
The SHARE Institute Newsletter – Spring 2007
(Social, Health, Assessment, Research, & Education)

A Quarterly Newsletter Written for the SHARE Community:

Please 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 [sstolba@aol.com](mailto:ssolba@aol.com).

Visit our website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear SHARE supporters:

I hope all is well with you. I had a great trip to Vietnam over Christmas break. I spent three weeks traveling throughout the whole country and, fortunately, was able to connect with three non-governmental organizations. The connections were made via Ms. France Nguyen, a Fulbright scholar and friend in Vietnam. It was very important to be introduced by a well-trusted scholar. I was particularly very touched by one of the HIV/AIDS activities whose efforts were outstanding in creating public awareness about HIV/AIDS. SHARE funded four projects in Vietnam. The first was a HIV project to pay for baby formula for orphaned children and supplies to make scarves for patients of HIV. Two other projects revolved around offering workshops to create awareness about domestic violence and combating the trafficking of woman. Finally, SHARE provided funding for eight minority children to be fed lunch for a six month period. I would like to thank all of you who contributed to SHARE or bought our products. These funds go directly to projects, such as these in Vietnam and around the world. I hope to see you soon at our upcoming International Speakers' events.

Sincerely,

Soheir Stolba

Purchase Silk Reversible Jackets

While in Vietnam, the women we funded produced the most wonderful silk jackets. They are reversible-black in side and other colors outside. The sizes we have are Large and extra-large. They are going fast. Each jacket is for \$100. Contact the SHARE office via my e-mail [sstolba@aol.com](mailto:ssolba@aol.com).

“War, Women, and Violence: Perspectives on Recent Events in the Middle East”

Sacramento State University in conjunction with the SHARE Institute held a conference on Oct 7, 2006.

The conference began with Sociology professor Nidal Hijazi’s lecture on the Israeli-Lebanese conflict. He shared information about the destruction on Hezbollah, which included 800,000 Lebanese deaths. Over half of the lives lost were those of innocent women and children because they were used as shields. According to Professor Hijazi, the attack on Lebanon led to 60% of the hospitals not functioning and schools being destroyed. In addition, tourism was negatively impacted, when the beaches were blackened by oil spills, and a majority of the hotels were destroyed.

Medical Anthropologist and A.R.C. professor, Soheir Stolba, was next to speak on the crises women face in post-war Iraq. She has facilitated programs training doctors in Iraq for over a year. Dr. Stolba reported on the increase in danger for these doctors who were targeted by insurgents because they save lives. Some of the doctors were subject to having their children kidnapped and held ransom during these training sessions. In addition, women would receive death threats through a series of three letters that would end in their murder by insurgents.

An American Afghani journalist, Fariba Nawa, spoke of her personal experience with women and violence in Afghanistan. Under Taliban rule, women were scarred into obedience by public hangings in stadiums after they defied gender roles. They were not allowed to acquire an education, were forced to wear burkas and were prisoners in their own homes. When the Taliban was put out of force, there was a woman’s rights revival, where they regained more equality. Unfortunately, the government was not supportive financially, and the Taliban is regaining power. Currently, the Taliban has returned to scare tactics to put women back into ‘their place’.

The conference was concluded with Ghada Masri’s lecture on how we should bring it all together. There was participation from the audience and a discussion on the topics raised. All of those who attended left with a better perspective on the recent events in the Middle East, and the effects on the people who lived through them.

Recent and Upcoming Events

International Speakers’ Events

Iranian-US Politics: A Panel Discussion by Mr. James Whitaker, Dr. Soheir Stolba, and Ms. Leva Ahmadi

Thursday, March 15th, 2007, 5:30-8:15pm at The Offices of the SHARE Institute

8370 Sunset Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA (916) 966-7482

Please join us for a discussion about the history of Iranian-US politics. Mr. Whitaker, an international consultant who has worked in Iran, will discuss the UN resolution and the possible confrontation with Iran. Ms. Ahmadi will focus on discussion about women and human rights issues. This event requires reservations, so please contact SHARE at SStolba@aol.com or by telephone at (916) 966-7482. This event costs \$10.00 for students and \$20.00 for non-students.

Africa Day

Saturday, April 21, 2007, 11:00am-2:00pm

The SHARE Institute is planning an Africa Day event. The SHARE Institute will soon email out the invitation with all the specifics. This event will include fun activities that are native to Africa; this will help promote awareness of African culture. We will also be sharing indigenous African cuisine and display cultural dress and jewelry. Please join us to have fun and learn more about Africa.

