

## Overseas China Education Foundation (OCEF)

Overseas China Education Foundation (“OCEF”), formerly known as SOS China Education Foundation, was founded in California in 1992, and re-registered in Huston, Texas in 2001. OCEF is a 501 (c) (3) charity recognized by IRS (Federal tax ID: 76-0680540). All donations made to OCEF are tax-deductible in the U.S. to the extent allowed by law.

OCEF is an independent, non-governmental, non-political and non-religious organization. The sole mission of OCEF is to help underprivileged children in impoverished rural areas of China receive education and improve the quality of education in rural China. Operated primarily by unpaid volunteers, OCEF keeps operational costs minimal. In 2010, the indirect operating costs accounted for about 4.6% of annual donation receipts.

OCEF has developed comprehensive operational procedures that ensure all OCEF funds are distributed diligently and transparently. OCEF operations in China are comprised of three main functions: (1) review of financial aid applications from students; (2) upon approval from the Executive Committee in the U.S. for funding, distribution of the approved funding; (3) follow-up inspections post distribution of funding. Inspectors conduct field trip regularly to visit beneficiaries and schools to monitor the fund distribution process. The majority of the local funding programs are inspected every other year. In 2010, ten inspectors visited 101 local funding programs in 37 counties and 16 provinces. OCEF members and donors are encouraged to participate in the operations of the foundation, including inspection fieldwork.

Since the beginning of 2010, OCEF has initiated strategic restructure of the funding programs, moving from direct financial assistance to a more comprehensive support system that aims at improving the quality of education in rural China. In this new system, OCEF selects qualified schools to aid comprehensive series of programs including infrastructure improvements, teacher training, student financial aid, advanced reading programs and health care programs. These programs are tailored towards the needs of the local school and will have more profound and positive impacts on both the accessibility and quality of local education in the long term.

Funding Programs	Since 1992		2010	
	Total	Total	Total	Inspection
Financial Aide	>37,400*	2,916*	713	
Teacher Aid	>500	82	91	
Library	>300	18	46	
School Construction	19			

\* One person per semester counted as one instance.

## Comprehensive Support Programs

In poor remote areas, many teachers and students endure difficult conditions in rundown classrooms. Moreover, in mountainous regions, many children are too young to walk hours to attend schools that are miles away, thus often postpone or even never go to school.

The *Bricks of Joy* program is the first phase of a Comprehensive Support Program to improve such situations. The program focuses on the infrastructure improvements to provide a solid foundation for future facilities to build on. It serves as the foundation to improve the quality of education in remote areas.

### Zhongshan Primary School

- Zhongshan Primary School is a village-run school without government sponsorship. It is one of the most remote village schools in Zhijin County, Guizhou province. The school consisted of a two-story building, hosting only 7 teachers but over 400 students.
- In May 2011, the school received funding from a China-based NGO and started to provide free lunches to students. However, without a physical cafeteria, students have to have lunch on the outdoor playground.
- OCEF is planning to build a new two-story building for the school, with a cafeteria on the first floor and a library on the second floor, total budget of which is approximately US\$16,920 and the construction is expected to complete at the end of 2011.
- Upon completion of the building, OCEF will proceed to establish Library Program and Teacher Training Program to further improve the quality of the education.



You may support *Bricks of Joy* program via Facebook Causes (<http://www.ocef.org/causes>), or other donation methods listed on page 6.

## Library Program and Teacher Training Program

Many children in remote rural regions of China have never read any books other than their textbooks. Since year 2003, through the Library Program, OCEF has provided books and established libraries in 460 rural schools. New books are purchased with discounts from big publishers. At the same time, volunteers in urban China run book drives to collect used books. OCEF inspectors visit the sponsored libraries every other year to monitor and evaluate the effective use of the donated books.

Recognizing that good books alone are not enough, OCEF has started a Teacher Training Program to encourage teachers to provide effective guidance and to inspire reading activities, which are fundamental to promote reading among the students. In addition to financial assistance to school teachers struggling with poverty, OCEF also provides funding for advanced training opportunities to teachers dedicated to further improve their effective teaching skills.

