
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Summer 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 website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear friends:

I have just arrived from a short trip to Egypt and Yemen. In Yemen, I participated in our conference on combating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The Conference was the third one to be offered in Yemen. The conference witnessed the presentation of fifteen dynamic non-governmental organizations who have used creative methods to educate the public about the harmful health effects of FGM. The NGOs used drama, comedy, testimonials, lectures, informal meetings with women, and advocacy to religious leaders.

During the trip I was accompanied by Kate Fisher, an Associate of the SHARE Institute and a scholar of FGM. Kate raised funds to give mini-grants in Yemen and Egypt. She visited SHARE-funded NGOs in the two countries. I am proud of the SHARE Interns traveling for SHARE and making a difference in the world. Take care.

Sincerely,
Soheir Stolba

Changes to the SHARE Institute Board

In March, Dr. Margaret Craig resigned from the SHARE Institute Board of Directors because of her busy schedule. The SHARE Institute wishes Dr. Craig the best of luck in her future pursuits.

Dr. Patricia Grady of the Sacramento State University Women's Center has been accepted to the SHARE Institute Board of Directors. The SHARE Institute Board members look forward to working with her and offer her a warm welcome.

International Speakers Series

The SHARE Institute's International Speaker Series continues to be a great success and evening of fun and education. March's event, "Globalization: Curse of Cure" presented by Professor Kathleen Collihan was a great success and attracted over 50 people! SHARE Intern Rachel Niemi prepared the food for the event, and she raised a little over \$400 to use in a program to combat violence against women. Please join us for more of these exciting events! International Speaker Series talks usually take place on the third Thursday of every month.

The April International Speaker Event talk was entitled "SHARE Success Stories: South Africa, Thailand, and Afghanistan" and featured SHARE Associate Marilyn Lembcke, SHARE Intern Heidi Lidgitt, and SHARE Board Member Derrill Bodley reporting on having visited and delivered mini-grants to non-governmental organizations in three countries. SHARE Intern Nicole Agcanas prepared the food for the event. There was a special display of exquisite textiles from Thailand available for sale. Part of the proceeds from the sales of the Thai textiles will go to a program in Thailand that provides wheelchairs to disabled people who are too poor to afford the chairs and therefore must remain housebound. The event took place at the SHARE Institute's Office in Fair Oaks. The office address is 4750 Siesta Lane, Fair Oaks 95628.

Whole Earth Festival

Please join the SHARE Institute at the Whole Earth Festival in Davis, California on Mother's Day weekend May 7, 8, & 9! The SHARE Institute will have an education booth at the festival, and SHARE's President Dr. Soheir Stolba will be giving a talk on W stage Saturday 4:20 – 5:20 on how changing laws and social norms are affecting women in the Middle East. Come out to enjoy the sunshine, enjoy some great live music, and be surrounded by opportunities to have fun, relax, and learn about different cultures. Please pay us a visit while you are there! The festival is open from Noon to 6:00 Friday and 8:00 AM to 6:00 Saturday and Sunday.

Domestic Programs

Easter Gift Baskets for Children at Mustard Seed School

Mustard Seed is a non-profit organization serving homeless children. In the spring of 2004, SHARE Institute intern Cathy Wang assembled 30 Easter baskets for children served by Mustard Seed School. The children and volunteers at Mustard Seed were very excited about receiving the colorful baskets of toys, juice, and candy. If you would like

to donate baskets, small toys, children's books, soap, pencils, pens, individually wrapped snacks or juice, or other items that could be used in future holiday gift bags for Mustard Seed and other children's organizations, please call the SHARE Institute at (916) 966-7482 or e-mail SHARE at sstolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Tutoring Incentive Bags for Grant School District Students

SHARE Institute intern Zoe Bass made colorful bags of goodies to be used as incentives for students in the Grant School District. The Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights provides volunteer tutoring for the Grant High students. SHARE intern Nicole Agcanas will be working with the students. The bags included treats, writing supplies, stickers, and other fun items for the students. If you would like to donate school supplies, individually wrapped treats, or other items to be used as incentives, please contact the SHARE Institute at (916) 966-7482 or e-mail SHARE at sstolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Leadership Program for College Students

Over the past three and a half years, the SHARE Institute has graduated six leadership groups and is currently working with the seventh. Almost 100 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.