SHARE'S Open House

On December 2, 2006 the SHARE Institute held its annual holiday open house. Approximately 75 people enjoyed eating cookies and learning about the SHARE Institute's projects while browsing through SHARE's large collection of jewelry and international items. Specially featured were items from countries including Thailand, Cambodia, and Egypt. The SHARE Institute would like to thank this event's attendees for their support. The proceeds of this event have gone to fund new mini-grants in Vietnam and Cambodia. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's open house.

Keeping Friendly Connections

Mrs. Claire Ali, a former intern who keeps in touch with SHARE whenever she visits her family in Sacramento, visited the office and volunteered her time to work on the SHARE

jewelry. Claire lives in Manchester, England and she is studying graphic design at a local college. She will be joining the University of Salford, Manchester.

Aashika, a former intern of SHARE now attending the University of Berkeley, has visited the SHARE Institute and touched base with us here at SHARE. She is pursuing anthropology and political science as her majors, which continues her advocacy.

Heela, also a former intern of SHARE, is now attending McGeorge and will be graduating this Spring as an attorney.

Who are Our New Interns?

SHARE is proud to introduce its new interns.

Amanda Ross

Hi, my name is Amanda Ross. This is my first semester with SHARE, and I am really excited about this amazing program. I became interested in SHARE, when Dr. Stolba came back from Vietnam and told my physical anthropology class about her adventures on her trip. I cannot wait to further my knowledge about other countries. I am attending my fourth semester at American River College. I am Sociology major and I would like to transfer to UCLA. I plan on going to law school after I graduate, to become a district attorney.

William de Ryk

Hello, my name is William de Ryk. I am a second year student at American River Junior College. I am a new intern to SHARE and I am looking forward to an exciting semester. I am a music performance major and have been playing the flute and piccolo for ten years. After ARC, I plan on transferring to UCLA to pursue a bachelor's degree in music. Also, I hope to attend the San Francisco Conservatory of Music for my master's degree in music performance. As a career I would like to both teach at a university level and perform in orchestras that record soundtrack music. Outside of school and music, I love to travel, clean things, and spend time with family and friends.

Rebekah Marshall

My name is Rebekah Marshall and I am a returning intern. This is my second semester with SHARE. I attend ARC, as a nursing major, and plan on applying to nursing programs in the fall. I enjoyed being a part of SHARE last semester and look forward to another successful semester helping further SHARE's impact and influence in making a difference in people's lives.

Ashlyn Owen

My name is Ashlyn Owen, I am 19 years old and a student at American River College. I am studying to be an architect and plan to transfer to Cal Poly in San Louis Obispo in the fall of 2008. I became interested in anthropology and world affairs in 2006, when I had

the pleasure of taking a course from anthropologist Mrs. Susan Lord. I enrolled in another anthropology class when I entered ARC, and was lucky enough to study under Dr. Stolba. I am honored to have the opportunity to be an intern at SHARE.

Lauren Herman

My name is Lauren Herman and I am a returning intern. I have attended ARC for four semesters and in fall 2008, I plan on transferring to UC Berkeley. There I will plan on major in Peace and Conflict studies and attending graduate school in the International and Area Studies Program with Africa as my area of emphasis. Other than interning at the SHARE Institute, I am a member of the ARC Peace and Justice Club. I joined the SHARE Institute to learn and gain a different perspective on global issues.

Danielle Jones

My name is Danielle Jones and this is my first semester interning for SHARE. I've been at ARC for a couple of semesters already and plan to transfer to UC Berkeley in a couple more semesters. I'm majoring in anthropology and joined SHARE because I enjoy helping people. I want to get involved in nautical archeology and have a love for discovering the past. Right now I'm a licensed optician working part-time, going to school full time, as well as help people through SHARE.

Veronica Fehlberg

My name is Veronica Fehlberg and I'm finishing my last semester at ARC. I plan to transfer to UC Santa Barbara in the fall and major in sociology or anthropology. This is my third semester with the SHARE Institute and I love what the SHARE Institute does. It's a great feeling to know that I make a difference internationally and locally. I've been doing a lot of work with local elementary schools and spreading cultural understanding. I plan to aspire to be an anthropology and sociology professor who works on human rights violations with paid sabbaticals.

Elizabeth Bennett

My name is Elizabeth Bennett and this is my second semester as an intern at SHARE. I met Dr. Stolba when I attended her Cultural Anthropology class. She inspired me; and as a result of her infectious passion for helping people, I became an intern at SHARE. I am now attending ARC and will be transferring to UC Davis next spring. I am majoring in International Relations.

