
The SHARE Institute Newsletter –Winter 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 ssolba@theshareinstitute.org.

Visit our updated website at www.theshareinstitute.org.

A Few Words from the SHARE Institute's President

Dear friends:

The last two months have been busy for the SHARE Institute staff and interns. We have implemented the Winter Clothing Campaigns and distributed thirty boxes of clothing to the WEAVE store in Fair Oaks, St. John's, and the Wind Youth Center. We provided the Wind Youth Center with care packages for young homeless teens. The interns used their creativity in filling Halloween pumpkins with toys, candy, and other goodies. These went to homeless children attending the Mustard Seed School. Our international program grew to include new countries such as Nicaragua and Thailand.

Our International Speakers Series is growing and three events were held on the second Thursdays of selected months. SHARE participated in the community event of Women Take Back the Night at the State Capitol Building.

We have received program reports from the majority of the recipients of our mini-grants. I am so pleased with the impact of the mini-grants on women's lives. I want to thank all of you for your kind contributions to SHARE. Please do not forget SHARE in the end of the year donations. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Soheir Stolba

International Speakers Series

The SHARE Institute has started an International Speaker series which takes place every second Thursday of the month. The event starts with a catered dinner in the Institute's office and begins at 6:30 and usually ends at 8:30.

The first speaker was Dr. Soheir Stolba, who spoke about "Women's issues in Afghanistan." The second speaker, Kathleen Collihan, gave a talk titled "U.S. Foreign Policy: Two Years After 9/11." The third speaker was Kamau Kinuthia, who spoke on the topic of "Kenya Today."

Women Take Back the Night: A Community Event

The SHARE Institute participated in the Women Take Back the Night event at the California State Capitol Building in Sacramento in October. Dr. Soheir Stolba, President of SHARE, was a key speaker at the event. Dr. Stolba's talk was well received by the crowd. SHARE Interns spoke with participants about the Institute's mini-grants and leadership program.

Domestic Programs – Please Help

Winter Clothing Campaign

The Share Institute interns organized a winter clothing drive to benefit homeless families and teens and battered women. The interns collected over 30 bags and boxes of warm winter clothing to be distributed to local organizations. Interns Tempie Blueford and Cathy Wang delivered 15 boxes of clothing to WEAVE, an organization helping battered women. This clothing will be given to women escaping violent environments or sold to raise funds for the organization. The interns also collected clothing for St. John's and the Wind Youth Center. Malorie Lucich, Cathy Wang, and Heidi Lidgett delivered the clothing, which was distributed to homeless families and teenagers.

Halloween Trick-or-Treat Buckets for Children at Mustard Seed School

Mustard Seed is a non-profit organization serving homeless children. In the fall of 2003, SHARE Institute interns put together 30 Halloween trick-or-treat buckets for children served by Mustard Seed. The children and volunteers at Mustard Seed were very excited about receiving the buckets. The plastic pumpkin buckets were filled with juice boxes, toys, mini-books, candy, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and other items.

School Books for the Wind Youth Center

This year the interns from the SHARE Institute collected several books to be given to the Wind Youth Center for its school for homeless teens. The collection included math

history, science, and English books. The books will be used in assisting homeless or transient teens who wish to continue their education or take the GED exam.

Toiletry Bags for the Wind Youth Center's Outreach Program

The Wind Youth Center's outreach program provides homeless teens with basic care services. SHARE Intern Heidi Lidgett assembled 20 toiletry bags with toothbrushes, soap, socks, towels, combs, shampoo, and other items for the outreach program. The teens will be given these bags as they come into the shelter, where they are provided with food, shower facilities, and beds.

Leadership Program for College Students

Over the past three and a half years, the SHARE Institute has graduated five leadership groups and is currently working with the sixth. Over 95 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.

Do Our Mini-Grants Make a Difference?

Women in Action (Compas de Nicaragua) (Nicaragua)

Women in Action is an organization consisting of 30 poor women who live in a squatter settlement in Managua, Nicaragua. Women in Action runs a gourd art cooperative and has a sponsorship program, backyard garden, and animal husbandry project. SHARE supported scholarships for women to learn sewing skills in this poor area of Managua. Three women have received these scholarships. With their new skills, these women will be better able to support their families.

Cultural Information & Humanitarian Services Center (Yemen)

The SHARE Institute has funded a mini-grant to provide meals for the children in a primary school in Yemen. The mini-grant was for a one-month supply of school lunches. Prior to the mini-grant, the children were not eating adequate meals and were suffering from chronic malnutrition and anemia. The meals provided by the mini-grant will give them the chance to concentrate on their studies and allow them to play and enjoy school.

Enviro-Slums Improvement Association (Egypt)

The SHARE Institute funded Enviro-Slums Improvement Association to train rural women and girls in India on pattern cutting, tailoring of primary school uniforms, use of sewing machines and knitting. The trainees are completing their tailoring courses and look forward to a better life. The training served thirty women.

