



Evergreen Education Foundation Newsletter

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are happy to report that this past year we have made significant strides towards helping rural Chinese high schools establish modern libraries and providing programs that encourage student learning and teacher involvement and training.

Libraries

We have completed 4 fully functional modern libraries, each with over 4,000 volumes of new books, computers and library management software. The books have all been computer catalogued and circulation of books using bar code scanners are in practice. Two additional schools have been selected as our project libraries and funds have been allocated, thanks to your generosity. These are in the process of attaining full functionality, targeted to be completed in the Summer of 2004. As a first step, we are providing guidance in the purchase of books and computers, and we will ensure that their librarians will receive library management software training. This will bring 6 high school libraries to full functionality using computers and bar code scanners. Our fund raising efforts for the upcoming year will target two schools, one in Qinghai and one in Gansu. We will start with providing some books to introduce library operating principals and practices. When we have adequate funding, more books and computers will be provided along with librarian and teacher training. This year we were fortunate to have the **Joseph Tse Foundation** fully support one of our school library at Tongwei, Gansu for a period of 3 years.

Student Programs

Each time we establish a school library, we also put in a complimentary scholarship program at the school. We support a number of academically strong students at these schools whose families have extreme financial difficulties. These students are expected to contribute time each week to help their school librarians by working in a volunteer capacity in the libraries. An adult mentor from the United States is arranged to correspond with the student, providing guidance and encouragement. These mentors are invaluable for another reason. They provide an excellent channel of information on the progress and usage of the libraries we helped establish. This information is important in helping us to develop a merit based points system in order to make informed decisions on the level of future support for each school. Every year, the scholarship funds are delivered individually by one of our foundation volunteer directly into the hands of the student's family at the student's school. This year, Geoffrey Liu delivered the scholarships to the students in Gansu and Chiang Chien of Hsin Hsin Foundation delivered the scholarships to the Qinghai students. We thank Hsin Hsin for their assistance.

We are proud to announce that 2 of our students have already graduated from senior high school and both are going on to receive higher education. Both of these students are from Li Jia San High School in Qinghai. Zhang Min has been accepted to an university in Beijing and Ma Yu Yan is going to a normal college in Xining, Qinghai. As graduates of normal colleges will become future teachers staying on in their home communities, **Evergreen** will also help provide tuition assistance for Ma Yu Yan. Ma has 5 sisters and 1 brother. She is the 5th daughter and her 4 older sisters are illiterate, having never attended school, as is the case with her parents. She is the 1st in her family to go to school.



张敏 Zhang Min

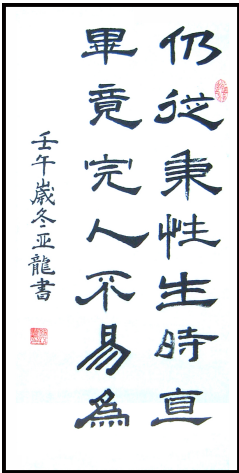


马玉燕 Ma Yu Yan

In order to encourage library usage, **Evergreen** held a competition and exhibit of students' work products called "**My Hometown**". Students were asked to go to the library to look for information concerning their hometown and then write an essay, short story, poem, draw a picture or provide calligraphy on this topic. Their work products were brought to the United States and exhibited at the World Journal Exhibition Hall in San Francisco as well as the China Institute in New York City. We are extremely grateful to **Ginny Soong**, the president of the World Journal in San Francisco for supporting this exhibition and to **Grace Chao** who arranged the New York exhibit. We thank our excellent panel of judges (**Lin Yao Chen** 吳玲瑤, **Yu Lichin** 喻麗清, **Chiang Yun-Chung** 蔣雲仲, **Chuan Yin** 莊因, **Fong Chung Ray** 馮鐘睿 and **Tong Lin** 董林), who selected the awards to the best efforts of these students. **Professor Tu Weiming** 杜維明 provided exciting keynote addresses in Chinese (San Francisco) and English (New York City) to extremely appreciative audiences. Evergreen is very fortunate in having Professor Tu as a friend and a member on its advisory board.

This exhibition was scheduled to travel to China after New York City, but our plans for holding exhibitions in China had to be cancelled due to the SARS outbreak. Hopefully, we will be able to hold exhibits on both sides of the Pacific Ocean in the future.

Below are just 2 examples of prize winning entries. We have over 130 entries in all categories with some submissions from the children attending San Francisco bay area schools as well.



史國民 **Shi Guomin** 甘肅省天祝一中

亞龍 **Ya Long** 甘肅省通渭一中

Teachers Training and Community Service Programs

In August, Professor Geoffrey Liu Went to Gansu to give teacher-training workshops for Tianzgu No. 1 High School and Tongwei No. 1 High School **teachers and librarians**. The teachers were anxious to learn about the education reform movement in the United States and Geoffery was able to provide up to date information and suggestions on which aspects of the US reform that could be useful and of interest to the Chinese reform movement. We also established the principle that our school libraries should also serve the community. The first step was taken by providing workshops for the **parents** of the students at the school, on how to use the libraries, both for themselves and as information in assisting their children to better utilize the library resources.



Teachers showing parents how to use library resources.
Future Projects

An ambitious conference is planned for the summer of 2004. Titled “Information Technology in Education: Learning from Different Cultures”, **Evergreen** will bring together educators from China’s rural and city areas as well as international delegates to exchange information and views on how

information technology may best be employed in the service of education. Industry participants will explore future prospects of IT for education. Submissions will be peer reviewed by a distinguished academic panel with editorial assistance given to the teachers and librarians from the rural schools that we support.

