
**The SHARE Institute Newsletter – Spring 2006
(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:

I would like to thank you all for supporting SHARE by attending our events and bringing your friends and neighbors to participate in all of our activities. We had a wonderful new year with many mini-grants funded. Money has been sent to India, Nepal, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. On the domestic front, our interns have done a wonderful job expanding the Cultural Awareness Program to many San Juan Schools and also to some Elk Grove Elementary Schools. This summer will be very busy for SHARE interns who will be implementing the Mexico Program for the San Juan Elementary Schools.

Recently, SHARE has been featured in the May 7th copy of the Sacramento Bee. Anita Creamer has written a nice article about my visit to Iraq and about SHARE. The article was printed in the Sunday Scene section. The interview on public radio about SHARE activities has led to several new supporters joining us. Please, tell your friends about SHARE and visit our gift shop to buy your gifts. Your support helps make a difference in women's lives. Have a great summer and see you in our International Speakers' nights in September.

Soheir Stolba

Our 2006 Mini-Grants are Making a Difference in Women's Lives

SOME OF OUR NEW MINI-GRANTS

BBP Pariwar in Nepal - The SHARE Institute funded a non-profit organization called BBP Pariwar in Nepal. BBP Pariwar will use the money to assist women financially by

teaching them the trade of selling goats. BBP Pariwar provides female goats for the women, and teaches them to raise and care for their goats. These women will be able to sell the goats' offspring to generate a sustainable income.

HALD in Ethiopia - The SHARE Institute has funded an organization in Ethiopia called HALD. HALD works to improve the lives of the urban poor in Ethiopia through awareness education for HIV/AIDS and sanitation issues. SHARE's funding for the spring will support a workshop designed to help mothers teach their daughters what they need to know about HIV/AIDS and reproductive issues.

Little Flower Primary School in India - The SHARE Institute has funded the Little Flower Primary School, run by the Tea Trust in India. The school houses the children of migrant workers in India when their families leave the area for off-season work. Without a steady place to attend school, many of these children end up as laborers. The support of the SHARE Institute will allow for the food and housing of the children of migrant workers at the Little Flower Primary School for the time their families are away.

Soon you will hear about our projects in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Thailand.

A GABY Grants

SHARE won a small amount from the Grants Advisory Board for Youth (GABY). The Sacramento Region Community Foundation awarded the SHARE Institute the grant to expand our Cultural Awareness Program to new schools. This program started approximately one year ago with several visits by SHARE Interns to the after-school programs in San Juan Unified School District.

In the summer of 2005, the San Juan Unified School District funded the cultural awareness program with a small grant to pay for the transportation of interns who implemented the program. This new GABY grant will lead to an expansion of our services to San Juan, some schools in Elk Grove School districts. The interns are receiving great evaluations from the students and the teachers.

Expanding SHARE's Local Cultural Awareness Program

As a recipient of the GABY grant, the SHARE Institute and the SHARE Institute interns are now able to expand our cultural awareness program not only within the San Juan School District but to some of the schools in Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove School Districts as well. A partial list of these schools include: Cameron Ranch, Charles Peck, Churchill, Deterding, Garfield, John Holst and Billy Mitchell elementary schools. Through the expansion of this program we will be able to bring cultural awareness to an

even wider range of students. Our interns are doing a great job and receiving great evaluations from all participants and observers.

International Speakers' Events

India –The SHARE Institute sponsored a fundraiser on March 9, 2006, in which Dr. Soheir Stolba spoke about India and the problems many women face there. SHARE intern Aashika Damodar talked about her recent trip last December to India to deliver \$1,615 to TAPWA, an orphanage that helps children left without parents or a home in the wake of the tsunami.

Some of the current issues confronting women are both the trafficking of women and the traditional dowry system. While India is one of the fastest growing populations in the world, poverty and servitude are serious concerns. While many women are sold into contracts as maids, others are sold into bondage as prostitutes.

Aashika raised the money to sponsor three children at the TAPWA orphanage in Tamil Nadu. She showed slides of photographs of her trip and the orphans at the TAPWA. The slides showed people building the second level of the orphanage and the daycare center TAPWA had helped to implement. The SHARE Institute also has helped to launch a program in which each child at the daycare get one egg per week, which is the only protein that the children get into their diets. There are teachers who assist the daycare on a voluntary basis.

When many of the people in the audience asked what could be done to help these children, Aashika said some governmental agencies in India often lack transparencies and much of the money donated to the tsunami relief has disappeared. Often it helps to donate money to a smaller organization, such as TAPWA or the SHARE Institute because money cannot be wasted.

Iraqi –Women's Issues. The SHARE Institute also hosted an event entitled “Iraqi Women Speak” on April 27. Dr. Soheir Stolba recently returned from two weeks in Iraq to train physicians. She interviewed Iraqi women physicians and administrators about the ways in which the war has affected their lives. Some of the key issues for women are lack of security, fear from fundamentalist groups, lack of services and failure of infrastructure support such as scarcity of clean water, and shortages of electricity.

SHARE has extended support to an orphanage in Baghdad. The money will buy fuel for the newly donated generator.