Egyptian Women and Development Association (Egypt)

The SHARE Institute funded the Egyptian Women and Development Association to hold three workshops for women. The first workshop, reproductive health and gender, was attended by 54 participants. The participants engaged in many participatory discussions and dialogues about the problems women encounter and ways to cope with social problems. The second workshop, Empowering Women in Community, was attended by 25 participants, mostly women from the faculty of Politics and Economics. Many of the participants stated that they were inspired by the participation in the workshops and requested further assistance in the area of community development. The third workshop trained young business school graduates in computer and English-language skills. These skills are essential for these young women to find work.

An HIV/AIDS Study in Eritrea (Eritrea)

As an intern for the SHARE Institute, Selamawit Gebrezghi visited Eritrea for two and a half months. During her stay she visited two group homes for orphaned children, with 17 children in all. She provided them with clothing, school supplies and enough food for two weeks. She also visited the “Eritrean Women Association” and gained knowledge on their worthy cause. Also during her stay, she conducted interviews with 26 AIDS patients. Many different aspects of the virus were discussed, such as the patients’ experiences with AIDS, the discrimination they face, and what Eritrea is doing to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Afghan Woman’s Educational Center (Afghanistan)

The SHARE Institute provided a mini-grant to the Afghanistan-based organization AWEC. Out of 24,000 families from Central and South Kabul, 60 widows were identified through a needs assessment survey. All 60 of the women participated in the tailor training course and received counseling. These 60 widows are also attending a comprehensive training course to develop and implement business ideas. The mini-grant also allowed AWEC to build relationships with other NGOs in the area, which will have a positive impact on future projects and events.

Kiyunga-Lwanda Development Association (Uganda)

The SHARE Institute funded the Kiyunga-Lwanda Development Association in Uganda to distribute quality seeds to 300 rural women. This targeted group also received chickens and goats to produce eggs and milk. These women improved their nutritional status and they now also have a good prospect of yielding good produce on their farms.

CHEDRES (Nigeria)

The SHARE Institute provided funding for the Centre for Health Work, Development, and Research to strengthen prenatal counseling to 23 pregnant women in a remote rural village in Abanwan, Nigeria. The women received medical check-ups and counseling in the areas of nutrition, health, and hygiene.

Sense International (India)

Sense International provides counseling and education to deaf or blind children and their parents in India. The SHARE Institute funded a scholarship for the training of a teacher

in sign language. The teacher will work closely with students to teach basic sign language skills.

INDCARE (India)

INDCARE has worked with women in the industrial neighborhood of West Delhi, India to help them through evictions from their dwellings. Many of the women found themselves homeless after their homes were declared illegal settlements and demolished. SHARE funded INDCARE to provide the women with training on how to arrange for emergency shelter, find building materials for new dwellings and construct new homes.

NEW MINI-GRANTS

International Support Group to the DPW in Thailand (Thailand)

The SHARE Institute is funding ISG to buy and distribute blankets to the rural poor who live in Thailand to keep them warm in the cool season. The people in this area earn less than \$1 a day and cannot afford to buy sufficient clothing and blankets. The blankets that will be purchased are made by women who would otherwise have no source of income. With this mini-grant, 70 blankets will be bought and distributed.

Manav Seva Sansthan "SEVA" (India)

The SHARE Institute is funding SEVA to provide capacity-building training in greenhouse gardening to 40 elderly women in Uttar Pradesh, India. SEVA will provide training and materials for greenhouse gardening, thus allowing these elderly "grannies" to improve their nutrition, generate excess income, and maintain a greater degree of self-sufficiency.

Future Public Speaking and Social Events

November 13, 2003

"Fragile Peace: Women in Afghanistan" presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
Sacramento City College
12:00

November 13, 2003

"Kenya Today" presented by Kamau Kinuthia
International Speakers Series event #3
The SHARE Institute
Please join us for this event. Please RSVP by November 8th. The tickets are \$12 (\$10 for students) and include dinner.

November 18, 2003

"Fragile Peace: Women in Afghanistan" presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
SHARE Institute Fundraiser/Friendraiser

Al-Masri Restaurant, San Francisco

November 21, 2003

“Women and War in the Middle East” presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
Soroptimist Club of Sacramento

February 2, 2004

“Women in Afghanistan: An Update” presented by Dr. Soheir Stolba
McClellan Park
Foothill-Highlands Rotary Club

Special Thanks to the Orangevale Meat Shoppe

The Orangevale Meat Shoppe donated meat for the SHARE Institute’s Samosa fundraiser. The Orangevale Meat Shoppe donated 15 pounds of beef, enough for over 300 samosas! The SHARE Institute would like to extend its gratitude to the Orangevale Meat Shoppe for its contribution to this very successful fundraiser.

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.

The SHARE Institute Gives Special Thanks To Its Volunteers:

Many thanks to Ms. Betsy Steerman for volunteering her services as an editor.

SHARE is grateful to Ms. Marilyn Lembcke for helping with the mini-grants for India.

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: ssolba@theshareinstitute.org

sshankar@theshareinstitute.org