In poor remote areas, many teachers and students endure difficult conditions in rundown classrooms. Moreover, in mountainous regions, many children are too young to attend schools that are miles away, thus often preferring to stay at home.

The Books 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 development to build on. It serves 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 villages in Zhijin County, Guizhou province. The school consisted of a two-story building, hosting only 3 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.

Many children in remote rural regions of China have never read 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 inspects 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 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

Formerly known as Shunhua Primary School, Minghua Primary School is located on the top of a mountain in Zhejiang County, Guangxi Province.

The library building for the school serves as a study center, training 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. The school works to read books to younger students, organizing meetings among teachers for brainstorming and other school staff. The library is one of the best in Guangxi.

The innovative reading promotion program has helped build capacity among the students. Some students have organized and volunteered to manage and lead reading promotion programs at their schools. The programs stimulate interest in reading and empower the students at the same time.

In China, despite recent years of substantial economic growth, there are still areas where primary/secondary 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 lost 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 follows up communications.

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

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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Teacher Aid</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Financial Aid and Scholarship</th>
<th>School Building and Special Programs</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>$2,916*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* One person per semester counted as one instance.

OCEF is an independent, non-governmental, non-political and non-religious organization. The sole mission of OCEF is to help underprivileged children in remote areas of China receive education and improve the quality of education among them. OCEF is primarily by urban volunteers, OCEF keeps operational costs minimal. In 2010, the indirect operational costs accounted for about 4.4% 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, inspect school staff to regularly visit to beneficiaries and schools to monitor the fund distribution situation. The majority of the local funding programs are inspected every other year. In 2010, ten inspectors visited 101 local funding programs in 17 counties and 26 provinces. OCEF members and donors are encouraged to participate in the operation of the foundation, including inspecting fieldwork.

Since the beginning of 2010, OCEF has initiated strategic restructuring 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 solicits funded schools to aid in comprehensive packages of programs including infrastructure improvements, teacher training, student financial aid, and 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.

Donation Methods

Please refer to the OCEF Donation Management System, your donations can be traced and your contributions will be acknowledged upon request. You may always send a check directly to OCEF to be included in our ongoing projects. Donations can also be made online at OCEF official website: http://www.ocef.org/donation.

You can also donate a make a donation through the following online donation processing agencies (in processing fee between 1.5%~1.75%):

1. Check: OCEF accepts personal checks, foreign currency checks, order, cashier’s check and bank draft. Please record your donation number on the financial instruments (with 8 digits, example: 11000001).

Paid to: Overseas China Education Foundation

2. Credit Card:

Credit Card支配 Board: make a donation by credit card through one of the following online donation processing agencies (in processing fee between 1.5%~1.75%):

- American Express
- Diners Club
- EuroCard
- MasterCard
- Visa

3. Other: before making a donation, please check the "Donations" section on the OCEF official website (http://www.ocef.org/donation) for details.

4. OCEF accepts donations in any currency: donations can be made directly to the OCEF official website.

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