
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Summer 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:

I am pleased to bring to you information about our new domestic program in the US. The SHARE Institute's interns have selected the theme of "Helping Organizations that Serve Homeless Adolescents and Children." SHARE provided much needed books, equipment, food and incentives for students to do better in school. I am very proud of the interns who worked hard to get donations and who coordinated well with service organizations.

With regard to our international programs, I am excited about the graduation of 240 Afghan women and children from our literacy programs. The graduates will have a third grade education and many are moving on to public schools to continue their education. It is truly amazing to see how dedicated and hard working these women are in their desire to bring improvements to Afghanistan.

The SHARE Institute funded several new projects in Afghanistan teaching women bead work skills. Also, the Institute has funded a Nigerian group to provide prenatal care to pregnant women. One of our own interns is leaving for Eritrea where she will be conducting an HIV/AIDS survey. She also plans to assist AIDS' orphans. More mini-grants for Afghanistan's literacy Program are being prepared.

Finally, The SHARE Institute would like to invite you to an Africa Day Celebration on May 31st which will include speakers from Ghana, Kenya and Uganda and an international lunch. If you would like to purchase a ticket (\$15), please call the Institute at: 916.966.2991.

Have a wonderful summer.
Soheir Stolba

Domestic Programs

WIND Center for Teenage Homeless in Sacramento

The interns at the Share Institute are asked to take on a project over the course of the internship program. The interns chose to work with the Wind Youth Center because they wanted the opportunity to help teens in need. The Wind Youth Center, started in 1993 by Sister Mary and located in downtown Sacramento, is a place where homeless, runaway and at-risk youths can find counseling, schooling, outreach, and meals. The Share Institute has funded gift bags containing umbrellas, food items, hairbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand lotion and socks to be used as educational incentives. At the end of the month, there is a drawing for the bag to be given to teens that have attended the most training groups. The Wind Youth Center also provides different levels of education for those teens that want to continue their education and obtain their GED.

WIND Youth Center Easter Dinner

April 17, 2003, The Share Institute made an Easter dinner donation to the Wind Youth Center. The dinner included two 23 lb. turkeys with stuffing, rolls, two 10 lb. bags of potatoes, cranberry sauce, green beans, corn, gravy, pumpkin, and 3 liters of soda pop. The center was delighted with the donations and served the dinner on Monday, April 21st. The kids were grateful to have such a wonderful, warm meal on this holiday.

Care bags for Homeless Teens at the WIND Youth Center

The SHARE Institute provided the WIND Youth Center with care bags, duffle bags filled with toiletries, socks, snacks, etc. The care bags will be used as incentives for completing the educational requirements for the GED.

WIND Youth Center School Supplies Donation

The SHARE Institute has been collecting school supplies to donate to WIND. The center is in need of computers, textbooks and other reading material appropriate for teens, as well as basic school supplies. If you are interested in making a donation, please feel free to contact the SHARE Institute. The WIND youth center for homeless teens will appreciate your donation.

Mustard Seed

Mustard Seed is a non-profit organization serving homeless children. The Organization provides schooling for children on their premises in downtown Sacramento. Interns from The SHARE Institute raised funds for this educational program.

Easter Baskets for Mustard Seed

The SHARE Institute leaders put together 35 Easter Baskets to donate to children through Mustard Seed. The interns designed three different baskets for different age groups of children. The baskets included small toys, various school supplies, tooth brushes, and snacks. The Easter baskets were made possible through a mini-grant from the SHARE Institute. The participating interns who implemented this initiative were Rachel Niemi and Sarah Syed.

Assistance to Single Moms

Many hard working women assume the difficult task of raising children with little or no financial support from a spouse. The SHARE Institute offers book cost scholarships, food assistance and academic scholarships to single moms and daughters.

Loaves and Fishes Food Donation

On April 17, 2003, The Share Institute made a donation to Loaves and Fishes that included a 23 lb. turkey, corn bread mix, green beans, stuffing, one 10 lb. bag of potatoes, and 2 liters of soda pop. Loaves and Fishes help to provide food for the homeless families within the Sacramento area. They were happy to receive the donation which provided a nice turkey dinner during the Easter holiday for those less fortunate.