*****Upcoming Domestic Programs That Need Your Help*****

Ms. Rachel Niemi, a SHARE Institute intern, is establishing a domestic violence program that targets college students called My Sister's Keeper. Ms. Niemi needs donations of professional/interview clothing for women, so please contact the SHARE Institute if you have any clothing or any other items you would like to donate to My Sister's Keeper.

India Cultural Awareness Day: Combating Trafficking in Women and Children

On March 27, the SHARE Institute and the American River College Chapter of Amnesty International held an India Cultural Awareness Day to increase awareness about trafficking in women and children in India and around the world and to raise funds to combat this type of slavery. These women and children are forced to become prostitutes or are used as slave labor. Dr. Soheir Stolba gave a talk about this persistent problem.

Over 100 people attended the event. The event featured Indian music and dances. Sukh Kaur and Heidi Lidgett did much of the planning and preparation for the day, and Sukh donated most of the food for the event. The SHARE Institute thanks both of them for their hard work and their dedication to addressing the troubling issue of human trafficking.

Do Our Mini-Grants Make a Difference?

NEW MINI-GRANTS

Afghanistan

The SHARE Institute funded the **Humanitarian Services Organization for Women** in 2003, contributing to successful projects that provided skills training for women and enabled them to raise chickens for food. Because of the success of these programs, SHARE has awarded a second mini-grant to the Humanitarian Services Organization for Women. In 2004, two families will be given an opportunity to improve their economic stability by way of sewing clothing to be sold in local bazaars. The mini-grant allows for these families to purchase sewing machines and materials. Because of the recent loss of the father in both families, this project is essential for the families to provide for themselves.

New Afghanistan Women Association is a nonprofit organization that the SHARE Institute continuously supports due to their effective programs of improving conditions for women. In 2004, SHARE has awarded a mini-grant to NAWA that will fund a literacy class outside of Kabul. This class will teach 40 refugee women of various ages how to read and write.

Yemen

The SHARE Institute has provided funding for the **Safe Childhood Center** to buy clothing, educational toys, and pay for field trips for street children. Many of these children have been sexually abused and are psychologically traumatized.

Thailand

The **International Support Group** in Thailand has been awarded a mini-grant to purchase and distribute blankets to the underprivileged in the hill regions. This project has a great affects for many in Thailand. ISG orders the blankets from a workshop that employs jobless women, therefore enabling them to make money. The blankets are then distributed to the low-income families.

Nigeria

The **Center for Healthworks Development and Research** has been awarded a mini-grant by the SHARE Institute to aid in CHEDRES' persistent objective to educate women about reproductive health. With the grant, CHEDRES will provide classes that teach reproductive health to adolescents in order to reduce teenage pregnancy and teach emergency contraceptive awareness to women in Abanwan.

Egypt

The **Egyptian Women and Development Association** is an organization that has a great reputation with the SHARE Institute for accepting mini grants and implementing successful skills training for women in Egypt. In 2004 they have been awarded a mini grant to pay for a trainer to start a computer training course for women. This course will create job opportunities for the participating women.

India

The SHARE mini-grant to **Rural Action for Co-Operation and Economic Development Trust** will be used to improve the health of girls in five villages by educating these girls about hygiene, reproduction, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The **Vocational Rural Development Center** has been awarded a mini-grant to organize training programs for pregnant women and traditional birth attendants about improving antenatal and postnatal care. The mini-grant will also pay for training to mothers in family planning and adolescent health.

