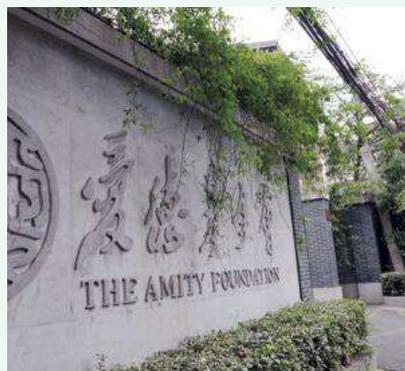


Volunteer to make a better world





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ON THE COVER:

Young volunteers, holding hands with Amity's "e-children", share their experience, care and love in summer camp of Amity's orphan fostering program.



“Change” and “stay” in Amity’s philanthropy undertaking



2 019 is the 34th anniversary of Amity Foundation. After these decades of ups and downs, Amity’s philanthropy work is still progressing steadily. In my opinion, the mystery lies in the balance between "change" and "stay", which means, the relationship between tactics and strategy.

Over the past 30 years, Amity has always responded actively to emerging new demands and challenges, and made timely changes and innovations in organization, project area, project content, fundraising methods and cooperation areas. To change as the situation changes and to make changes to resolve changes – that is our “tactic”. During this process, the only ethical and spiritual pursuits that guide Amity people all the way from the beginning is what every one of Amity must adhere to - This is our "strategy".

"Cross-sector integration" is one of the important means for sustainable development of philanthropy in recent years. With effective integration and link of various resources, the future of philanthropy can be lighted up.

In this ever-changing Internet era, media is becoming a force that has active participation in philanthropy. With its sensitive tentacles, focused perspective, and flexible channels, media plays a positive and significant role in calling, disseminating and advocating philanthropic work. Media represent a booster and accelerator for philanthropy to reach more people and raise public awareness. In this era, "philanthropy + media" is not enough, but "philanthropy X media" is a must. Our effort in integrating the two areas will support media CSR while promote the development of philanthropy.

On this road of philanthropy, together shall we make it further. Amity is looking forward to working with media and all walks of life to make more abundant lives, more justice, and a better world.



General Secretary

From October 22 to 26, Amity Foundation organized the 2018 media exposure trip themed “Way to Rural Revitalization” towards Menglian Dai and Lahu Ethnic Minority Autonomous County in Yunnan Province.

With support from United Church of Canada, this event received strong welcome from nearly 10 mainstream media across the nation. The group visited Amity’s rural integrated development projects on infrastructure, public health, education, cultural protection, and talent cultivation. These media people talked with project beneficiaries and listened to their stories, which enabled the media to understand Amity’s efforts in “meeting basic needs of villagers”, “cultivating forces for rural sustainable development” and “establishing rural ecosystem”.

Now, let’s come to what the reporters have seen, heard, and thought in the process of visiting Amity project areas.



The road for "preventing AIDS" at border villages in Yunnan Province

Reporter from Southern Weekly: Zhang Yuehan



The Dai ethnic village doctor Daguang (alias) guards a secret that rarely any people know – that is, who are the HIV positives? "I even won't tell my daughter." Daguang said. This secret was previously known only to the county CDC.

Since 2012, Menglian County of Yunnan Province has cooperated with Amity Foundation for an attempt on community-based AIDS prevention: through medical training for the village doctors, to move HIV positives down to the management of village doctors. It seems to be a simple change, but difficult to proceed. The root cause is the "social discrimination" that cannot be ignored in the local areas.

Eliminating discrimination is a long way to go. But as the project progresses, some ethnic minority villages in the border counties are undergoing some unprecedented changes.

HIV positives in village doctors' eyes

Every morning at around 7:00AM, health center in Laopan Village (alias name for the village) welcomed villagers who wanted to see the doctor.

Usually, the villagers are busy with farming. They mostly come to the health center early in the morning or after 8:00PM in the evening. During these two periods, Daguang, the village doctor, always stays in the center.

Daguang (alias) is a village doctor in Laopan Village. He has been working for nearly 30 years and well known by local people. Laopan Village, located in Menglian County, Yunnan Province, is a small town bordering Myanmar's Wa State. Here, nearly 90% of the population are ethnic minorities, mainly Dai, Lahu and Yi, with a total of 3,208 people. The health center where Daguang is located serves these villagers, and also, 11 HIV-positives.