Leadership Program for College Students

Over the past three years, the SHARE Institute graduated four leadership groups. A total of 90 women leaders have spent a semester learning fundraising, communication, and community development skills. The leaders were responsible for implementing several fundraising events and many of them connected with non-profit service organizations in the Sacramento area. They provided support to Mustard Seed, The WIND Youth Center, and Loaves and Fishes.

Youth Leadership Program Work Shop

On Saturday, April 5th, 2003 the SHARE Institute hosted a Youth Leadership Program at the SHARE Institute's office in Fair Oaks. The program began at 9 a.m. with an opening speech by Dr. Stolba about the new International Leadership Program which aims to introduce mothers and their daughters (ages 14-17) to international women's issues and community service. Nineteen were present consisting of four mothers with a total of eight daughters, five interns, and two guests.

Following Dr. Stolba's speech, the mothers and their daughters took turns introducing themselves and describing their interest in SHARE and its programs. Then each intern spent a few minutes presenting her experiences with SHARE and her educational goals. The educational goals of the interns ranged from international relations and dietetics to cultural anthropology and business. The interns also spoke about their travels to such

places as South Africa, Somalia, and Pakistan. Of course, all of the above gave the interns an opportunity to practice their public speaking skills.

After the interns finished speaking, the business of initiating a mentorship program began with each adult or intern volunteering to take one or more youths under her wing. The purpose of such mentoring would be to increase understanding on international issues as women. Fundraising was discussed as well, with many of the new members jumping in to help out. Some of the young leaders expressed an interest in raising funds to help with such activities as making samosas to sell, volunteering at jewelry sales and making donations for the homeless. Following the discussion, an international luncheon buffet was served consisting of foods from around the world, donated by the interns and SHARE.

United Families International

On February 27, 2003 The SHARE Institute staff was invited to a workshop held by United Families International in the Arden Country Club. Three interns attended the event and learned about the programs of United Families International. One of the most moving parts of the workshop dealt with African children who have AIDs. The children were offered schooling and accommodations.

Mini Grant Report

Earlier this year, The SHARE Institute gave a mini-grant to INDCARE's low cost housing workshop project. The workshops were given and a report on the workshops is being sent. Regretfully, The SHARE Institute received word that on April 30, 2003, the camp where INDCARE worked for the past seven years on women's empowerment and shelter rights has been demolished. The residents, who had lived there for the last thirty years, were forcibly evicted from their homes. One woman reported that she saw her home demolished before her eyes. One hundred fifty residents were displaced to neighbors and temporary shelters. The women were forcibly removed by a team of 500 armed policemen and DDA officials. In addition, their belongings were left out in the open at risk for theft. The families are demanding compensation from the DDA for the detriment caused to their homes and their lives.

African Awareness Day

The SHARE Institute is planning an African Awareness Day to celebrate its new African Initiative. The Institute plans to fund two projects in Uganda and Nigeria. The events will include presentations by Dr. Soheir Stolba, the Institute's president, and Ms. Robina Serwanga, as well as presentations on Kenya and Ghana. There will also be poetry readings, an exhibit of African artifacts, music and an international lunch. Jewelry and

other products from the region will be available for sale. The institute is selling tickets to this event for \$15 to raise money for projects. The event will be held at THE SHARE Institute in Fair Oaks, CA, on May 31, 2003. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact our institute.

Public Speaking and Social Events

The SHARE institute would like to thank all the participants of the public speaking events that have been held by the World Affairs Council at Stanford University, Sacramento State University and in Marin County. Dr. Stolba spoke about Middle Eastern Women in Transition and Afghani Women in Transition. The participants were generous with their donations and seemed to enjoy the events. If you are interested in holding a public speaking event, please contact the SHARE Institute.

Dr. Stolba spoke to Waldorf School students and faculty about Egyptian culture. The talk was part of a program set to prepare students for Dr. Jihan Sadat, President Sadat's wife. She visited the school and received a peace award for her humanitarian work.

Publicity

The SHARE Institute was featured in the February issue of the Sacramento Magazine. Also, Anita Cramer of the Sacramento Bee wrote a very nice article about the work of the SHARE Institute in Afghanistan.

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.

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

WEBSITE: www.theshareinstitute.org

8370 Sunset Avenue

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

TEL: (916) 966-7482

FAX: (916) 863-0665

EMAIL: stolba@theshareinstitute.org

sshankar@theshareinstitute.org