

CONNECTING

The World

Evergreen
Education
Foundation

Rural
China
Libraries

Rural China
Middle &
High Schools

Evergreen Education Foundation

The Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF) is a **US based non-profit** organization with a strategic focus on improving education for children and young adults in rural China; **promoting information literacy** via school and community libraries; and **servicing as a bridge between China and the world** in joint efforts to better the rural education.

The Evergreen Education Foundation was founded 2001 by a group of Chinese and American professionals and academics. The **Foundation's purpose is to enhance educational opportunities for middle and high school children in rural China**. Seed money has been provided by Mr. Richard Hsin, a Hong Kong entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Programs of Evergreen Education Foundation **focus on developing rural schools and community libraries**, capacity building of educators and librarians, and helping passionate yet financially disadvantaged rural students to secure education opportunities. Our programs are constantly evolving to catch up with fast changing students and community needs. Nonetheless, Evergreen consistently seeks to provide resources and opportunities through **three fundamental programs** to achieve its goal.

The Library Information Literacy Program focuses on developing rural school and community libraries.

The Scholarship Program sponsors promising but financially disadvantaged students.

The Teacher Development Program builds the skills, abilities and knowledge of educators and librarians through workshops, conferences, and study tours.

EVERGREEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Bring Education Opportunities to Rural China

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青樹教育基金會

CONNECTING

**Inquiry
Based
Learning**

**Oral
History
Projects**

**Local
Cultural
Study**

**Background
Research**

EEF ORAL HISTORY AND LOCAL CULTURAL STUDY



THE CHALLENGE: History teaching in China has been focusing on students memorizing facts and standard answers. Without opportunity of open inquiry, students are not trained to be active learners, and can't **BUILD GOOD SENSE OF SELF** and the society without uncovering **CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HISTORICAL FACTS**. With fast industrialization, local history and culture disappearing exacerbates the problem. **THE SOLUTION:** **SINCE 2009** EEF has been **TRAINING RURAL TEACHERS** to guide students to do oral history, collecting life stories and narratives of past lifeways by interviewing their family and community elders, as well as **RECORD LOCAL CULTURAL HERITAGE**, while learning to **DO RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**. **THE RESULTS:** Students have done oral history inquiries on various folk arts and customs and have captured the marks that the traditions left on people's lives. EEF's "**HISTORY AROUND US**" family oral history piloted in **5 SCHOOLS** across **4 PROVINCES** affirmed the profound influence of this project on teenagers. Students mentioned that the memories and reflections of their interviewees helped improve their previous rough understanding of related historical periods, and reviewing individuals' life stories in the historical context taught many for the first time in life to ask truly important questions. **THE IMPACTS:** Altogether **143 STUDENTS** and **43 TEACHERS** from **8 SCHOOLS** participated in community oral history and created **3490+ MINUTES OF AUDIOS** and **2676+ MINUTES OF VIDEOS** for archiving. Through oral history students **RETAIN FAMILY & COMMUNITY HISTORY AND CULTURE**, learn more about research and history, improve their communication skills, and get an edge in seeking higher education. It also help build deeper understanding and stronger **BOND BETWEEN GENERATIONS**, and between students and their home villages, which is beneficial to their growth. **THE NEXT STEP:** We are on our way of **DEVELOPING "HISTORY AROUND US" INTO A SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM**. In summer 2017 EEF will train **20 TEACHERS** from **10 SCHOOLS** using a 1-month project-based learning workshop. These 20 teachers will use the material to **MENTOR 200 STUDENTS** in school year 2017-2018. By expanding the project in its breadth and depth, the "History Around Us" program will cater to teachers and students' interest in oral history. In addition, it will naturally create an **INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** for rural schools in China.