Volume 4

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The Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation

STONE SOUP HAPPY READING ALLIANCE PROJECT *(continued on page 4)*

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In 2012, the Foundation is continuing to develop its work on reading and libraries in Hefei through the Stone Soup Happy Reading Alliance Project.

The Alliance consists of 7 veteran schools and 8 apprentice schools. These veteran schools are the founding and longterm partners of the project:
-Tunxilu Primary School
-Shuguang Primary School
-Taihulu Primary School
-Wanghu Primary School
-Weigang Primary School
-Changfeng Normal University Associated Primary School
-Hefei Normal University Associated Primary School.

The 8 apprentice schools are:
-Dongliulu Primary School
-Shuhong Primary School
-Changfeng Duji Central Primary School
-Changeng Gangji Central Primary School
-Changfeng Wushan Central Primary School
-Changfeng Yangmiao Central Primary School
-Golden Grape Primary School
-Gedadian Primary School.

We hope to build the Alliance into a local brand for the Hefei region, and help participating schools become leaders in developing reading culture in Hefei through collaboration and exchange. In order to achieve these goals, the Foundation continues to hire Project Consultants – the renowned children's literature advocates and founders of Beijing Hongniba Reading Club, Ajia and Robot; and Professor James Henri, the former president of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) and ex-Associate Professor of Education at the University of Hong Kong – to help with the training of our partner schools in Hefei.

Pupils enthralled by the arrival of new books

As well as providing books, conducting training and giving strategic advice, we will also implement some new projects, namely:

- Setting up a model library for teachers;
- Holding a monthly roundtable for principals, with different topics, providing a platform for experience sharing;
- Establishing an innovation fund to help support creative teachers and students as they carry out reading projects;
- Holding special training sessions on how to improve the library's role at schools.

We are honored that Professor Stephen Krashen, the author of *The Power or Reading*, and his students have been invited to conduct research in Hefei this year. Professor Krashen attended our 3rd international conference in Hefei last year, and was impressed by those schools' concept of and approach to reading.

The Foundation conducted a kickoff ceremony from 12-15 March for the Alliance. During the four days, we arranged a site visit to the Alliance's veteran schools. It was a good learning and exchange opportunity for every school present, particularly apprentice schools. We would like to thank all of the veteran schools for their wonderful demonstrations: they

Camfed Earns New York Times Coverage

In the buildup to this year's International Women's Day, held on March 8, we were delighted to see Camfed featured in the New York Times.

The Campaign for Female Education, better known as Camfed, has seen remarkable growth since it was founded by Ann Cotton back in 1993. Originally set up in the UK to support girls in Zimbabwe, Camfed now also operates in Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, and Malawi, and has worked with over 2,500 different communities.

Focussing on girls' education and the so-called 'Girl Effect', Camfed works to keep girls in education, making them "three times less likely to get HIV/AIDS, earn 25 percent more income and have a smaller, healthier family".

In his thorough article in the New York Times, David Bornstein, the award-winning writer, describes how Camfed works with communities to send girls to school.

Between December 2008 and December 2009, the Foundation is proud to have provided a grant to Camfed for their programme, *Training for Teachers in Northern Ghana to Secure Quality Education for the Next Generation.*

Looking forward, the Foundation is fully confident that Camfed will continue their highly impactful work across Africa.

Yonso Project Featured on National TV in Ghana

Awarded a Foundation grant last year (July—Nov 2011), The Yonso Project is to be featured in a programme that will be shown across all TV stations in Ghana. The show, *Touching Lives*, "seeks to honour and support people who are touching the lives of others in their communities or beyond", in Ghana.

Led by Kwabena Danso, the Yonso Project received funds from the Foundation during its library development initiative, the Akrofoso Library Project, which was implemented with key participation from the Akrofoso community.

Due to the high level of community involvement and proper training of a librarian by the Ghana Libraries Board, we are confident that this initiative is sustainable and will continue to grow.

Separately, the Yonso Project runs two programmes which address community problems whilst generating income for the beneficiaries as well as the organisation.

The completed Akrofoso Library, which supports about 500 rural kids and a community of 3,000 people.

The Bamboo Bicycle Project (pictured) tackles youth unemployment in rural areas, provides an affordable means of transport, and promotes carbon-free transportation.

