
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Spring 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:

The Share Institute has been busy recruiting new interns and adding programs to serve the homeless in the Sacramento area. Currently we are working on children's Easter baskets – we welcome donations of children's books, crayons, and colored pens.

My trip to Yemen was successful and the Female Genital Mutilation Conference in Aden was exciting. The health messages on negative consequences of FGM are reaching families. Non-governmental organizations reported that many mothers have changed their beliefs on FGM and have stopped performing this harmful practice on their daughters.

The trip to Jordan was great! I worked with 25 physicians to improve their training skills.

We need Volunteers in all areas, especially graphic design and people with experience buying and selling on e-bay. Please call us if you have time, even if it is only three hours per week.

Sincerely,

Soheir Stolba, President
The SHARE Institute

Winter Clothing Campaign for the Homeless

The SHARE Institute interns conducted a campaign last December to collect “nearly-new” clothing for the homeless. Ms. Heidi Lidgett led the campaign. Hundreds of sweaters, coats, and warm pants were cleaned and organized in boxes and put on hangers. A week before Christmas, six interns donated the clothes to St. John’s. The majority of the items were for women and children. The campaign lasted for four weeks and was very successful. We look forward to carrying out more campaigns to help the homeless population in Sacramento.

A Female Genital Mutilation National Conference in Aden, Yemen

On December 29 and 30th, a national conference was held in Aden. The event was an exciting one because it marked the first time Aden witnessed a gathering of 340 participants to discuss all facets relevant to the impact of female genital mutilation. Representatives of 26 Non-Governmental Organizations from Aden and Hodeidah conveyed their experiences in health education to community members, university professors and decision-makers. Dr. Soheir Stolba flew to Yemen to participate in the conference. The conference was attended by many dignitaries such as the governor of Aden, the former minister of Public Health and a representative of the Netherlands Embassy. The conference participants recommend that more funding be made available to Non-Governmental Organizations in order to reach as many communities as possible.

Sacramento Magazine Features the SHARE Institute

In the February 2003 issue of the Sacramento Magazine, there was an article that featured the SHARE Institute and its President, Dr. Soheir Stolba. The article discussed the objectives and the mission of the institute. The author of the article looked favorably upon the accomplishments of SHARE, highlighting our projects in the areas of: (1) micro-credit and (2) small grants that the institute offers for education, technical training, and health awareness programs. The article was successful at capturing the collaborative spirit of the institute and the hard work of our partner grass-roots organization.

The author also highlighted the institute’s concern for global issues such as: poverty, the oppression of women and children, and illiteracy. The article explained some of the programs that the SHARE institute offers for education on reproductive health, programs combating female genital mutilation, and violence against women. Also we work on promoting literacy for women and the use of micro-credit and small loans for women. The SHARE Institute is pleased with the recognition it has received from such a popular publication and hopes that some of individuals and community members who read this article will join the institute as volunteers.

The Vagina Monologues

The SHARE Institute was selected as a beneficiary of the CSUS theatrical performance, The Vagina Monologues. The play was well attended and we are grateful to the staff at the Women's Resource Center for choosing to honor the SHARE Institute as an organization that reaches out to women globally.

New Mini-Grants

The INDCare Trust

The SHARE Institute is funding a mini-grant for the INDCare Trust. INDCare is a national, non-profit organization, formed in 1989 that networks internationally with northern India. The main goals of INDCare are to: (1) empower women for sustainable development through micro-credit loans and educational workshops on health, (2) education, and (3) shelter needs. The decisions of this organization are made with the help of board members, professionals, and elected community leaders from the Mahila Chetna Forum. Most of the employees at INDCare are women and over half of the employees are from the communities that INDCare assists. INDCare is committed to promoting community health, social justice and human rights by integrating health services with other development activities. SHARE's mini-grant goes to a program to involve slum women in upgrading their technical skills for the construction of their homes. The program will provide the women with economic opportunities and enhance the feeling of belonging during the construction of their own house. They are able to participate in decisions regarding the design of their house, while using low cost building materials. Having housing rights strengthens the status of women and helps them build confidence. This program will enhance the women's socio-economic status while also benefiting the development of the community by providing the women with construction skills and knowledge of how to choose high-quality, low-cost building materials.

Public Speaking Events

This is a busy season for the SHARE Institute. Here are the speaking engagements confirmed on our calendar so far:

Jan. 24, 2003

Soroptomist Club in Sacramento-Women in Middle East

Feb. 22, 2003	University of Colorado-Women in the Middle East
March 13, 2003	American River College-Afghan Women in Transition
March 19, 2003	Calif. State University Sacramento- Afghan Women in Transition
March 20, 2003	World Affairs Council Marin County-Afghan Women in Transition
March 26, 2003	American River College-Women's Issues
April 24, 2003	World Affairs Council-Stanford-Muslim Women's Issues

The SHARE Institute raises funds for women and children through these public speaking engagements. Please contact the SHARE Institute to book a speaking event.

Sisterhood Leadership Program

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. Please contact Soheir Stolba for more information about internships.

This semester, the SHARE Institute Leadership Program has attracted a number of college students who are interested in learning about the work of non-profit organizations. Many of the recruits are returnees from last semester's program. They have enjoyed their experiences and they hope to continue to help women around the world. Here are the stars of our program:

Heidi Lidgett is a junior at American River College. She is working towards getting her Ph.D. as a Registered Dietician from UC Davis. She has been involved with SHARE for one year and enjoys helping those abroad who are less fortunate.

Rochelle Hampton is a student at UC Davis and will be graduating this June with a Bachelors Degree in Anthropology and a minor in Sociology. She spent a summer in Japan and is currently in charge of the SHARE newsletter.

Spring Packard is a junior at American River College and is working towards her degree in Political Science. She is hoping to spend her last two years of college at the University of California San Diego.

Tricia Serfas is currently a student at Folsom Lake College and will be receiving her Associates in Science this June. She will continue on to American River College for her Associates Degree in Nursing and from there will travel abroad doing humanitarian aid in

developing countries. She chose to work with the SHARE Institute to broaden her knowledge of international aid issues. She learned about SHARE through the Sacramento Magazine article.

Rachel Niemi is a student at American River College and is hoping to transfer to the University of Winnipeg in Canada. She wants to spend her time helping to better the lives of women and children and to teach women that they do not have to live with mental or physical abuse.

Bryan Olson is a junior at American River College and is working towards his degree in Cultural Anthropology and Comparative Religion. His long-term goal is to obtain a Ph.D. He is volunteering with the SHARE Institute in order to obtain experience with an organization that is directly involved in cultural anthropological issues.

Alexis Morell is a junior at American River College. She plans to graduate from Sacramento State with a degree in psychology and eventually wants to earn a Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology.

Sarah Syed is a sophomore at American River College and will be transferring to UC Davis to receive her degree in Political Science. She plans on going to law school and would like to work with a humanitarian organization such as Amnesty International.

Faryal Said is a student at American River College who is pursuing a double major in Human Services and Business. Faryal is a refugee from Somalia. She interned with the SHARE Institute Fall of 2002.

Visitors and Friends of SHARE

Ms. Katherine Yates, a retired Clinical Psychologist and world traveler, visited the SHARE Institute recently. She is planning a trip to Afghanistan in early March and wanted to learn more about the SHARE Institute's work in this part of the world.

Website

Please take a look at the new and exciting additions to our website www.theshareinstitute.org. As our organization grows, we view the website is a useful tool to inform people about the projects of 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.

The SHARE Institute

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