"Over 20 villagers visits the health center per day, seven days a week," said Daguang. "There is no special rest day for me." Daguang told us that, during daytime, he usually visited villagers for follow-up check, and it was also his job to provide public health services. There are 18 services, including mainly the management of health records of residents and the promotion of healthcare, to encourage villagers to participate in physical examinations, including rapid AIDS detection. In the local area, there are only three village doctors like Daguang.

Due to large number of population flow on China-Myanmar border, local AIDS issue in Menglian is prominent. There are many HIV-positives in the village, but no one knows who they are, except the village doctor.

“It’s their privacy,” Daguang is very cautious. “In the training provided by the county CDC on village doctors, we were required to sign a confidentiality agreement. ‘Confidentiality is the most crucial part’ for AIDS management.” People are afraid of HIV-positives and HIV-positives are also afraid of others knowing their status. Only confidentiality can build basic trust, and only by this trust can Daguang communicate with HIV-positives.

At the end of October 2018, when reporter of Southern Weekly accompanied Daguang to visit patients in Laopan Village, Daguang said, “The key to the work is to care for their emotions and for their families.”

In addition to the distribution of basic medicines and follow-up observation, Daguang has another important job, that is to educate. He educates family members to give support to patients instead of discrimination which was common among villagers. Also, he teaches villagers how to protect themselves and regularly takes kids to the county for testing.

There are lots of similar work. Though trivial, these work need patience. Subsidies for village doctors are meager. For example, when making rapid HIV detection, the village doctor will only receive RMB 2 for each person that is found infected.

Lin Jianmei, Project Director of the Yunnan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, told reporter of Southern Weekly: “Village doctors are also worried about their own safety. Some people don’t want to be discovered. When the village doctor come to visit, they are worried that they are exposed. That’s why they may hurt the doctor.”

How to promote AIDS prevention work by village doctors? Ye Xiaoxiang, Chair of the Yunnan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, thinks highly of training, “This project needs all levels of training and mobilization.” Ye Xiaoxiang believes that management by village doctors should be the trend for AIDS prevention.

Difficulties

Ye Xiaoxiang remembers that this AIDS prevention and treatment project in cooperation with Amity Foundation can be traced back to 1992.

In that year, Ye Xiaoxiang was the Deputy Director for the Yunnan Provincial CPPCC Poverty Alleviation Project Office. The funds were far from enough to work in poverty-stricken areas. Ye Xiaoxiang, who wanted to do something, raised funds and looked for support everywhere. Also in that year, Ye Xiaoxiang met with Amity Foundation.

The first project was to solve the power shortage problem for poverty-stricken mountainous areas in Wuding County. During the two years, in order to establish power supply facilities, Ye Xiaoxiang and his colleagues went to the village dozens of times. Amity provided a total of RMB 170,000. After the project ended, Amity, Poverty Alleviation Office and villagers were all satisfied with the project, so they started long-term cooperation, and Ye Xiaoxiang became a project specialist for Yunnan Projects of Amity Foundation.

In 1996, Amity cooperated with Yunnan Provincial AIDS Prevention Office to launch a three-year AIDS Prevention Education Program in Longchuan, Fengqing and Lincang, the three most drug-affected counties in Yunnan. In 1999, Ye Xiaoxiang participated in Amity’s integrated community development projects focusing on AIDS prevention. “When we went to Menglian in 2012, we were very experienced as we had been doing the same for over 10 years.”

In 1999, Dehong was a place with a large number of HIV-positives. It was also a place that AIDS prevention work was hard to proceed.

“We didn’t dare to go to public places,” said Ye Xiaoxiang. “Yet dare we go inside one’s home. But we have to talk to them and they must have the knowledge. So we usually chose some remote spots to talk alone.” This kind of one-

on-one talks last for years. "You go slowly... go slowly from knowledge to their families and into their lives." Said Ye Xiaoxiang.

"Whoever got infected would collapse." Until the end of the project, some HIV-positives dared to stand out and become volunteers. They took the lead in organizing care teams for others and Amity provided funding and resources for these care teams.

At the same time, Amity continued to hold various training courses in local area, big and small, from county to village. "Like trainings for families - how to face reality and do not discriminate; like trainings for the public - everybody should know basic knowledge". Moreover, industry trainings were also provided to help HIV-positives to rebuild their lives.

In Ye Xiaoxiang's eyes, Amity Foundation's AIDS prevention work has a clear goal. "We hope that they (positives) come out of miserableness, face reality, protect their bodies, develop production and normalize lives." But simple goal is not easy to achieve. "It takes a long time to find out the ways."