Bamboo Bike Production

Last year, the programme generated over USD 6,000 in revenue, providing employment for ten youths who had previously been involved in illegal logging and poaching.

The Yonso Project also runs a microfinance programme that aims to support rural women with business management training and microcredit. This programme seeks to empower rural women economically through set up and expansion of their businesses.

The current client base is 200 strong, a figure which The Yonso Project aims to increase to 500 within the next two years.

We have been most impressed by Kwabena Danso and the Yonso Project's work, and hope to see them continue to expand and grow from this in the years to come.

For more information about The Yonso Project, please visit www.yonsoproject.org

Foundation visits The Pass Love Project in Santa Village, Funan County, Anhui

Inspired by the film *Pay It Forward* (2000), Pass Love Charity Foundation works to help those in poverty receive fair and developmentally appropriate education, whilst encouraging the principles of social responsibility and kindness to others.

The Foundation staff, together with our Reading Consultants Ajia and Robot, spent two days in December 2011 in Santa Village. As well as visiting schools, partner schools, and their libraries, they also sat in on storytellings and workshops given to children and teachers respectively.

The evening of their arrival, our staff attended storytellings: Ajia told the story 别让蛾子开巴士; Robot read 鸭子骑车记。

The following day, teachers observed Ajia and Robot teaching reading classes to students before giving lectures to teachers. Participation was good, with around 70 teachers sharing their experiences and difficulties teaching reading class. The teachers dramatised the picture books *Stone Soup* and *A Tiger Being Afraid Of Leaking*.

After the workshops, teachers felt that their ability to teach from books had improved, and were more confident in capturing and holding onto their students' interest by reading from books.

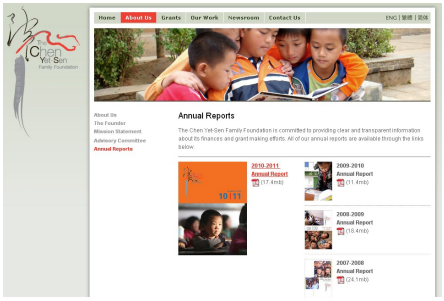
An interactive reading session

Looking forward

- Xu Lili, from Shanghai United Foundation, will join Pass Love on a part-time basis, and will help Du Keming continue to build and manage libraries.
- With advice from our Reading Consultants Ajia and Robot, Du Keming formed a plan including teachers training at nearby schools, as well as research projects conducted by local teachers to learn how to work together better.
- Local capacity building is also a high priority for Pass Love.

The 1+2 Plan

Supported by the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation, the 1+2 Plan can be summarised as an already-established library choosing two nearby schools that need to develop their library programmes. The established library will then help the two chosen schools set up their own libraries through knowledge sharing. More information about this Foundation-supported project can be found in our 2009/2010 annual report.



Our Annual Report is now available online!

http://www.chenyetsenfoundation.org/report.html

Good Books to Read: Booklists from the New Reading Institute

One of our partners, the *New Reading Institute* is a non-profit academic research institution specializing in reading promotion and reading research. In order to help teachers and parents select good children's books, booklists for primary school students and for kindergarten children have been compiled and released, earning public recognition and approval.

Booklists for secondary school students, university students and entrepreneurs are currently being created.

The *New Reading Institute* is also working on research into children's reading, and is conducting a survey with a view to making policy recommendations. It aims to advocate reading as a way of life, and will promote this idea through reading research and various reading activities.

Booklist for Primary School Students [1/2]

Booklist for Primary School Students [2/2]

Booklist for Kindergarten Children

Shakespeare4All Learning & Participation Festival

First supported by the Foundation from September 2010 to December 2011, Shakespeare4All (S4A) strives "to inspire young people to aspire to excellence".

S4A motivates young people to want to learn and to enhance English literacy through the understanding and appreciation of Shakespearean plays, adapted to suit the students' level of English.

The 2011-2012 Learning & Participation Festival, in partnership with Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London, involved over 300 students and performances of a selection of Shakespeare's plays, including: *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Julius Caesar, Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet,* and *The Taming of The Shrew*.

A Shakespeare4All performance of *Julius Caesar*

The Festival included a learning competition, in which students were assessed based on their understanding of the Shakespearean play they had been learning. By encouraging and teaching comprehension of the texts and the characters, S4A fosters students' interest in plays, encourages a culture of learning, and helps to develop a participants' sense of empathy and emotional intelligence.

