

Teacher Aid Program

A large number of primary schools in the poor, rural regions of China rely on "Temporary Teachers" to teach most, if not all, of their courses. These Temporary Teachers, also known as Rural Teachers, are better educated than average villagers but have not received the required training to get on the State payroll as full-time, qualified teachers. Temporary Teachers are vital to the primary schools in rural regions, because very few qualified teachers are willing to teach in such poor conditions and remote locations. There are about 600,000 Temporary Teachers in China, many of whom make only 40 Yuan (\$5US) a month and have no State benefit. Although they do not have the required training, their workload is as heavy as full-time teachers, whose salary is likely ten to twenty times more. Furthermore, these Temporary Teachers are farmers themselves. Since teaching takes away their time to manage their farmland, a Temporary Teacher's family is often the poorest in the village. Despite all the disadvantages, however, many Temporary Teachers choose to stay on the job, for if they do not do it, there will be no one left to teach the children.

OCEF wants to help these Temporary Teachers. When a Temporary Teacher is forced to quit his or her job due to poverty, many children will have no school to go to even if we give them all the financial aid they need. Help to the teachers is help to the children.

OCEF Teacher Aid Program

This new initiative, the OCEF Teacher Aid program, was kicked off in March, 2006. This program focuses on helping Temporary Teachers from poor, rural regions of China. It will be accomplished in two parts. The first part is to help improve the living standard of the Temporary Teachers who remain on the job despite the harsh conditions; while the other part is to raise money for training, so that they can improve the quality of their teaching. This fund may also be used by the teachers to obtain reading materials and teaching aids.

Who Can Apply

-- A Temporary Teacher from regions where OCEF has currently set up sponsorship programs, and has active Local Coordinators. It is desired that the Local Coordinator can handle responsibility and tasks well and has means of easy and fast communications.

-- A Temporary Teacher who has worked in the poor, rural area for a length of time, who has passion for education, who loves the children, and works in an ethical and responsible manner.

-- A Temporary Teacher who makes less than 300 Yuan (\$37US) per month, and has financial difficulties.

Procedures for Application

-- Recommendation: After an OCEF Local Coordinator visits the Temporary Teacher; visits school to check his or her working conditions; then visits his or her County/Village government or higher level Education Department to check his or her performance, the candidate is accepted upon approval from the higher level Education Department.

-- Application Form; The Candidate Temporary Teacher completes an Application Form for the OCEF Teacher Aid Program. The Local Coordinator, local County/Village government and higher level Education Department will need to provide comments and sign on the form. The form is then

mailed to OCEF Shanghai office.

-- Approvals: There are three steps of screening and approvals from OCEF. The first screening is done by the Teacher Aid Program Group; the second screening is done by OCEF Executive Committee; while the last screening is done by the OCEF President.

-- Dispense of Funds: The funds is dispensed from Teacher Aid Program Group to the Local Coordinator who passes it over to the Temporary Teacher, and mails the original receipt back to OCEF Shanghai office. The funds are dispensed twice a year, before each school term starts.