Hilary Thomson

Hello, my name is Hilary Thomson and this is my first semester at The SHARE Institute. I am in my final semester at American River College and am planning on transferring to UC Davis pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with an emphasis on public service. I am very excited about interning at The SHARE Institute this semester because I am passionate about human rights, especially when it comes to women's and minority rights. Along with supporting The SHARE Institute, I am also a member of the Model United Nations and International clubs on campus, and serve as the Parliamentarian for the State Student Black Caucus.

Nathen Menard

My name is Nathen Menard and I am a student at American River College. My major is Sociology and Geography with a minor in Anthropology. I am transferring to UC Berkeley in the fall of 2007. When I complete my master's degree in Sociology I would like to become a professor at a community college. I became involved with the SHARE Institute because I have a deep desire to learn about other cultures and help people around the world take a step towards bettering their lives, both individually and within their communities.

New Associate

Ms. France Nguyen, a Fulbright Scholar in Hanoi, Vietnam, has joined the SHARE Institute as an associate to oversee SHARE's projects in Vietnam.

Cultural Awareness Program

SHARE is continuing our second year of working with local elementary, and middle schools in our community to spread cultural awareness and understanding. Last fall, SHARE's teams visited thirteen schools in the Carmichael school district with a GABY Grant. In 2007, we have arranged to visit seven schools in the Arden Arcade area this spring with a donation from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Our interns dress in ethnic clothing and bring with them a wide array of items from around the world to display for the children. We have various artifacts ranging in origin from Afghanistan to Morocco. Each presentation is concluded with a hands-on activity for the children, such as making beaded bracelets and acknowledging the different cultural significances of the colors. The objective of this program is to inspire children to respect other cultures and think globally.

Recently Funded International Mini-Grants

A Mini-Grant in Namibia

Children's Home Project

The SHARE Institute awarded the Children's Home Project a mini-grant to fund the purchase of a refrigerator for orphans of Namibia.

A Mini-Grant in Nicaragua

Compas De Nicaragua

SHARE funded Compas de Nicaragua to help create workshops for awareness of domestic violence. The workshops include 40 women and 10 adolescent girls that encompass topics of men and women's roles in Nicaragua, inter-family violence, alcoholism, and child abuse.

A Mini-Grant in India

Law

The SHARE Institute provided Law with a mini-grant to promote HIV/AIDS education. This will help increase HIV/AIDS awareness in India.

A Mini-Grant in Yemen

Safe Children's Center

The SHARE Institute provided a mini-grant to the Safe Children's Center, which is the care of street children. SHARE helps provide the necessities for the children.

Mini-Grants in Vietnam

The Vietnam Fund

The SHARE Institute provided a mini-grant to the Vietnam Fund. The Vietnam Fund is a feeding program for minority children and SHARE helps provide food for the children.

The Institute for Reproductive & Family Health

This institute is involved with anti-trafficking in women campaign in North Vietnam.

Hoa Sua

The min-grant provided to Hoa Sua aides in the purchase of baby formula to 18 orphaned babies and the purchase of supplies for HIV patients to produce handcrafts.

The Center for Education Promotion and Empowerment of Women

The SHARE Institute provided a mini-grant to conduct a workshop on domestic violence.

Recently Funded Local Mini-Grants

WEAVE

WEAVE is a local non-profit organization that assists abused women. SHARE interns donated numerous stuffed animals and toys to be used by children in homes disturbed by domestic violence.

Donation to Single Mothers

For Thanksgiving, SHARE presented food bags to three different families. The food is donated to deserving family's right in time to help out for Thanksgiving dinner.

SHARE Interns Scholarships

Scholarships were provided by the SHARE Institute to some of SHARE's interns for school this semester.

Book Scholarships

SHARE has also provided multiple book scholarships this semester to aid in the purchases of books.

American River College Scholarship

SHARE has provided a scholarship to American River College for a deserving scholarship winner to attend college.

SHARE's Speaking Events

Vietnam in Transition

In the month of February SHARE held a speaking event at the office about Vietnam. Dr. Soheir Stolba just returned from a visit to Vietnam and shared her travels and also updated attendees of the new projects SHARE sponsored in Vietnam.

Cultural Awareness Program

Sacramento Region Community Foundation

The SHARE Institute was awarded a mini-grant by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to further our cultural awareness program. We travel to different elementary schools promoting cultural awareness by providing interactive ways of sharing different cultures all around the world. Through this mini-grant we are moving through the Bridges After School Program in the Arden Arcade area.

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Gift Donation Cards and Gifts

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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