The unremitting efforts gradually achieved results. With over ten years' of project experience Dehong and Longchuan, Ye Xiaoxiang told the reporter that "the effects are very good and on the right track. Now we handle it over to the local government."

CDC weakness

In 2012, when Menglian launched the project, Amity and the Yunnan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation first cooperated with the local Health Bureau and CDC through government coordination. Still, everything started from basic training.

At the Menglian County Center for Disease Control, there are currently only two doctors responsible for STD/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Qi Dezhong and Chen Yahong, Yi and Lahu ethnic minorities respectively, participated in Amity projects since 2012. With financial support, they first tested drug users, and then trained village cadres. For village doctors, they were trained several times! In this way, they realized rapid detection and achieved comprehensive testing of the general population.

After large-scale testing, the number of HIV-positives in Menglian County underwent a continuous increase in 2013 and 2014. However, in the eyes of Qi Dezhong, it was a good news. "Through the tests, we reach a peak period and later slowly control the situation."

According to Qi Dezhong, HIV-positives in Menglian County were scattered in several towns. "If you rely on the two doctors in the CDC, you can never do it." In recent years, the government was fully implementing targeted poverty alleviation. Qi Dezhong had to stay in local villages for 10 days every month. "I have no holidays and no leaves, but overtime work every day."

Greater pressure comes from the AIDS prevention work itself.

"AIDS is a disease that is discriminated against by society." Qi Dezhong was very careful when visiting HIV-positives. "If other people see CDC doctors visiting someone, their vigilance will come up." Later, even when the person being visited went to a friend's, he/she was under pressure to be misunderstood as an HIV-positive.

"But, if you are a village doctor, people will see it normal for you to visit someone." Qi Dezhong believes that village doctors have innate advantages. "Some HIV-positives get heavy mental burdens after they are confirmed positive. Some are ethnic minorities, language is different, and it is difficult to communicate or manage. But village doctors are easily trusted and also keep abreast of the patient's medication.

In the first few years, the CDC and Amity Project Office did a lot of training work. They selected village doctors with better quality for continuous training. HIV-positives and village doctors established WeChat groups to communicate, and organized visits to build trust.

Many of the village doctors have participated in the “Amity Village Doctor Training Program”, in which Amity funded their learning and living expense for a two-year study at a local health school. Daguang received two trainings in 1999 and 2002 respectively. These village doctors are familiar with Amity’s projects. They have trust on Amity and are more active in initiative in participation.

Now, Menglian County has set up demonstration sites in Laopan Village. According to the data provided by the Amity Project Office, a total of 60 HIV-positives are on the list of follow-up visits, a total of 720 visits have been completed and there have been 360 cases of CD4 cells sent by the village doctors. Village doctors conducted HIV tests for 60 people who have HIV-positive spouses. 30 people were referred to the antiviral treatment point. Daguang has done more than 900 cases of rapid HIV testing, and has found no positives so far.

AIDS prevention is a social problem

The fate of Xiaohong (alias) has two turning points. One was tested positive in 2005, and the other was being a volunteer in Amity Project.

In 2005, after a free medical examination in the village, Xiaohong received a call from the county CDC. “Can you come over to take another blood sample?” That year, Menglian County was still unable to treat people living with HIV virus. Under the help of Dr. Song from the CDC, Xiaohong did all kinds of examinations for three months and later was treated for one year in Simao City (now the Pu'er City).

Xiaohong is grateful and trustful to the doctors at the CDC. “I can attend the trainings in the Province and in Pu’er. I can learn a lot of knowledge, and I have subsidies for my travel expense.”

Knowing much, Xiaohong began to have the courage to stand out and share her story. Care events organized by volunteers serve as one of the effective ways for Amity’s AIDS prevention work.

As Xiaohong is older than most of other members, Xiaohong often persuade them in the WeChat group to “take medicine in time” and to “go to the hospital”. This kind of communication is actually very important for HIV-positives. Otherwise, it will make them “feel very lonely and don't know who to talk to”, and “can only talk to the doctor, who sometimes I don't fully trust.”

In 2016, with the support of the CDC, Xiaohong established a Women's Health Center, which give safety knowledge to some high-risk groups such as prostitutes, and suggest them to apply for health certificates.

However, Xiaohong hasn't told her son what disease she has. Her son often saw her taking medicine and knew his family is “poor because of illness”. But when he asked mom, “Mom, what disease do you get?” Xiaohong couldn't tell him.