In closing, I would like to say that our organization is not only vibrant, it is growing. We have added several new volunteers to our roster and 2 future volunteers have just come into the world. Congratulations to Danping Peng who now boast of having a second son, Ju Ju and to Yu Jingyi, who just gave birth to a second daughter, Karen.

It is your encouragement and support that have enabled us to achieve these results. We thank you and hope that you will continue to keep us in your thoughts.

Thank you for your support,
Faith Chao, President

A Delightful Experience by *Shih-ruey Chen* Pittsburgh, PA

“ When I was a little kid, I asked my dad many times: *what is the other side of the mountain?* My dad was always answering me: *the other side of mountain is just another mountain.* Since then I had made my mind that one day I would climb over all the mountains to see the other side myself. After I grew up a little bit, I started to realize that the only opportunity for me to go to the other side is to get **higher education.**”



The above paragraph was written by **Wang Xiao Ling**- a mountain village girl in Li-Jia-Shan, Qinghai- in her first letter to me. Last year around this time, I accepted the “mentor” responsibility to write to this Evergreen scholarship recipient at least two times a year in providing continuous advice and encouragement.

so, I wrote her a simple letter. Honestly speaking, I did not pay too much attention for this assignment since I did not feel any strong bound to this poor girl at all. However, my attitude changed after I read her first letter. I was amazed how well the letter was written. Yes, from my view, she was poor and pitiful – lost her mother since she was two, has a hard working father with annual income less than RMB \$4,000 (less than \$500 US) which is no way support her education and lives in an area well behind in modern civilization. But in her letter, I did not see any complaints for her situation, any discouragement for limited

opportunity, or any signs of giving up. Instead, I felt her positiveness, her clear goal and her faith in achieving it. In addition, I felt her sincere appreciation about what she had. I heard before that there was a project called “Engineering for Hopes” in China. Reading Xiao Ling’s letter, I sensed this hope is vivid in her life and I felt strongly that I would commit my best to assist her climbing over those mountains.

We had several letter exchanges since then and I was so moved each time with her responses. She studies extremely hard and ranked number one in her class last term. She wrote to us: “ I received an award of RMB \$10 for my achievement. It was not very much, but I would like to devote this honor to you. Chinese had a slang – receiving a help of a dropful water, shall pay back with a full flow of spring.” She also wrote: “ Dear uncle and aunt, I finally realized the meaning of **love without selfish**. It feels so wonderful and I promise you I will do my best to spread this great love to my schoolmate and school.”

Several months ago, I told her that my son was graduating from college this summer and had not found a job yet due to poor economy. Xiao Ling wrote: “Little brother, don’t be discouraged and be strong in a tough time.” I could not believe this was came out from a sixteen year old young girl who had a much tougher time than majority of the youngsters here. In here, lots of kids got near-sighted vision because watch too much TV and play too much video game. But down there, she got near-sighted vision because she had to study under weak candle light at night (she boards at school and the electricity shuts down at 10 pm).

There was a famous Chinese folk song called “ In that far place, there is a nice girl.” My wife and I felt so strongly Xiao Ling is one of that nice girls in our life. We are so proud and delightful to participate in her effort for growth. We cherish this relationship and feel so lucky to get acquainted with this brave and respectful girl through Evergreen Education Foundation.

**Evergreen Conducts
Training Workshops in China**
by Geoffrey Liu

The Evergreen Education Foundation sponsored and conducted teachers and parents training workshops in Tianzhu and Tongwei of Gansu Province during the first week of August 2003. The teachers training workshop in Tianzhu was focused on school library development in America, and the one in Tongwei was focused on issues of education reform in China. Both workshops were attended by all teachers and administrators from the hosting school. An evaluation survey was conducted afterward at each occasion, and the collected responses indicated that both workshops were a great success. Teachers from both schools enjoyed the training experience and expressed a desire to have more opportunities to learn about western teaching practice and to exchange ideas with their western colleagues.

In support of the Foundation’s out-reaching programs, both Tianzhu and Tongwei were planning to open their libraries to local communities this fall by issuing library cards to parents of their students first on an experimental basis, and then to all residents in their areas. In preparation for this move, a training workshop was conducted on each site to teach local residents how to use the library’s automated system and resources. About 20 local residents (parents of current students) in Tongwei and 40 in Tianzhu attended the workshops. A follow-up survey revealed that the workshops were indeed an eye-opening experience for them, since they had either never seen a library before or just stepped in for a curious peek but never had a chance to use its service.

The parents training workshops provided valuable pioneering experience for the Foundation. Lessons learned from this experiment will be of great benefit in planning and implementing its next move of reaching out to the local communities of Evergreen project sites to maximize the social impact of its investments. More workshops will be offered in the future, not only to train local residents on how to use the library, but also to teach them information literacy and vocational skills.

In response to the teachers’ needs of international exchange, the Foundation is currently organizing an international conference in Beijing in late July, 2004. The conference theme is Information Technology in Education – Learning from Different Cultures. Its mission is to promote the exchange of ideas and sharing of practical experience in using information technology in basic and higher education between librarians, teachers, and educators in China, other Asian countries, and the West. It is aimed to bring in different cultural perspectives on instructional/curricular design with technological components and pedagogical techniques from different educational traditions.

Your Views and Suggestions are Important to Us.

Please let us know your opinions and any suggestions for improvements. To find out more, please visit us at our web site:

<http://www.evergreeneducation.org>

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