks and has supported SHARE in the past.

An Award to a distinguished SHARE Intern & Administrative Assistant

One of our interns (of 3 months) will be off to University of California, Berkeley in spring 2006 as an International Relations major and Anthropology minor. In addition, she has received the UC Berkeley Alumni Leadership Scholarship. Congratulations to Aashika Damodar.

Robyn Bobisud, an administrative assistant of the SHARE Institute for 2 ½ years has decided to leave employment to pursue other endeavors. She was instrumental in helping the Institute organized and getting files alphabetized. Although Robyn won't be directly helping SHARE she will still be attending the International Speaker's Nights and Dinner and Dialogues. The SHARE Institute's President, Soheir Stolba, honored her at the "Change in South Africa" night held at the SHARE Institute.

AIDS Housing Alliance BBQ

The Sacramento AIDS Housing Alliance hosted a BBQ with Indian music and dancing on Sunday, September 18. The event was to raise awareness and start communication with people of the community. SHARE was invited to do fund raising and also give information about the Institute and its efforts to help people locally and around the world.

Tsunami Relief to TAPWA

In the past, SHARE has given TAPWA (Tamilnuda People Welfare Association) a mini-grant to assist with a feeding scheme for local preschools based in India. When the SHARE Institute heard of the devastation in India due to the tsunami, efforts were made to raise funds for a second mini-grant. Part of the mini-grant was used to rebuild homes, schools, and businesses lost in the Tsunami. The other portion of the mini-grant is being used to implement educational and training programs for women. TAPWA has requested the amount of 31,000.00 dollars to rebuild their community destroyed by the Tsunami. We are still seeking donations from our supporters to repair the destruction caused by the Tsunami in this village. We would appreciate any assistance we might get from you.

Dinner and Dialogue

Egyptian Rice and beans, stuffed chicken, beautiful desserts and much more... You will only have a meal like this at an event by the SHARE institute! After the success of the Dinner and Dialogue event last year in December with Kathleen Collihan, we decided to have another which was held at the SHARE Institute and we are proud to announce that it was a huge success. On September 17, 2005, guests received a fabulous meal and stimulating conversation led by Soheir Stolba. The topic of the evening was about issues

in Iraq. She began by speaking about her travel to Iraq in summer of 2005 where she trained 89 nurses and doctors. The purpose of this program is to create a pleasant and intimate environment for people to discuss ideas, the future of Iraq and international relations.

An Intern's Trip to India

The SHARE Institute has enjoyed much success in funding many community service projects abroad. One organization in particular that has been our beneficiary before and after the tsunami in southeast Asia has been the Tamilnadu People Welfare Association (TAPWA). This year we are sending another intern abroad to India to observe and help this organization. Since the tsunami, there are now hundreds of displaced people and children all across the Indian state of Tamilnadu. TAPWA is currently building an orphanage for these children from the Nagapattinam district of Tamilnadu. One of our interns, Aashika Damodar has raised \$1,600 dollars for their organization to fund a year's worth of school for two orphans. When there, she will bring the funds personally to them and volunteer working with children in tsunami-affected villages.

SHARE's Local Cultural Awareness Program

Several interns from throughout the Sacramento and Davis area have joined the SHARE Institute and have begun work on a local outreach project that will travel to elementary schools in the area in hopes of educating school age children in addition to raising their overall awareness of our world's many cultures. Updates on this project will be included in future newsletters but to begin we would like to introduce these interns to you with a little information on each of them and their experiences.

Katie Hulse is currently attending American River College and hopes to transfer to UC Davis or UC Berkeley in the fall of 2006, majoring in Political Science. This is her second semester interning at SHARE. After graduation she hopes to work in the fields of foreign policy and human rights. She works for the Department of Justice as a student assistant.

Mariam Aowrang is a full time student at American River College and is a double major in Psychology and Anthropology working towards a Ph.D. in Psychology. She plans to transfer to a university in fall 2006. After her education is completed, she hopes to work in developing countries doing pro-bono work, and is at SHARE to gain a foundation for her future goals.

Our 2005 Mini-Grants are Making a Difference

NEW MINI-GRANTS

The SHARE Institute continues to fund CHEDRES in Nigeria. In the past we have funded several projects with good results including last year's child de-worming project that helped approximately 200 school-age children and improved family health. This year we are working on preventive health classes on HIV/AIDS, which has reached epidemic proportions throughout all of Africa.

SHARE is pleased to announce that we are again funding Journeys Within Our Community, a community organization in Cambodia. This year we are purchasing even more supplies for students enrolled in a free English school. The school serves rural students who can't afford regular school tuition. In Cambodia, the annual per capita income is only \$240.

SHARE is continuing its support of the Angel Care Center in South Africa. Angel Care provides education, food and medical care to orphans in South Africa. We will be funding even more HIV positive orphans in areas such as tuition, school uniforms and helps to place the orphans in caring homes.

SHARE is expanding its funding of the New Afghan Women's Association to include literacy classes out of Kabul. A fast-paced program took women and girls, two of whom are deaf, from illiteracy to a third grade education in one year. The results have been overwhelmingly positive. After completing the program, many students in them have been able to join public school.

SHARE Institute has continued to fund the Egyptian Women Development Association (EDWA) to continue preventive health and reproductive health to rural woman. These workshops and monthly reproductive health lectures continue to be very successful and effective in spreading life-saving knowledge to women.

SHARE is continuing to fund the Tamilnadu People Welfare Organization to provide help and relief to victims of the 2004 Tsunami. In the year since the disaster, the villagers have been provided basic supplies and school uniforms, book bags, and supplies for children attending rebuilt schools. We have also adopted two Tsunami orphans and paying for their upkeep for one year. One of our SHARE interns will be carrying the money to the orphans. All donations would be greatly appreciated.

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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