As well as providing drama classes and workshops to students, the Festival included Professional Development Sessions for teachers at participating schools.

S4A brings clear benefits to participants' English reading, listening, and speaking skills: 90% of teachers and parents noted participants had improved pronunciation and confidence after the Festival.

A representative from Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London was highly impressed by the Festival and the speed of progress and learning, commenting, "It is amazing how much they achieved in such a short space of time."

Looking forward, Shakespeare4All will continue to cultivate high quality arts education programmes to enable young people of all English language abilities to aspire to excellence.

Stone Soup Happy Reading Alliance Project *(continued from front page)*

showed how to build reading culture through teachers' innovative ideas and passion for education.

Around 180 teachers attended the kickoff ceremony on 13 March at Tunxilu Primary School. Each principal expressed high expectations for the Alliance, and cooked their stones (see below).

School Principals cooking their stones

Deputy of Hefei Baohe District Education Bureau Madam Chen Xuemei was also invited to attend the ceremony. Leader of the Hefei project from day one, Chen Xuemei continues to play an important role in the Stone Soup Story. She made an important announcement: "Jinzhai will be the area that Hefei Baohe district supports in the future. I hope that the Foundation and our schools can help the schools in Jinzhai with our abilities."

Another special guest was Dr Carol Gordon, from Rutgers University, who gave a speech titled: 21st Teaching and Learning in the School Library.

At the beginning of June, the Foundation traveled to Hefei again. As before, Reading Consultants and Hongniba founders AJia and Robot conducted several workshops and lectures. This time, we also invited Principal Hu Dongmei as a local expert to give a speech to 5 schools located at Changfeng, sharing how she supports teachers who promote reading at school.

Another important visit was the Foundation's trip to Jinzhai Guanmiao, where we support Shanghai Heart Education's Wisdom Boat Project. Along with Foundation staff, the principal and teachers from Hefei Taihulu School also joined for this visit. The Wisdom Boat has been running in Guanmiao since 2009.

We are happy to see that, with the guidance of Heart Education, reading is highly recognized by teachers and students at the school.

After being introduced to the school by Madam Chen, Jinzhai deputy county mayor and officers from Jinzhai Education Bureau also paid a visit. As a result of this meeting, we believe that promoting Jinzhai's reading development will be the Foundation's next key project.

Chen Zhaomin Cultural Center

In order to give back to the community in his hometown, Our founder Mr. Robert Chen donated money to build the Chen Zhaomin Center in 1991. From 1991 to 2008, the Cultural Center contributed significantly to the community. In 2008, the town of Zhaomin was incorporated into Lüsi town, after which, unbeknownst to the Foundation, the Center was left vacant due to a lack of management.

In January 2012, Foundation staff visited Qidong and became aware of this situation. Immediately, we talked to the Qidong Returning Chinese Office to express our wish that the Center should be used again, and outlined for principles on the use of the center:

- It must be non-profit and must serve the residents;
- It should be used primarily for education, or to serve the youth and children.

Qidong Returning Chinese Office understood our wish, and agreed that they would submit a proposal after conducting research. At the same time, Chen Shangyi Primary School submitted a proposal, requesting authorization to use the Center for Children's Palace activities. We had already discussed this with the Qidong Returning Office and Education Bureau in Qidong.

In June, we discovered that a retired government official was refurbishing the Center. The Foundation

had not been notified, and the official claimed that she had received approval to use the Cultural Center from the Lüsi Government. When we enquired further, the Qidong Returning Chinese Office changed its position and said that, although the Chen family built the Cultural Center, its maintenance and operation are entirely separate issues.

In order to resolve these issues, the Foundation returned to Qidong to meet all stakeholders, including the Lüsi Government, Qidong Returning Chinese Office, Qidong Education Bureau, Chenshangyi Primary School. Qidong's vice mayor also attended and hosted the meeting.

Chen Shangyi primary school also submitted a proposal, however this did not meet the required safety standards, and the proposed renovation was too costly. As such, the

school's proposal was rejected.

The proposal from the Lüsi government, which includes an elderly care home, a reading room, and more, was approved.

The Foundation appreciated all stakeholders' understanding and support, and was especially thankful for the vice mayor's clear instructions. Several agreements were reached at the meeting.

