



A Program Report
2008-2009

Summer Volunteer Program 2008

Overview

From May 25th to June 26th, twenty-six self-funded volunteers were recruited to initiate and improve library programs in rural and migrant workers communities in China. At their respective project sites (five of them), volunteers worked on both the hardware and software aspects of the libraries. They installed the books that Dream Corps annually donated to the library; systematized the library collection's tracking system at the two new project sites; provided consultative advice to optimize operation within local constraints and past records (for all five libraries); and promoted and cultivated an atmosphere of discovery, sharing, and cooperation for the library audiences.

At the two new project sites— one is an elementary school in Sicong Township, Hunan, the other one is a community center for migrant workers in the city of Xiamen, volunteers worked closely with librarian and school staff to set-up and establish basic operations. For established project sites (where Dream Corps has worked with for more than two years), volunteers concentrated on targeted short-term programming ideas (such as student talent show, assisted English teaching, and reading workshops) that has been shown to be effective interventions in past years. At the same time, volunteers always worked with librarians and teachers to find emergent ideas that could maximize the educational potential of the libraries.

Program Summary

Total Number of Volunteers: 26

University Students

(graduate & undergrad.):

Bates College

Bard College

Colby College

Duke University

Emory University

Harvard University

Lehigh University

Sichuan University

Sun Yet-Set University

Sun Yet-Set University

University of Pennsylvania

University of North Carolina

University of Toronto

University of Virginia

York University

Professionals

Bain & Company

Deloitte Consulting

Moach Sensation

May 25 – May 27

May 28 – June 24

June 26

Volunteer Training

Site Projects

Dream Corps Forum

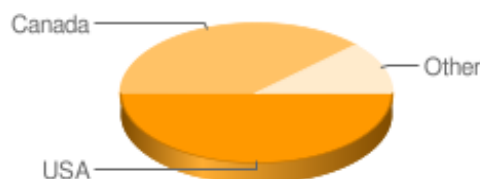
Activity Highlights:

- [curricular] - student artwork competition
- [curricular] - Story-telling competition
- [operation improve.] - book demands survey
- [community context] - village talent show
- [community context] - student home-visit
- [teaching assist.] - conversational English for teachers & students
- [development] - dev. local volunteer support

Country of origin



Country of residence



2008 Book Donation

Beijing New Century Dream Library	291
Sichuan Nanguang Middle School Library	53
Henan Liangchangying Village Library	425
Jiangxi Desheng Elem. School Library	320
Hunan Sicong Elem. School Library	729
Xiamen Gouren Workers Center	558

Summer Volunteer Program 2009

Overview

From May 26th to June 27th, thirty-six self-funded volunteers were recruited for six project sites. Three of the project sites were returning project sites where volunteers helped with specific tasks. At the three new sites (identified with the help of the county education bureau of Chaling County, Hunan), volunteers' task was to initiate the library program and work with the school to eventually integrate the library program into their school curriculum and extra-curriculum planning. Library programs in Sicong Elementary School, which was initiated last year, was also consolidated with the help of volunteers while they helped to install new books.

At the older program sites in Laochangying Village, Henan, volunteers again organized the annual talent show with the local elementary school students. They also helped to install new books and organized reading programs at the village library. At Beijing New Century Dream Library, volunteers helped to publicize the library in the community and homes. Their series of weekend programs used the library as a symbolic resource for building the children's relationship with their loved ones. They also experimented with a mobile library where books are distributed to several nearby schools for migrant children.

Program Summary

Total Number of Volunteers: 36

University Students

(graduate & undergrad.):

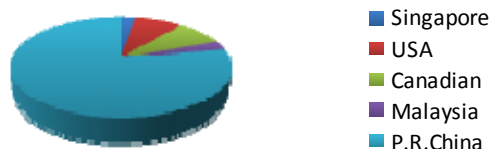
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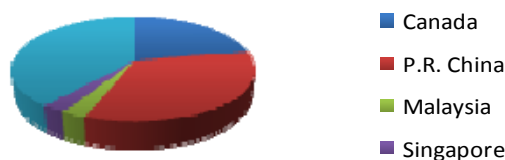
Professionals

BenQ China
UBS Investment Bank

Country of origin



Country of residence



April 11 – May 2

Volunteer Online Training

May 26 – May 28

Volunteer Training

Activity Highlights:

- [curricular] - reading programs
- [well-being] - expressing love and care through handicraft and artworks
- [community context] - village talent show
- [community context] - student home-visit
- [teaching assist.] - conversational English for teachers & students
- [development] - mobile library

2009 Book Donation

Beijing New Century Dream Library	456*
Sichuan Nanguang Middle School Library	135
Henan Liangchangying Village Library	234*
Jiangxi Desheng Elem. School Library	494
Hunan Sicong Elem. School Library	494
Hunan Zaoshi Elem. School Library	494
Hunan Huju Elem. School Library	494
Hunan Pingshui Elem. School Library	494

* Also 147 (Beijing) and 431 (Henan) DVDs.

Program Highlights:

Beijing Zhufang New Century Dream Library





Many parents living in Beijing Zhufang Village are migrant workers. They work for long hours and often do not have the time, energy, and resource to attend to their children's learning and caring needs. Dream Corps work with local educators to provide a comfortable and safe place that their children could use and explore. Over the years, the library has become a hub for these children and young adults.

Programs

Volunteers help the librarian and local recruits to develop fun and interesting activities that engage the children in learning and reading. Volunteers have developed one-on-one reading workshops, story-telling contests, group homework sessions, and English learning program. Children who frequent the library enjoy monthly updated library books that can be taken home with registration or read in library whenever it opens. Currently, the community library has over 7,000 books and is open to public from Tuesday afternoon to Sunday. In 2009, Dream Corps volunteers experimented with a mobile library model which would allow the sharing of library resources across several schools of migrant workers' children.