Dinner and Dialogue

The Future of Iraq: Creative Strategies – On February 11th SHARE’s first dinner and dialogue event took place. The discussion group was led by Professor Kathleen Collihan and Dr. Soheir Stolba. The topic for the discussion was creative strategies for the future of Iraq.

Professor Collihan and Dr. Stolba spoke of Stolba’s recent seven week stay in Baghdad. They discussed the phases that have taken place in Baghdad over the last three years of the war. They spoke about preparation by the U.S. for war and how politicians and the media were handled and the disbanding of the 135,000 soldiers and officers. The disbursement of the political party and the subsequent rise in unemployment were among other issues.

Dinner guests were asked to form groups and discuss multiple possible strategies for a process in which the Iraqi war could be brought to an end. There were many suggestions and a very lively discussion among all participants.

As usual, the dinner was a delightful success, not only from a culinary standpoint but by leaving the guests with many thought provoking insights as well.

SHARE’s Public Presentations

Voices of Iraqi Women: A Presentation at Sacramento State University - On March 7th, Dr. Soheir Stolba, on behalf of the SHARE Institute, lectured to a class of students who are studying “Theories of Feminism” at the California State University. She had interviewed Iraqi women during her recent seven-week trip to Baghdad. She talked about the gains and losses the war has brought with an emphasis on the problems Iraqi women face as a result of the war. Stolba said she had never been to such a dangerous place, even though she had facilitated her consultant program training doctors during a civil war in Yemen, and during the war in Afghanistan.

Stolba stated that mistakes and divisive elements were the main cause for the disbanding of 150,000 Iraqi troops, which then lead to a rise in insurgency and the systematic de-Baathification in which teachers, professors and other professionals were fired from their jobs, leading to massive unemployment.

The issues discussed were of much interest to the students in the class. The lecture was cosponsored by the Cultural Awareness Center and the Women Center. The presentation was one of many in a series at CSUS in honor of Women’s History Month.

A Presentation About SHARE Activities to Members of SIRS 102 Club - Both Dr. Soheir Stolba and Ms. Marilyn Lembeck spoke in front of about 165 members of the SIRS 102 Club in Carmichael. The topic dealt with SHARE's activities over the last six years. The group mentioned that they enjoyed the presentation very much.

Presentation to the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of California - In celebration of women's history month, the Department of Financial Institutions of the State of California, invited Dr. Soheir Stolba to give a presentation on the SHARE Institute. Women staff members were very interested in the impact of the mini-grants on the lives of women abroad.

Presentation to San Juan School District Site Coordinators. Dr. Stolba was asked to speak to about fifty site coordinators and teachers from the San Juan Unified School District about ways to integrate Mexico into the cultural awareness program. The presentation was highly evaluated by the participants and it is hoped that the district will continue to collaborate with the SHARE Institute on the important project.

Presentation to Yuba College Students. Dr. Stolba spoke to a group of students from Yuba College about her experiences in Iraq. The Program was sponsored by Crossing Borders and Building Bridges in the College.

Presentation at University of California, Davis. On May 8th, 2006 Dr Soheir Stolba was a moderator in a campus event sponsored by the Women Center at U.C. Davis. The event included Muslim business women from the community.

Local Activities and Projects

A Visit to the West Sacramento Sikh Temple - Dr. Soheir Stolba accompanied Dr. Patricia Grady, a Sacramento State Professor and a SHARE Board member and Dr. Prit Paul Kaur in a visit to the Sikh Temple in West Sacramento. The team was introduced to the leaders of the Temple and to community leaders in the area. The subject of discussion was possible forms of collaboration. A delicious meal was offered to all individuals attending the Temples Sunday Service.

Scholarship for Ms. Feryal Said - Ms. Feryal Said, a SHARE Institute intern has received a scholarship from the Soroptomists' Club in Sacramento. Ms. Said is a student at American River College finishing an AA degree in Business. She has joined SHARE for three years and continues to provide valuable services to the institute. Congratulations!

A Student Funded – the SHARE Institute funded a single struggling mother to purchase college books for the fall semester. These funds went to an American River college student.

Forty Baskets Donated to Mustard Seeds Students. For Easter, two SHARE interns donated 40 baskets with goodies to young students of the Mustard Seed School.

SHARE's Participation in Community Events

Anthropology Expo - The SHARE Institute tabled at the Anthropology Expo at American River College Wednesday April 19. Sierra College Prof. of Anthropology Jennifer Molina-Stidger spoke about the science of forensic anthropology and how it is used today.

2006 Volunteer Boutique – The SHARE Institute also tabled at the Roseville Galleria for an event that promoted non-profit organizations and give shoppers information about volunteer opportunities available. The event took place from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Our Interns!

SHARE Institute intern Aashika Damodar has been accepted to the University of Berkeley. She is currently attending classes at Berkeley. Ms. Katie Hulse, another intern, has been accepted to UC Davis. Mariam Aowrang has been accepted at U.C. Davis and San Francisco State University. Good luck to all our successful interns.

Ms. Heidi Lidgett has graduated from U.C. Davis with a degree in Clinical Nutrition. Heidi continues supporting SHARE.

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 skill**

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