



SHARECommunity

Self Help Association for Rehabilitation
and Employment for People with Disabilities

Focus on ability

Christmas Appeal

This year has been a challenging one for SHARE Community. While we've managed to weather the majority of the funding cuts, the true impact is being experienced by our students. Seeing the effect this is having is making us work all the harder, trying to find new and innovative ways of finding funding and streamlining our services to make them more cost-effective.

Can you help with a one-off donation this Christmas? Find out more about our Christmas Appeal on Page 4...



Pam Dale is wished a fond farewell and welcomes new staff member, Keesha Sinclair.

Awards Day!

The Awards Ceremony this year was perhaps our best yet! Our music students opened the event by singing a song about how much they love coming to SHARE, which got everyone into a joyful mood and started proceedings with a bang!

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Annie's Column

It's been a busy and productive few months for SHARE. I'm delighted to tell you that we achieved the Investors in People award and are now a Bronze Accredited Investors in People Organisation. This was our first application for IiP, so getting the Bronze award on top of the basic standard was really special for us. A few weeks after getting this very welcome news, we found that we'd also been successful in re-applying for Matrix accreditation. Both of these awards say a lot about the quality of our organisation, both in how we develop our people, and in how we deliver services to our students. These are challenging times, and it's more important than ever to work at being the best that we can be.



We were thrilled to be successful in applying for Wandsworth Council's Mental Health Employment contract. Wandsworth wanted to approach employment for people with mental health needs in a different way, using the Individual Placement and Support model that has been shown to be the most successful approach to getting people back to work. We're working closely with the SW London and St George's Mental Health Trust as well as with the two Wandsworth mental health resource centres (Your Way, and Family Action) and the Centre for Mental Health. The focus of this project is on employment, and especially on paid employment. There's a lot of evidence about employment being good for one's mental health, and so the idea is to support people back into work as soon as possible and as soon as they feel ready. This project is not about slotting people into supermarket jobs. It's about finding out what the person wants to do, what their interests are, and setting about helping them to find the job that sets them on the road to reaching their goal. It's also about finding out what employers need and want, and finding creative ways of meeting those needs.

Look out for our new information DVD and You Tube videos. They

show you, and people thinking about coming to SHARE, what we do, with most of the videos giving a student's story. I hope you like them as much as we do!

However optimistic we are about our potential to develop, life at SHARE is not all about good news. We are just about weathering the funding squeeze, but some of our students are facing cuts in personal budgets that are sending them back into hospital. Community projects like SHARE do all sorts of things. We train people for independent living, prepare people for work, provide a warm, accessible learning centre; but one of the things that coming to SHARE does for some people is to keep them well. Just knowing that they have two or three, or maybe more days in the week when they're expected to be at a certain place, at a certain time, and where they have a clear role, are respected for their work, and where the people around them notice how they are - and care, is enough to keep many of our students out of hospital and in the community. It is frightening to watch people deteriorate as their funding drops and they have less and less access to the services they like and trust. We will be watching the situation very carefully, but please do let me know if this has happened to you, or someone you care for.

Finally, before wishing you all the healthiest of new years and the merriest of Christmases, please may I ask you to respond to our Christmas fundraising appeal. You can make a huge difference for disabled people by helping us to develop more services, and buying the greenhouse will enable more people to join our horticulture project and benefit from the joys of gardening.

Thank you!

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a very happy new year,
Annie

Christmas Appeal

Christmas Appeal Continued...

It's obvious from our student feedback that our services are top-notch and incredibly effective, offering scope for training and learning, as well as enormous therapeutic benefit. With such good feedback and with our recent successes in improving our building, we know we're in a position now to be able to reach out and help more people than ever before, particularly at our Capital Growth associated horticulture space at Springfield Hospital, Tooting. We're looking to expand services here, so that more students are better able to access more of our training and the benefits it brings.

The poly-tunnels we work under are full to capacity, in terms of both plants and students, so we're looking to expand our covered growing space by bringing in a greenhouse. There's no way we could afford to buy a new one, but luckily help is at hand! We are looking to relocate the disused greenhouse at the Atheldene Centre to our own growing space, meaning that a currently unutilized resource can be put to good use.

We are looking forward to this happening with barely contained glee, but we have a rather large hurdle in our path before we can complete this exciting task.

It costs around £18,000 to dismantle it, move it, lay foundations and rebuild it.

We are looking for grant funding to cover half of the cost, but grant funding often relies on a portion of the funds already being raised, so we've a big ask of our supporters this Christmas. **Please consider contributing as much as you can afford, every pound brings us nearer to the £18,000 needed to ensure our students can learn through next years winter and many more to come. Thank you!**

Awards Day Continued...

