

In this issue:

Christmas Appeal 1

Annie's Column 2

Christmas Appeal 3

Awards Ceremony 4

Student Awards 5

Student Awards 6

What's happening 7

News 8

What's Next? 8

Contact Details 8



**SHARE**Community

Self Help Association for Rehabilitation  
and Employment for People with Disabilities

Focus on ability

## This year, please add **SHARE** Community to your Christmas list

This year, we've decided to run a Christmas Appeal for the first time ever! We're working very hard to improve the services we can offer our students, but to improve our facilities and resources costs money. Can you help? Any donation you can make will be a huge benefit to us and our students...

See Page 3 for full details and how to make a donation



SHARE Community's Awards Ceremony 2010 - For full story go to pg 4-6

# Annie's Column

**Dear supporters,**

This has been a successful and productive year. We continue to see our numbers rise, and we're looking forward to seeing what opportunities the new year will bring. We are immensely grateful to our friends and supporters for believing in us and investing in our future. All of you who came to the Awards Ceremony in November will have been delighted to see how many students had achieved qualifications, and you may have noticed that our students are achieving at a higher level than ever before. This is in part because we're now able to submit information recorded on video, but it's also a result of the continued hard work and creativity of our teaching staff, and of course the determination of our students.



We're trying out new ways of helping people to build their confidence and move into employment. We've been very excited to bring in Tony Cealy, who uses drama techniques to support people in getting to know themselves better and try out different ways of being.

Our biggest challenge, as we head towards 2011, is making our building fit for purpose, and that is the focus of our special Christmas appeal. Please dig deep into your pockets and send us what you can so that we can make sure our teaching environment is safe, healthy, efficient, environmentally friendly, and accessible to as many people as possible. Yes, we have a big lift and wheelchair access; but without new, softer flooring, the noise levels are distressing for those on the autistic spectrum or with hearing impairments. Our old metal-framed windows are draughty, and the two ancient boilers urgently need to be replaced. The garden is a wonderful showcase for our horticultural work; but the subterranean classroom and recreation area is rudimentary and lacks the basic comfort and amenities that would enhance our students' learning.

Please think of SHARE Community when you make your new year resolutions. A commitment to give us a regular monthly donation will make more difference than you can imagine. For example, £20 each month would pay for a group of 10 students to enjoy 2 cultural outings per year. £25 per month would pay for all the books needed by the Life Skills and Basic Skills projects for a whole year. £10 per month will pay for enough seeds for two students to plant up their own plots in the garden; and £5 per month will buy a starter pack of materials for a new arts and crafts programme.

All at SHARE wish you a happy and prosperous 2011. Thank you again for your support.

Warm wishes,  
Annie

# Christmas Appeal

We're very proud of our work here at SHARE Community. Higher student numbers and higher achievement rates than ever before indicate that we're delivering a first rate service to our students, and long may it continue!

The last year has brought some difficulties with it, notably the uncertainty over public sector spending. We've put measures in place which we hope will allow us to weather any potential upheavals, but more challenges face us in the year ahead. This is where we urgently need your help.

During the next four months we are expecting to see 30% of adult social service users moved onto personal budgets, meaning that they will be allocated money to spend on services of their own choosing to meet their individual requirements. SHARE welcomes this move, as we feel that the increased choice will empower people and allow them more control in their lives. However, the transition brings new challenges for us. We need to ensure our facilities and training programmes are of the highest standard so that we stand out as the organisation of choice, able to meet increasingly diverse needs. We must be able to compete with larger organisations, including those in the private sector, both in terms of what we have to offer and how we market ourselves.

We know that our training is top-notch and our success rates are high, but our learning environment does not reflect this as well as it should. Our training centre still has the original, single-glazed windows, complete with gaps which let in freezing air in winter causing discomfort and wastage of fuel. The roof has developed leaks and the flooring needs replacing throughout, as it is becoming hazardous. We want to cover the hard, concrete floors with a softer material to muffle the sound that makes the environment particularly uncomfortable for autistic people and those with a hearing impairment. The working environment as a whole needs an overhaul if we're to continue to attract students to us and provide high calibre training.

Essential renovation of our building isn't just to enhance our students' learning experiences; it will allow us to become a more environmentally friendly organisation. Double-glazing and energy efficient boilers would see our heating bill reduced by £1,500pa. These savings will be echoed by reductions in our carbon emissions. We care about the environment here at SHARE, reducing, reusing and recycling where we can; but the thing that lets us down enormously is the energy loss from our building.

