
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Spring 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 stolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Visit our updated website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear friends:

I am back from a long but exciting trip to Egypt and Yemen. I worked on the female genital mutilation project in Yemen where we are making big progress establishing awareness among people about the negative consequences of FGM on the health of women. In Egypt, I worked with physicians of the Ministry of Health on writing reproductive health curricula. I met and visited with all the NGOs in Afghanistan and Yemen who have been funded by SHARE.

Our association with the Egyptian Women and Development Association (EWDA) in Egypt is a great success story! A small grant led to the establishment of a great computer center to train poor women on computer skills. EWDA received seed money from SHARE, and our one laptop computer led to EWDA receiving several computers as donations from other groups.

A Yemen project paid for breakfast for very poor children who do not have food in their homes. One of our associates visited Thailand and funded an NGO to make blankets and distribute them to poor women who live at high elevation. Another colleague went to Afghanistan and funded our literacy and skill-training NGOs.

With great pride I would like to share with you the news that one of our interns has traveled to South Africa and funded an NGO to provide nutritional meals and school books to poor young street children. Another intern will visit Africa this spring to volunteer with an NGO there. We are making a difference with your help. Please join our International Speakers Series offered every third Thursday. I hope to see you soon at SHARE.

Sincerely,
Soheir Stolba

International Speakers Series

This spring season, The SHARE Institute's International Speaker Series will take place monthly every third Thursday. The first event is scheduled on February 19th from 6:00-8:15 p.m. The speaker is Dr. Soheir Stolba. She will share her findings from her latest trip in Egypt and Yemen. The title of the talk is "Women's Issues in the Middle East: An Update." The events take place at the SHARE Institute's Office in Fair Oaks. Please bring a friend and enjoy the food and the talk. Tickets are \$12 (\$10 students) and include dinner and the talk. Please make your reservations early by e-mail at ssolba@aol.com

Domestic Programs – Please Help

Holiday Gift Bags for Children at Mustard Seed School

Mustard Seed is a non-profit organization serving homeless children. In the winter of 2003, SHARE Institute intern Cathy Wang assembled 23 holiday gift bags for children served by Mustard Seed. The children and volunteers at Mustard Seed were very excited about receiving the buckets. The colorful bags were filled with juice boxes, toys, mini-books, gloves, and other items. The SHARE Institute received a heartwarming thank you letter that expressed appreciation for the efforts to make a better Christmas for needy children in Sacramento.

A Christmas Tree for a Single Mother

The SHARE Institute provided a Christmas tree to a single mother who otherwise would not have been able to afford one. The tree was donated to the Institute by one of its longtime interns and volunteers. The family will be able to use the tree, which is synthetic, for years to come. The family was very excited about receiving the tree.

Holiday Turkeys for Single Moms

The SHARE Institute donated three turkeys to single mothers in the Sacramento area for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

Leadership Program for College Students

Over the past three and a half years, the SHARE Institute has graduated five leadership groups and is currently working with the sixth. Over 95 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.

Do Our Mini-Grants Make a Difference?

MINI-GRANT REPORTS

Afghanistan

In 2003 the SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant to the **Humanitarian Services Organization for Women**. The mini-grant was used to purchase sewing machines and offer training for Afghan widows to gain skills for employment. The training taught the women how to use the sewing machines, specifically to produce men's coats. This project was successful because some of the widows found jobs which enabled them to make a living and provide for themselves.

In 2003 the SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant to **New Afghanistan Women Association**, NAWA, to expand literacy among women. They used the mini-grant to fund workshops and literacy classes. Because of the success of NAWA, the SHARE Institute has awarded a following mini-grant in 2004 to continue their work.

Egypt

In July of 2003 the SHARE institute awarded a mini-grant to the **Egyptian Woman and Development Association**, EWDA. This mini-grant was distributed by EWDA to buy a computer and fund two workshops for women on "Reproductive Rights" and "Gender and Skill Development." The workshops provided information for almost 80 women concerning reproductive health and strategies for empowerment within their community. The women found the workshops applicable and highly beneficial, and they were extremely grateful for the donation.

EWDA has been repeatedly funded by the SHARE Institute due to their successful projects and their resourceful allocation of the mini-grant money. In 2004 the SHARE Institute awarded another mini-grant to EWDA to fund computer training for young women that would provide skill enhancement for employment.

India

The SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant in 2003 to **Sense International** in India. Because of great past collaborative relations, the SHARE Institute provided funds to sponsor a teacher's schooling in her efforts to serve deaf children. We have learned that the teacher is now taking her final exams in sign language and we wish her luck!

