
The SHARE Institute Newsletter – Spring 2008
(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 stolba@aol.com.

Visit our website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear SHARE supporters:

I am pleased to be back in the U.S. after a 3-week trip to beautiful South Africa. The history and the natural beauty of the country makes it appealing to scholars and tourists alike. SHARE will have a presentation on the topic of "Winds of Change in South Africa" in March. I hope to see you soon at our February 21st event where SHARE will be celebrating the return of seven interns who have spent the winter break helping women in Nicaragua.

Sincerely,

Soheir Stolba

Past International Speakers' Event

The SHARE Institute was pleased to host Michael and Ana Bourdreau on September 20th as guest speakers in our international speaker series. Our guests enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by a presentation by Michael and Ana on the activities of their non-profit organization, Compas de Nicaragua, and the lives of women and children served by the organization. Several of our interns were inspired by this event to visit Compas de Nicaragua to perform community service over the winter break.

Globalization Conference

On November 10, 2007, The SHARE Institute held its fourth annual Violence Against Women Conference, subtitled “Globalization and Women: The Good, Bad, and Evil,” in conjunction with the Sacramento State Women’s Resource Center. We had an excellent turnout with approximately 85 students, board members, and members of the community present. We were fortunate to have 4 fascinating speakers enlighten us on various aspects of globalization and its effects on women.

Our day began with a brief introduction by Dr. Soheir Stolba, President of The SHARE Institute. Dr. Stolba discussed the various projects that The SHARE Institute is involved with including HOA SUA, which provides formula to infants with AIDS in Vietnam and our home-based literacy project in Afghanistan, which works to grant literacy to women and girls in rural Afghanistan. Dr. Stolba was proud to share that, over the past seven years, The SHARE Institute has supported 193 projects, of which 60 were in the United States, while the rest were in 26 countries around the world. Dr. Stolba also spoke about two upcoming events, The StoryVoices play, to be held on November 17th, 2007, and our Open House, held on December 1st, 2007.

Our first keynote speaker of the day was Dr. Mridula Udayagiri, an associate professor of sociology at Sacramento State University. Dr. Udayagiri began with a basic definition of globalization as the process by which different peoples are incorporated into a single, global, society. This process has been accelerating lately, due to improvements in global communication which create a more globally connected, interdependent, society. An example of this interdependence is the IMF, which is funded by wealthier nations and provides monetary assistance to developing countries. When this is related to women’s issues, women’s work in today’s money-based markets is often un or under-compensated due to its nature. The devaluation of women’s work leads to a decrease in the status of women. Dr. Udayagiri presented solutions to this crisis which included the education of women, teaching them skills to take on market policies, and the idea of responsible competition.

Our second address was given by Dr. Sujata Warriar, who discussed how women are affected by Globalization. Warriar spoke about how women globally earn 20-30% less than men do, while their work hours exceed those of men by 30%. Of the 550 million members of the global working poor, 330 million are female. An example of the abuse that working women face in other countries occurs in Kenya, where 90% of women working on coffee and tea plantations have experienced or witnessed sexual abuse. Warriar then explained that the world consists of many intersecting webs in which there are racialized ideologies of masculinity, femininity, and sexuality that play roles in socially constructing the worker, consumer, and manager. We were left with a challenge to try to interrupt the process in order to make the world a safer place for the working poor.

After a delicious lunch, shopping, and a belly dancing performance, Dr. Stolba spoke about the strategies used by Chinese women in developing countries. 30 years ago, China, and its 1.3 billion citizens, was closed off to trade with the global market. Following the economic opening of the Chinese market, 400 million people were lifted

out of poverty through the process of globalization. This globalization and the trade agreements between the United States and China caused interdependence between the two countries. The United States is currently the recipient of 22% of China's exports while China is the United State's 4th largest export market. China is currently focusing on 3rd world nations in order to expand its' markets and influence. An example of China's means of gaining access to these markets is the use of a traditional Egyptian sales model in households. Chinese women conduct research on (in this case Egyptian) families by residing in a neighborhood and selling, door-to-door, various wares. These women are taught to speak the local dialects and, through research, are able to gain a true picture of local customs and spending habits. This practice can cause unemployment among Egyptian locals, because unemployment is already a big problem, literacy is 58%, and the per capita income is about \$4282 a year. The reason that China is expanding its market is because they fear trade dependence on The United States and wish to gain access to the rich resources of developing nations.

Our final speaker was Ms. Aashika Damodar, a senior at University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Damodar is a former fellow with The Polaris Project, serving as a young leader in the global anti-trafficking movement. She spoke about the fact that, worldwide, 27 million people are enslaved by human trafficking and, of those, approximately 50 million are in the United States. Trafficked humans are not necessarily used only as sex workers; they are also often used as household help, in restaurants, and as field labor. The main tenet of human trafficking is that force, fraud, and coercion are used by the traffickers, movement is not necessarily involved. The trafficked women are lured into other countries by promises of education, waitressing, and nanny jobs. Instead, they have their papers taken from them and are forced to work for no wages. Many of these women end up in brothels. These women are unable to escape because, psychologically, they blame themselves for their condition.

We hope that our Conference was informative to all and would like to thank all of our speakers, attendees, and the Sacramento State Women's Resource Center for their help in making our event so successful.

The above description of the content of the conference reflects a SHARE Institute intern's point of view regarding the materials presented.

StoryVoices

On November 17th, The SHARE Institute hosted an evening of song and spoken-word theatre entitled "Honestly Women," performed by the group "StoryVoices." this performance provided a portrait of the experiences of women across generations, cultures, and centuries. During the play, attendees were treated to an exciting array of vignettes. Attendees also enjoyed browsing through jewelry and other items sold by The SHARE Institute during intermission. The SHARE Institute wishes to thank the cast for donating their time and effort to benefit the women of the world.

SHARE's Open House

On December 1st, The SHARE Institute held its annual holiday open house. Our guests 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 the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The SHARE Institute would like to thank this event's attendees for their support. The proceeds of this event are to fund new mini-grants. We look forward to seeing you again at next year's Open House.

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-Grant

A Mini-Grant in Thailand

International Support Group Foundation

The SHARE Institute awarded the International support group foundation a mini-grant for the distribution of wheelchairs to economically disadvantaged men and women living with a mental disability, physical disability, or other medical condition.

In 2007, The SHARE Institute funded a total of eighteen projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Thailand, and Vietnam. We also funded six projects in the U.S.

Gift Donation Cards and Gifts

Many friends of the Institute send 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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