2009 Beijing volunteers handing out library promotional flyers in the community.



2009 Beijing Volunteer Mengxing Wang reading to Jingwen Li, age 7.

Program Highlights:

Hunan Huju Central Elem. School Library





The Huju Elementary School Library Project is a collaboration between Dream Corps, Huju township government, Huju Central Elementary School, and Chaling County Education Department. The library opened in June 2009. Over 500 quality books and other equipment were donated, with matching addition bought by the school. Volunteers helped setting up the library and a reading room. The library's catalogue has been digitalized and the database is waiting for future volunteers to update and to be integrated and made use of through an electronic library management system. Since over half of the students have parents currently working as migrant workers in the cities throughout the year, we believe the opportunity to have books to be read at home and in a warm and friendly environment at school is an effective way to alleviate parental absence to a certain degree.

Below: At the library opening day, the new librarian, Teacher Duan, orders students as they come in.



More Program Snapshots

@ Henan Laochangying Village

Encouraging students through artistic expression, stories, and community bounding

Some parents in the village hold pessimistic outlook for the lives of their children, hence subjectively influencing the children's own self-confidence. Volunteers understood this community-context of education that held many children's potentials in hostage. To combat this subjective inequity, they encourage the students through carefully designed activities.



Above: Students from Laochangying village elementary school rehearse for the talent show, a tradition that Dream Corps volunteers started in 2006. The villagers were greatly encouraged by their children's performance that they asked volunteers to help organize the talent show every year.



Above: Volunteer Wang Xuan reads the heroic story of Lin Zexu to lower grades students at the spring outing. The spring outing also include outdoor painting workshop and games. These activities helped the students to recognize their social and nature environment outside the school wall as a legitimate sites of learning and exploration.



@ Hunan Zaoshi Elementary School

Working with teachers

Left: Volunteer Seamus, an ex-English teacher in China, taking a picture with the teachers. Volunteers at all program sites work with teachers and school administrators side by side. Seamus especially worked with the English teachers at the school to discuss English lesson preparation and provide tips on how to prepare their students for the exams.

Volunteer Reflections

@ Beijing Zhufang Village:



Above: Dennis Dupee enjoys a moment with Mengjia, daughter of migrant workers in Beijing, at the New Century Dream Library

For me, interacting with the children and seeing their progress made tight living quarters, early wake ups and less-than-ideal food worth it. When we first arrived at the site, one of the kindergartners would grab my nose, stroke my legs, crawl on the floor, jump on my back and do almost anything besides read while in the library. By the time we left, however, she had learned how to read pinyin and pronounce the characters and would run up to me with books. Her academic progress and the change in how she used the library were amazing.

@ Henan Laochangying Village:

Were it not because I went, I would not know, to establish a library in a village, a place where kids can read freely, is not at all as simple as one would imagine.

— Guo Haitao



Before departing for the Sunday fieldtrip, a boy pushed into my hands a pack of instant noodle. As I tried to refuse gently, knowing this is perhaps his own lunch, some girls nearby shouted, “don’t eat that, Jiejie (big sister). That’s out of expiration date!” Immediately, the boy’s face turned into a sad look and walked away with head hanging in dismay. But then I ran over to him, took the noodle from his hand and said, “thank you for your noodle!”

The boy’s face shined with a smile. Encouragement, as I understood at that moment, was what we were here for.

Left: Yvonne Zhang reads to boys at the Village Library

Program Goals:

Cultivate an Open Learning Environment

Quality Books — All books donated are carefully selected to fit local demands and readers' literacy levels. Way pay particular attention to:

- ✓ book orders at request from school teachers and librarians who know their students best
- ✓ purchase books from reliable and specialized distributors
- ✓ dedicated team for book selection
- ✓ understand changes in demand through local feedback



Electronic Management System

Small funds were setup for volunteers at Jiangxi Desheng Elementary School to establish an electronic library management system. Volunteers setup the electronic system and taught the school librarian how to maintain and use the electronic database and the library management software. This drastically shortened the time and work load for the librarian, who also teaches many classes in a week. New computers and related peripherals and electronics are currently needed.



The new books have arrived! Volunteers at the Beijing Library are verifying the shipment of titles with their little helpers.

Access & Use — We provide incentive and curriculum development funds to librarians and teachers to facilitate increasing access and better use of library resources.

- ✓ *provide curriculum development grants directly or indirectly related to library use*
- ✓ *salary subsidies for school librarians*
- ✓ *increase community library publicity through community celebration*
- ✓ *effective opening hours and efficient book borrowing and returning*

Library-based Activities — Both overseas volunteers and local volunteers work together at our partner schools and community centers to enrich existing programs and to invent new ones.



Children at the Beijing Library enjoy a painting workshop organized by a team of local volunteers. Other regular programs include story-telling contests, volunteer-led story reading, and classical text recitation.

Integration — One of the most diverse and lively networks of volunteers, school administrators, teachers, scholars, and community leaders to leverage resources across national and urban-rural divides.

Finance

November 2008 — October 2009

Revenue

Corporate Contribution	500
Foundation & Charity Contribution	6,600.00
Individual Contribution	4,894.86
Other Revenue	47.34

Total Revenue	12,042.20
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Expense

General and Administrative	738.13
Library Operation & Programs	10,380.47
Book Donation	6,930.98
Volunteer Training and Forum	544.47

Total Expense	18,649.05
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Special Thanks

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Participation

Excellence



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