### Minghua Primary School

- Formally known as Tianba Primary School, Minghua Primary School is located on the top of a mountain in Zhijin County, Guizhou Province.
- After building library for the school, OCEF provides training to the teachers on how to effectively encourage reading among students. Experienced staff from OCEF communicates with the teachers and helps them design and implement reading promotion plans, including training students as librarians, encouraging senior students to read books to younger students, organizing meetings among teachers for brainstorming, and etc. OCEF staff also visits the school every semester.
- The innovative reading promotion program has helped build capacity among the students. Senior students have organized and volunteered to manage and lead reading programs of the younger students. Such interactive programs stimulate interest in reading and empower the students at the same time.



## Financial Aid and Scholarship Program

In China, despite recent years of substantial economic growth, there are still areas where primary/middle school students drop out of schools due to severe financial hardship. To help these students return to the classrooms, OCEF provides Financial Aid packages covering books, fees, and other school related expenses.

Within the Financial Aid Program, donors may choose to participate in the “one-on-one” project by designating an individual student for each sponsorship with future follow up communications.



The High School Scholarship Program was initiated in 2004, designed primarily to support high school students in the most underdeveloped areas in China. When making decisions on scholarships, OCEF considers the financial need, merits and school performance of the students.

## School Building and Special Programs

School Building Program was established to improve or rebuild the rundown classrooms in rural China. Up till now, constructions have been funded under “Special Projects” based on donor designations

Special projects respond to the particular needs of local schools. Projects focus on infrastructure improvements and provision of facilities.

### Weimin Primary School (Xichang, Sichuan) Water Supply Project

- Weimin Primary School is located in a mountainous and environmentally sensitive area of Sichuan Province. It lacks basic infrastructure such as drinking water;
- Collaborating with HELP, a nonprofit organization, OCEF brought spring water from mountains 4 kilometers away, and built 2 solar-powered shower rooms.



## You Can Help

### Donation methods

Please register with the OCEF Donation Management System (<https://ocef.org/pub/>) and make a donation based on your preference. You may always send a check directly to OCEF (details below) after printing out a donation form. Please refer to OCEF official website: <http://www.ocef.org/donation>

- Check:** OCEF accepts personal/business checks, foreign currency checks, money order, cashier’s check and bank draft. (Please record your donation number on the financial instrument. Process time: 3-6 weeks)  
**Paid to: Overseas China Education Foundation Address: P.O. Box 772436, Houston, Texas 77215-2436, USA**
- Credit Card:** make a donation by credit card through one of the following online donation processing agencies (a processing fee between 1.9 to 3.0% arising). An email receipt will be generated for your records. More guides may be referred to <http://www.ocef.org/donation>
  - Causes.com
  - Justgive.org
  - American Express
  - Google Checkout and Paypal
- OCEF Capital One Credit Card:** apply for OCEF Capital One credit card, shopping reward will be donated to OCEF automatically.
- ebay:** payable to *OCEF ebay Mission Fish* account when you sell/buy goods on ebay
- Online Shopping Reward:** logon *ExtraRebate* via a special link, a certain percentage of shopping reward will be donated to OCEF automatically.
- United Way:** designate your donation to OCEF via United Way with a process fee between 2%~12% depending on the local branch.
- Payroll Deduction:** make a pre-authorized donation from payroll. Please contact your employer for charitable payroll deduction and donation match program details.
- Financial Derivative Instruments:** including stocks, options, forwards, etc., please refer to <http://www.ocef.org/donation>, or contact us at [ocef@ocef.org](mailto:ocef@ocef.org)
- Volunteer Grants:** companies offering Volunteer Grants programs may match your volunteer service time by donating a certain amount to OCEF. Please contact your employer for details.
- Goods:** please contact us for detail [ocef@ocef.org](mailto:ocef@ocef.org)

### Donation Records

Upon registering with the OCEF Donation Management System, your donation history will be maintained in your account for reference.

### Join OCEF

- OCEF membership: USD 50 per year;
- OCEF volunteer: participate in OCEF local events, provide feedbacks to help us improve!