In Ye Xiaoxiang’s eyes, AIDS prevention and treatment is not only a medical problem, but also a social issue. It is related to local culture, human feelings and customs. Therefore, the first step should be changing serious discrimination. The work should be based on the community for integrated development.

In the early years, Amity scattered its projects in Yunnan, including village doctor training, disaster management, AIDS prevention, industrial development, water and power supply and so on. Later, Ye Xiaoxiang discussed with Qiu Zhonghui, Chair of the Board of Amity Foundation that “why not we focus on several villages, and put all projects in as an integrated program? After a few years the whole village will change.”

This is what Amity do in Menglian. Starting from community establishment and talent training, Amity built roads, improved sanitary conditions, developed industries, provided health knowledge, improved education environment, fostered farmers' development associations in the community, and encouraged inheritance of traditional culture.

On the basis of this integrated development, they set up “AIDS Management System” in Menglian, and finally

formed this management system focusing on HIV-positives, basing on families, relying on communities, connecting villages and guiding medical institutions.

Advantages of social organizations

Xiao Li, a villager in Laopan Village, is a local “online star”. He spent more time on WeChat than other villagers and has a series of updates on the Old Yongqian Stockade Village in his WeChat Moments.

On October 24, 2018, Xiao Li told the Southern Weekly reporter, “We spent five years before making the change.” The old situation here was poor and backward. Only ten years ago, TV became a household appliance in this stockade village. Five years ago, the road to the county was still a mud road. Villagers who needed to go to the town had to take a tractor and spend three hours on the way.

In the past seven years, the first thing Amity Foundation did was road construction. The mud road towards the outside world was turned into a gravel road, which is 5 kilometers long.

The Amity Water Project was carried out in the same period to improve the quality of drinking water for the villagers. In the past, in order to get drinking water, people in Laopan Village had to go to a mountain 800 meters away. As generally it was women who fetch the water and one woman could only carry three to four gourds, it took them long time to go a long way to fetch little water. After the project was completed, it released the daily difficulty of local women.

Moreover, Amity implemented rural industry development, low-yield fields transformation and ditches transformation to assist the development of the villages. For example, after changing the field crop from sugar cane and corn to coffee, income for villagers can increase nearly RMB 10,000 per year.

Compared with facilities construction, Amity Project Office emphasized more on “internal strength” of

communities. The performance team of the Old Yongqian Stockade Village was established in 2013. In the previous researches, Lin Jianmei found that there were many young people in this stockade village and the village was featured ethnic minority culture of Hani people. After consent from the villagers, they invited professional from the county to train their performance.

After doing good in the communities, in 2017, Amity Project Office implemented a “Menglian County Rural Medical Plan”, which helped build 5 village clinics and provided 10 sets of medical facilities in 8 villages.

Amity Foundation, Yunnan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and the local government cooperated with each other. Amity was responsible for fundraising, research, testing and assessment. Yunnan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation was responsible for coordination and tests, and the local government was responsible for establishing Amity Office for County to implement projects. For every project, “local participation, public participation, and experts participation” were adopted.

Ye Xiaoxiang believed that a non-profit organization had limited funds and capabilities and the key was to select suitable projects to set models for others. “In this way, you can achieve enough effects with limited expenses.” Now, AIDS prevention and treatment work in Menglian has made much achievements.

After Amity’s projects ended this year, the government provided RMB 280,000 to the CDC to continue promoting the system. “The government also hopes that HIV-positives could be managed by village doctors. However, at present only the two towns where Amity has participation did it.” Ye Xiaoxiang told the Southern Weekly reporter that from this end, “social organizations show their advantages. Their processes are very detailed and easy to implement”. But in terms of AIDS prevention, “it needs at least ten years” before seeing any effect.

(This article were originally published by Southern Weekly on Nov 22, 2018)

Volunteer to make a better world

We want to extend special gratitude for your kindness and enthusiasm. Thank you for taking time to serve as volunteers to deliver our love and goodwill to those in need.



Behind every charity event, there are young and diligent volunteers from universities who build a solid bridge for the distribution of love and goodwill.



Aunt Yang (first on the right), who has been retired, has become a volunteer of the Amity project community in Nantong in 2014. She has actively participated in the “Elderly Partner Program” and “Health Partner Project” supported by Nantong Amity. She considers herself as “young elderly” and she believes mutual help between “young elderly” and “old elderly” will enrich life of each other. (Picture / Zhou Wei)



Aunt Liu (right) is a volunteer of Amity Bakery. Over 11 years, she has brought endless love and support to the “happy naives”, encouraging them to create their own sweet life.