Nicaragua

The SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant to **Compas de Nicaragua**, a non-profit organization in Nicaragua. The mini-grant went to paying the tuition of two women to

learn sewing at a local school. They are now completing their course and are anxious to be able to provide a better life for their families.

Uganda

In 2003, the SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant to fund a seed bank in Uganda. Three committees made up of local volunteers started a successful project for their community that distributed seeds, funded seminars, and helped to purchase necessities for successful farming. The seed bank project allowed for the production of food and cash crops which enabled the local people to provide for their families.

Yemen

In October of 2003, the SHARE Institute awarded a mini-grant to the **Cultural Information and Humanitarian Services Center** in Yemen. The grant went towards providing food to impoverished children. Through a local public school, breakfast was prepared for elementary school students of poor families who otherwise would not be able to eat breakfast.

NEW MINI-GRANTS

Afghanistan

Humanitarian Services Organization for Women has been awarded a mini-grant for skill training for women.

Egypt

Egyptian Women and Development Association (EWDA) has been awarded a mini-grant to pay for a trainer to start a computer training course for women. This course will make it easier for these women to find jobs.

Omar Al Farouk Association has been awarded a mini-grant to pay for nursery school teachers.

India

Manav Seva Sansthan (SEVA) has been awarded a mini-grant to fund an “Adopt a Granny” program that teaches greenhouse gardening to elderly women. This program’s goal is to improve the nutrition of these “grannies” and allow them to be more self-sufficient and financially secure.

Nigeria

Center for Healthworks Development and Research (CHEDRES) has been awarded a mini-grant to teach adolescent reproductive health to young women in Abanwan.

South Africa

Angel Care Center has been awarded a mini-grant to purchase food, books, and supplies for poor children.

Thailand

International Support Group has been awarded a mini-grant to help distribute blankets to the underprivileged in high altitude hill regions of Thailand.

Yemen

Adiroos Women Development Association has been awarded a mini-grant to fund two showings of FGM videos on a local TV network and to integrate video in its literacy and skill training program.

Cultural Information and Humanitarian Services Center has been awarded a mini grant to continue their service of feeding poor children at a public school.

SHARE Associates and Interns on the GO!

Marilyn Lembcke, a SHARE Institute volunteer, went to Thailand in November 2003 to finalize a contract with International Support Group (ISG), an NGO that works closely with Thai Social Services. Marilyn met with Ms. Laurien Willemse, the President of ISG, and gave her \$500 for the next "Blanket Project" in the fall of 2004. ISG purchases blankets from a factory run by another NGO to train women who are at risk due to poverty or family conditions. After purchasing the blankets, members of ISG travel to the needy hill villages in northern Thailand to distribute the blankets. The recipients are selected by the Thai Social Services department. ISG has other worthy projects, and Marilyn was also able to visit a wheelchair factory that employs the disabled and a ceremony where 30 chairs were distributed to needy persons. Marilyn hopes to raise funds in 2004 to provide more wheelchairs.

Derrill Bodley, a member of September 11th Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow, traveled to Afghanistan in December 2003 to visit SHARE-funded NGOs. Derrill delivered SHARE mini-grants to the Afghan NGOs NAWA, an organizations that offers home-based literacy programs for women and girls in Afghanistan, and AWEC, an organization that offers skill training to women in Afghanistan.

Heidi Lidgett, a SHARE Institute intern, traveled to South Africa in December 2003 to deliver a mini-grant to Angel Care Center, an NGO that provides young street children with food, education, and clothing. The minigrant will provide the children, between the ages of 2 and 10 years of age, with food and school supplies. As part of her internship, Heidi selected Angel Care Center for funding and raised the money for the minigrant.

Heidi remains active in local projects, especially with the Wind Youth Center in Sacramento.

Jessica West, a new intern of the SHARE Institute, will travel Africa this summer to volunteer with a humanitarian and health organization. Jessica is still in the selection process, but she is very excited about her trip.

Future Public Speaking and Social Events

February 19, 2004

“Women’s Issues in the Middle East: An Update” Presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
International Speakers Series
6:00-8:00 PM
The SHARE Institute office

April 26, 2004

“Women’s Issues in the Middle East” presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
McClellan Park
Foothill-Highlands Rotary Club

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:

SHARE is grateful to Ms. Marilyn Lembcke for her services in helping SHARE expand its mini-grant program to include Thailand and for the many hours she has spent working in the SHARE office Sorting Things Out.

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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