We also wish to make the most of technologies commonly used in education. Interactive whiteboards are now standard in most teaching and learning settings, but at SHARE we only have access to this in our ICT training suite. We would like to buy some for our other core training programmes. Life Skills tutor Frances Barrett said, "An interactive whiteboard would aid communication in the classroom a huge amount. Many of our students find it extremely difficult to follow verbal instructions and a whiteboard would mean the tutors could show things step by step and save it for another time."

You can help us to modernise SHARE and help to ensure our survival. We're grateful for every gift we receive, and for those making gifts of £1,000 or more, we're planning to acknowledge your generosity by naming one of our classrooms after you!

You can donate by visiting [http://www.sharecommunity.org.uk/invest-in-share\\_1024-6107-17402.shtml](http://www.sharecommunity.org.uk/invest-in-share_1024-6107-17402.shtml) Alternatively, you can donate by cheque, sending your gift to us at 64 Altenburg Gardens, London SW11 1JL, made payable to SHARE Community.

Please add SHARE Community to your Christmas list this year. We wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous 2011.

# Awards Ceremony 2010

On 17<sup>th</sup> November SHARE Community held its annual Awards Ceremony at the Civic Suite in Wandsworth. The event was an opportunity for staff and students to celebrate all the successes and achievements the students have made throughout the year.

At the start of the event, the Crow Theatre group performed a play for the students about the Personalisation agenda.

Personalisation is on everyone's minds at the moment and it is

important that SHARE students have as much information about the subject as possible. The play provided an opportunity to tell our students more in a fun, more personal way.

Councillor Jim Maddan, Cabinet Member for Adult Care Services, said a few words about recent successes at SHARE by way of an introduction to the ceremony. We were very pleased that he was able to attend and speak to the students and guests.

This year our students achieved over 140 qualifications and units towards qualifications, so everyone has clearly been working very hard! Certificates were presented to students by SHARE's Chair of the Board of Directors, Bec Emmott.

As well as the qualification certificates received by students, there were also special awards presented to those students who excelled. Annie McDowall gave out Chief Executive Awards, which were presented for outstanding achievement. There was also a special 'Award for Perseverance; Outstanding Achievement in the Face of Adversity', which is awarded in memory of SHARE's General Manager, Peter Jablonski, who sadly passed away in 2005 after a long battle with cancer.

The day is a really good chance for all those involved in SHARE to meet each other, from the Board of Trustees to the parents and carers of our students, to the social workers we work with. After the ceremony, everyone had a chance to catch up over a delicious lunch, which was prepared in part by SHARE's students studying on the Basic Food Hygiene course.



# Student Achievements

## Peter Jablonski Award

This year we gave this special award for perseverance to two remarkable students:

### **Kellie Goldsmith - nominated by tutor Marie O'Dea**

Kellie has been coming to SHARE for about five years and in that time she has had to say goodbye to her Adult Placement carer, who has moved to the seaside.

Before her time at SHARE Kellie had gone through some extremely tough, personal times. She has also had a lot of trouble with young people on public transport at various times.



Kellie has continued to push herself as much as possible while she's been at SHARE. She is now a Travel Buddy, overcoming (or indeed, in spite of) her fears about using public transport, and she is still making progress with her learning at SHARE. She has made such personal and academic progress that we are all very proud of her for how far she has come.

### **Richard Sadler - nominated by tutor Jenny Shand**

Richard is one of the most talented students in the horticulture project and has recently completed his NVQ in Amenity Horticulture at Level 2.

This year has been a real battle for Richard, for a variety of personal and medical reasons. At the start of the year Richard signed up to the Recovery Star programme. He has maintained his commitment to the sessions throughout the year and found them of benefit.

Despite the hard year Richard has had, he still completed his NVQ portfolio and passed with flying colours. He has taken up yet another challenge in beginning a carpentry course at Lambeth College, and his tutors and friends are backing him to excel in this as well

# Student Achievement Awards

## Chief Executive's Achievement Awards

These awards are presented for outstanding achievement:

### Debbie

Debbie has been attending SHARE since June 2010. She has actively taken part in employment guidance sessions and IT classes, and has progressed well. With great determination she completed her CLAIT qualification before her end date. She had various issues to deal with whilst attending but she always displayed a happy personality and developed good friendships with her peers.

Debbie's health issues are currently preventing her from working full time but she is extremely motivated to working as a Teaching Assistant, which she will soon be doing for Deaf First, whilst also studying for her Level 2 BSL. During her time with SHARE Debbie has shown the determination and confidence to take this step forward, gaining further practice at interpreting and teaching.