We were honoured to have Paul Martin, Chief Executive of Wandsworth Council, speaking at the event this year. He spoke of the Council's wish to continue supporting its disabled residents and brought a hopeful atmosphere to the day.

We were also delighted to welcome Jane Ellison, MP for Battersea and the Mayor of Wandsworth - Councillor Jane Cooper, who did us the honour of awarding qualification certificates to the students. 90 students were due to receive certificates in their chosen subjects this year, and everyone was very proud with the hard work and dedication gone into achieving those qualifications.

Outstanding Achievement

Alongside the qualifications, we also recognised those who have done a little extra! In each of the 6 main subjects taught throughout 2011, one student was awarded a certificate and prize for Outstanding Achievement. This year's high achievers were: John Vella for Horticulture, Dionne Neblett for ICT, Chris Browne for Basic Skills, Harish Patel for Catering, Omalara Odamo for Life Skills and Jose Goncalves for Customer Service.



Awards 2011

Enterprise

This year we also recognised those students who have done extra work to support our enterprise development, so working on Ground Control contracts and on our market stalls. 17 students were presented with a certificate thanking them for their help throughout the year. We hope this number will grow and grow as our enterprise projects develop.

Volunteers

The awards day is a great opportunity for SHARE to thank all its volunteers for their hard work. This year the Mayor of Wandsworth also gave all our volunteers a badge to thank them for their hard work helping the borough. In 2011, SHARE's volunteers were Ruth Miller, Susan Hood, Alan Butler, Esther Delaney, Jane Clare, Mark Brown, Michelle Elmer and Olivia Ojji. We are eternally grateful for their hard work and dedication to SHARE Community.



The Mayor of Wandsworth and SHARE Trustee Beth Pedersen present Esther Delaney with her certificate.

Perseverance Award

As ever, our final award of the day was the Peter Jablonksi Award for Perseverance in the face of Adversity. This year's winner was Richard Shaftoe. Here's why he won...

Richard has been a member of SHARE Community since October 2000. He has worked in various projects, Administration – where Dougie got to know and admire his tenacity, Life Skills and now ICT.

The things you notice about Richard even if you don't work with him regularly are his determination, his independence, his sense of humour and his dirty laugh, and the fact that he sometimes looks like a boxer who lost his last fight; often showing off cuts, bruises or a black eye!

Richard has Cerebral Palsy which seriously affects his mobility. He has also had a couple of operations since coming to SHARE. Richard has a motorised scooter which he uses to get around when he is at home but as he travels to SHARE from Surbiton on public transport he uses a walking stick when out and about in Battersea. Richard's independent spirit and huge determination to get where he wants to go under his own steam put him at risk and he could easily opt for the easy life and enjoy a quiet time rather than negotiate the stairs at Clapham Junction every week. He doesn't moan or complain about his situation just keeps on trucking and would come in everyday if his funding allowed.

Goodbye Pam, Hello Keesha!

The awards ceremony this year also gave the everyone an opportunity to wish a fond farewell to our beloved Pam Dale! Pam, SHARE's Student Liaison Officer, is loved by staff, students, parents, carers, social workers, volunteers and everyone else who has the pleasure of working with her. After 19 years of service Pam has retired. She has worked hard to ensure the students at SHARE are happy and looked after and we will all miss her. We presented her with a certificate for her years of service, as well as some flowers. When we presented the flowers Pam received a standing ovation from all present, and emotions ran high!

Pam used the opportunity to introduce Keesha Sinclair to everyone. Keesha is our new Wellbeing Coordinator. Although the role is different to Pam's, Keesha is picking up where Pam left off and we're all very excited to have her on board!

See cover picture of Pam & Keesha

Fundraising Update

Since the last newsletter we've been making waves (well ripples to begin with!) in our community as of late, all with an aim to get people talking about who we are and to raise funds for our cause.

We've been reaching out and engaging with local businesses and local residents to raise awareness of our profile and let people know that there's a local charity doing excellent work right here, on their doorstep. As part of this we've been running a stall in local markets, with our most recent one being at the Battersea Arts Centre's Christmas Market.



We've also started selling SHARE-created produce on our forecourt, with seasonal delights to be found there.

Fundraising Update

We've been making friends with a new pub that's opened just around the corner - the Battersea Mess & Music Hall. We ran a successful quiz night there in early November, which provided a fun atmosphere for people to meet and mix with others interested in SHARE's work.



Staff and volunteers will be having a few drinks together sometime before Christmas and expect to fill the pub with a convivial air and a great deal of festive cheer! We will continue to develop this relationship with the pub so look out for other exciting developments next year.