The **Oasis Foundation** has been funded to assist poor tribal people through income generation programs such as honey production and bio-manure production.

A SHARE mini-grant to **Tamilnadu People Welfare Association** will be used to provide nutritious meals for poor children attending a child care program.

The SHARE Institute has awarded a mini-grant to **Manav Seva Sansthan**, a nonprofit organization that provides job placement for elderly women in India. The funding will assist 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.

Manav Seva Sansthan has been funded for a second mini-grant to continue its advocacy program against trafficking in women and children in India. The SHARE mini-grant will enable SEVA to educate parents about the dangers of entrusting their children to greedy people running trafficking operations.

SHARE Associates and Interns on the GO!

Jessica West, a new intern of the SHARE Institute, is in Africa this spring volunteering with organizations serving people with HIV/AIDS and to give health awareness talks about AIDS. Jessica is working in Zambia and Zimbabwe. The SHARE Institute wishes Jessica luck with her work and looks forward to her talk about her trip when she returns!

Maha Sweis, a former SHARE Institute intern, will be graduating this summer with a degree in political science from San Francisco State University. Maha will begin graduate study with an emphasis in comparative political theory in the fall of 2004. Maha is the Senior Director of the Political Science Student Association (PSSA) Newsletter and PSSA Secretary at San Francisco State University. The SHARE Institute congratulates Ms. Sweis on her accomplishments.

Heela Rasool returned this spring from an internship in Washington D.C. with Amnesty International. Heela is a former intern of the SHARE Institute and remains involved in SHARE. Welcome back, Heela!

Kate Fisher, a new intern of the SHARE Institute, travelled to Egypt and Yemen with the President of SHARE, Dr. Soheir Stolba, to attend a conference on female genital mutilation and view some of SHARE's projects. Ms. Fisher funded two SHARE Institute mini-grants while she was abroad. Kate is also involved in fundraising for SHARE. Welcome back, Kate!

The SHARE Institute'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 especially needs volunteers interested in researching grants, developing or updating web sites, and fundraising. No matter what skills you have, the SHARE Institute always welcomes dedicated volunteers.

The SHARE Institute Gives Special Thanks To...

SHARE is grateful to Ms. Marilyn Lembcke for her many hours spent editing the web site and working on organizing our mini-grants.

A Special Donation

The SHARE Institute would like to thank the Sacramento State University Women's Center for their generous donation from the proceeds of the Vagina Monologues to the SHARE Institute to combat violence against women.

Public Speaking and Social Events

Collaboration With A Berkeley Gallery

On March 20, the SHARE Institute and Gravity Feed Gallery collaborated to hold a speaking event and fundraiser in Berkeley, California. Dr. Soheir Stolba spoke on changes in the laws of Egypt, Yemen, and Afghanistan that affect women's lives. The talk was well received and the attendees were very interested in the topic and SHARE's projects. While it was a small event, it was another step in SHARE becoming more active in the bay area. Many thanks to Dr. Saira Mian and Ms. Michelle Chin for their hard work in organizing the event.

Reaching Out to Students

On March 11, SHARE Institute President Dr. Soheir Stolba spoke to students at American River College on the topic of "Women in the Middle East." The student response was good to the talk. This talk is part of an ongoing effort to inform students about women's issues around the world and encourage student awareness and action.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22, 2004

"SHARE Success Stories:South Africa, Thailand, and Afghanistan" Presented by Ms. Marilyn Lembecke, Ms. Heidi Lidgett, and Professor Derrill Bodley

International Speakers Series

6:00-8:15 PM

The SHARE Institute office

April 26, 2004

"Women's Issues in the Middle East" Presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

12:00-1:00 PM

McClellan Park Rotary Club

May 7, 8, & 9, 2004

Whole Earth Festival

Friday 12:00-6:00 PM, Saturday & Sunday 8:00AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday 4:50–5:20 "Women in the Middle East" Presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba

University of California, Davis Campus

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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