### Happy

Happy started with Share with no ICT skills, just a vision to do well and achieve her goals. Happy is noted by her tutor as having the highest attendance record of all students and a 100% on time punctuality rate.

Happy is Happy by name and by nature, always presenting a warm smile and friendly disposition, never having anything negative to say about anything or anyone, always striving to do her best and see the bright side of everything.

Happy's persistence paid off when she successfully completed her full LOCN Level 1 Certificate in Word Processing, General IT and Spreadsheet with Database. She has been a pleasure to teach and an exceptional student!



### Medina

When Medina first started attending SHARE she was really only interested in drawing. Over time, she began to grow in confidence, which was apparent due to a greater involvement in classes. Medina has blossomed at SHARE and now takes full advantage of what is on offer. She has learnt how to exercise her autonomy and actively chooses to take part in the Women's Group and the yoga sessions. Medina has a great sense of humour, loves to have fun and is a joy to teach.

### Richard



Richard is a very helpful, practical person who is always thinking of ways to improve things in the garden. He is very useful when it comes to creating structures out of very few materials and most of the new compost heaps and squirrel proof seed cages have been made by him out of scrap materials. He is also a not bad gardener!

## New Student Alumni Events

SHARE Community has recently started to hold monthly evening events where ex-students can come and share their stories about what they've been up to since moving on. These events are for ex-students and current students to swap stories and learn about each other's successes. They also provide a great opportunity for staff to catch up with ex-students and hear how they're getting on.



The first event took place on Tuesday 7th December and was a great success. Those students who have moved into employment were presented with a £50 cheque from SHARE to say congratulations on their achievements.

We hope these events will continue to bring together and inspire our students.

## New Training Course at SHARE Community

We have now introduced a new Customer Services NVQ course at SHARE. The course is available to new or existing students and is being run by new tutor, Jill Notley. The qualification is designed to develop skills to work better with people. Students will learn about how you present themselves and the impact it has to customer services; how to deal with problems; how to make the most of training and development; and how to meet customer needs. The course will also involve a work placement, giving students real on-the-job experience. We're very excited about the course and are hopeful that it will open more doors to those students looking for employment.

## SHARE Student to do a sponsored walk

Jago Wilson, one of our Horticulture students, has decided he would like to do a sponsored walk to raise funds for us. So, on the 7th May 2011 he will be taking part in a breathtaking 20km walk across the picturesque South Downs in West Sussex with event company 'Across the Divide'.

Jago is doing all his own fundraising for the event, but if you would like to support him, please contact SHARE's fundraiser Ben Banks on [benb@sharecommunity.org.uk](mailto:benb@sharecommunity.org.uk) or 020 7801 9813.

All of us at SHARE would like to wish Jago the best of luck!

To donate to SHARE go directly to [www.sharecommunity.org.uk/invest-in-share.shtml](http://www.sharecommunity.org.uk/invest-in-share.shtml)

# News

Since our last newsletter we have been very pleased to welcome Dilshad Burkutally-Domun, Sonia White and Jill Notley to the training team, and Ben Banks to Fundraising, as well as James Cowie, Frank Hogan and Bill Morgan to the Board of Trustees.

Jonathan Gardner and Tony Cealy have been contracted to support SHARE students into employment.

We are very excited about recruiting a Wellbeing Co-ordinator; a Business Development Manager for Ground Control Social Enterprise; and a team of 5 apprentices to support reception, administration and three project teams early in 2011.

## What's next? The next events of interest are:

Date:	Event:	Venue:
14th December	SHARE Community Christmas Lunch	SHARE's Battersea Centre
10th January	Tooting Employment & Training Fair	The Professional Centre
17th February	Croydon Training & Employment Event	Fairfield Halls

## Contact us

For more information about **SHARE Community** and the training we run, please contact Pam Dale on **020 7801 9812** or email [info@sharecommunity.org.uk](mailto:info@sharecommunity.org.uk)

Information about the Ability 1st projects is available on **020 7801 9825** or email [newstart@sharecommunity.org.uk](mailto:newstart@sharecommunity.org.uk)

You can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/SHARE-Community/256798753467](http://www.facebook.com/pages/SHARE-Community/256798753467)

If you are interested in **buying plants** from the SHARE Garden, please contact Jenny Shand or Marie Morris at the Garden on **020 8682 6460**.

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