All of these projects have been about making more people aware of our work and the need for our services, while at the same time bringing in money for SHARE's coffers and celebrating friendships formed. These friendships are one way in which SHARE hopes to grow and expand, with each success leading to more opportunities to showcase ourselves. When one of our tutors, Frances Barrett, extended the offer of a collection at Waterloo station during the evening rush hour on Friday 9th December, we jumped at the chance to raise money and our profile to thousands more people.

Frances is a member of the Lambeth Wind Orchestra, a fantastically talented group of musicians. The Lambeth Wind Orchestra were set to play a 2 hour festive set at and offered us the chance to fundraise off the back of it. The quality of music was so high and the amount of beaming smiles so great that the event couldn't help

Fundraising Update

but be a roaring success! A total of £823 was collected from the generous commuters. An enormous thank you goes to the LWO for their awesome and inspiring musicianship.

In other fundraising news, we have recently secured grant funding from our long term partners, the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, for a much-needed upgrade to our ICT servers. We rely on these for the operation of the charity, communication between staff, students and external stakeholders and of course in tuition itself – where would our ICT students be without working computers?! This incredibly generous grant of over £20,000 will allow an upgrade of the servers in the new year. We'll see a dramatic improvement in SHARE's infrastructure, with the capability to take on further students and expand our services for many years to come. With the sad news that Ian Karten MBE, passed away earlier this year, we are very proud to be able to continue his legacy of a network of technology centres, connecting disabled people across the UK, Eire and Israel, and hope to continue our relationship with the trust long into the future.

In October we were fortunate enough to be visited by members of the Keren Rehabilitation Centre, which is the Karten Charitable Trust funded centre in Israel that Annie McDowall visited earlier this year. It was a pleasure to show them around our training centre and garden project.



Last but by no means least, is the fantastic news that we've been awarded £65,000 funding from the Social Enterprise Investment Fund for continuation of our building work. Once this round of

building work is completed we'll be free from floods, damp and other assorted horrors that the weather seems to visit upon us from time to time. We hope to be able to change the sound dynamics in our life skills classroom, so that students on the autistic spectrum have a much quieter, calmer atmosphere in which to learn. With all the work due to take place in the new year, we expect SHARE Community to be a buzzing and exciting place to be.

If you are able to support SHARE in any way, or have a hankering to raise some money for us, then please get in contact with Ben, using his email address: benb@sharecommunity.org.uk or by phone: 0207 801 9813.

Thank you!

The Digital Switchover

In April 2012 the world of analogue television will cease to be, with the final push towards the Digital Switchover. We at SHARE Community take the wellbeing of our students very seriously, both while attending SHARE and also in their home life. The switch to Digital Television needn't be a scary or difficult process, but we fully appreciate that for some it may appear to be, so we'd like to help make the transition to digital as smooth as possible.

We are going to be running two community outreach events next year, open to not only the students of SHARE, but also to the wider community. We'll demonstrate how to re-tune televisions to digital and have lots of useful resources available to take away to help you at home. We've not selected dates yet but when we do we'll be advertising them on our website, on Facebook, in our training centre and the local area. We look forward to welcoming people to SHARE and are confident that these events will mean that the digital switchover will be as painless as possible.

Internal News

All Change for SHARE's Board of Trustees

At this year's Annual General Meeting the Board of Trustees agreed a new Chair of the Board and a new Treasurer. We are very pleased to announce that Beth Pedersen is the new Chair and Bill Morgan is the new Treasurer. Both have been excellent at supporting SHARE as Trustees so we are delighted with this decision.

This year we have also said goodbye to some trustees. Long-term trustee Theo Harris stood down earlier in the year. Bec Emmott, our previous Chair of the Board also stood down, and so did Paul Saville, our previous Treasurer. We would like to thank them for their hard work and wish them all the best.

Welcoming New Staff

At SHARE we have welcomed 3 new members of staff since our last newsletter! As mentioned on page 7, Keesha Sinclair has joined us as Wellbeing Coordinator. She will be working very closely with the students and looking after their individual journeys at SHARE. We are very excited to have her on board!

We have also recently appointed two part-time receptionists! We've been looking to fill this role for some time now so we're delighted that our long-term volunteer Ruth Miller has accepted the role alongside ex-student Michael Kalman, who gained his NVO Level 2 Customer Service qualification at SHARE earlier this year.

Welcome aboard Keesha, Ruth and Michael!

For more information about **SHARE Community** please contact us on **020 7924 2949** or email info@sharecommunity.org.uk

Visit our website at www.sharecommunity.org.uk

You can find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/SHARE-Community/256798753467



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