- The elderly care home will not provide residential services
- The Cultural Center is an independent public project approved by Lüsi town government, rather than a private project. Someone will be hired to manage the Center. Some reasonable fees may be charged to ensure the smooth operation of the center, but it will remain a non-profit cultural activities center serving the local people
- The Lüsi town government will provide RMB 400,000-500,000 to fund preliminary repair costs
- If the surrounding schools plan to hold activities/events, they can apply to the town government to use the Center's facilities, free of charge.

We will continue to monitor developments at the Center, and strive to ensure that the building will continue to fulfil Robert's original intent: to serve the community.

NGO Capacity Building

Through supporting organizations through grants and working with many partners over the years, the Foundation has observed that our partners often need not only funding support, but also capacity building. Many partners have demonstrated the potential for long term development. Due to these findings, the Foundation is implementing a pilot capacity building program for 5 of our partners this year, namely Happy Xiaotaozi, New Century Dream Library, New Citizen's Children Activity Center, Green Kids and Yunnan Youth Development Center. Four of the organizations are located in Beijing, one in Kunming.

For each organization, the Foundation will support one full time staff's salary for one year and capacity building training for the chosen organizations. In order to understand their training needs, each organization was asked to complete a survey. The Foundation also talked to each organization face to face to understand more about their needs.

Trainings were designed and held by the Social Recourse Institute (SRI) and the Capacity Building Assessment & Center (CBAC), two organizations that focus on providing services to strengthen the capacity of NGOs. The two organizations have different areas of focus and expertise.

As most of our partner organizations noted that fund-raising is highly challenging, four days of centralized fundraising training was conducted by SRI in late July. The training covered how to collaborate with foundations and companies, as well as introduced new fundraising methods. Some foundation program officers and NGO leaders were also invited to share their expectations and experiences.

On the other hand, CBAC conducted separate individual counselling which was tailor-made to address needs such as Organization Development, Volunteer Management, Team Building and Strategic Planning.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the training, some foundation leaders and our board members will be invited as evaluators. Evaluators will rate each organization's based on their improvement before and after the trainings. We hope for and look forward to much better performances after the training by SRI and CBAC, and we are committed to supporting NGO capacity building for grassroots organizations in China.

"Imperishable Affection: The Art of Feng Zikai" - at the Hong Kong Museum of Art

Now in its third year of operation, the Feng Zikai Chinese Children's Picture Book Award continues to move from strength to strength.

As the Award prepares to hold The Third Chinese Picture Book Forum: *The Wondrous Imagination of Picture Books*, Feng Zikai and his works have been in the public eye in Hong Kong.

Last month, RTHK produced and screened an hour-long documentary about the celebrated artist, scholar, and educator.

Concurrently, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Zhejiang Provincial Museum are jointly presenting an exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, titled *Imperishable Affection: The Art of Feng Zikai*, which first opened in May and will run until October.

The exhibition's popularity has exceeded all expectations, with the prepared exhibition catalogues selling out months before the end of the exhibition! New materials are being printed due to the high demand.

The exhibition will run until Sunday 7 October at the Hong Kong Museum of Art, 10 Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong. Be sure not to miss out!

The Feng Zikai exhibition at the Hong Kong Museum of Art will run until Sunday 7th October

BRING ME A BOOK HONG KONG 書伴我行(香港)基金會

Announces the launch of the

BRING ME A BOOK INSTITUTE

Be Inspired, Practice Good Habits and Positively Impact Your Child

We believe the best gift you can give your child is the life-long love of reading. In a series of workshops for **parents and teachers**, learn why and how you can use books to nurture your child's creativity, compassion and confidence while having a lot of fun in the process!

The first term of the BMAB Institute will run from **October 8th – November 16th 2012**
Registration opens in September, 2012. More details coming soon.

Founded in 2006 with support from the Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation but now fully independent, Bring Me A Book™ Hong Kong (BMABHK) is a non-profit organisation serving children who do not have access to quality books and are not read aloud to on a regular basis.

Since 2006, BMABHK has installed 154 libraries serving 59,000 children, and conducted 493 First Teachers™ Training Sessions, teaching 6,900 parents the importance of reading aloud to their kids and equipping them with the necessary skills, confidence and enthusiasm to ignite the passion to read in their children.

thematic English book guide

"Tried and Tasted"

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