Volunteers from enterprises enthusiastically participated in the our philanthropy work. The picture shows one of them is providing careful service for the elderly in the Amity Care Home to deliver warmth to them.



We are glad that enterprises are paying more attention to the promotion of philanthropic spirit and the practice of volunteer activities as an important part of corporate culture and social responsibility. Companies encourage employees to actively participate in volunteer services and help the disadvantaged groups. (The picture shows volunteers from Huatai Group were taking expansion activities with students in the “Heart of Huatai·Caring for Children for Our Tomorrow”.)



Coming from Germany, he chose to become an Amity International volunteer in his gap year to come to the countryside of China. He opened a window to the world for the local children. See, the eyes of the children are full of curiosity and eagerness. (Picture / Wang Yu)



At the age of retirement, they choose to fly across the ocean, go deep into the rural areas of western China, and lead teachers there to improve their teaching and language skills to connect with the world.



Young volunteers, holding hands with "e-children", share their experience, care and love in summer camp of Amity's orphan fostering program. (Picutre / Xue Jiaqi)

Philanthropic undertakings will not be able to develop without the efforts from various forces of the society. Specifically, volunteers are an irreplaceable and important part. It is not only a symbol of the development, maturity and civilization of modern society, but it also plays a unique and positives role in the advancement of our society. Further growth and solid development of the team of volunteers, on the basis of ever growing number in quantity change, will bring the qualitative change of our society.

Over the past 30 years since its inception, Amity Foundation has been focusing on the growth of volunteers. Up to now, it has attracted more than 10,000 volunteers to participate in the work of delivering and relaying love. Volunteers, with professions and expertise across all fields, are active in Amity's projects. They are representatives of warmth. Wherever they go, they light up the needy in every corner of the city and the countryside with love. They work tirelessly without asking for reward. They give back to society whole heartedly, cultivating happiness across the world.

In this issue, by making it special, Amity would like to say thank you to all the volunteers for their hard work, professional service, spirit of contribution and mind of benevolence.

The world is in front of you, thank you for being with us to make a better world!

Understanding People through personal contact

Regina Kramer



The small bus jogs along the single-lane roads surrounded by the slopes of beautiful, dense and green-covered mountains. Individual but mighty mountains protrude out of the plains and appear peculiar in the landscape. The bus will be traveling, over the next three days, to various locations with projects in Le Ye County, Guangxi Province. Participants are volunteers from Amity's Young Adults Program, who are currently doing their voluntary service in Chinese schools, accompanied by three staff members of Amity and the sponsoring organization Mission OneWorld from Germany.

As part of the Amity Winter Conference, we have the opportunity to visit rural areas where Amity and Bread for

the World have together provided financial support. The village of Ya Chang Xiang, for example, has a project that was funded for five years to help purchase goats. Here, every family in the village who was interested could buy goats as seed money and generate income from selling meat or goats. In the small town of Luonan Town, the group was proudly shown the newly built water tank, which supplied the whole school with drinking water from the mountains. At first sight this "concrete block" looks to us as mundane and unspectacular as can be, but, it is so important for the villagers and the students. It is their main life stream.

Volunteers, who were guest teachers at Huaping Primary School were able to demonstrate their skills in English

teaching by enacting plays for an hour. While visiting the countryside and small villages, one needs to learn and to get used to dealing with the staring and strange customs of the rural folks. This feeling comes over to us when we appear as visitors to "look at" other living realities - at the same time, we highly appreciate unique insights and enjoy hospitality, food and ceremonies.

We are shown around by representatives of the regional authorities, who lead us through the various projects. They show us another village - Longnan Cun - which has a great need for a water storage tank, paved access roads and street lamps. Their intention is before anything else a "social" one, namely to improve the situation of the people. These insights sharpen our view on the grass root level, beyond all possible "major political" reservations.

Assist in teaching - learning about yourself and others

Regina Kramer

In Nanning, the volunteer group from Germany, who are assistant teachers in remote areas in China, started their five-day interim seminar. The theme here was in particular self-reflection in terms of personal development, tasks and teaching, relationship environment, language and culture as well as a constructive outlook for the second half of their volunteering assignment.

It is a fact that language skills are certainly an important medium to build bridges to access local people, to get in touch with each other and to exchange ideas. Learning the



Chinese language is probably something the volunteers have to deal with, because it takes a long time to learn the language. It is rarely possible to switch to English language. Still, most have dedicated intentions to at least reach a level beyond the initial small talks. In this context, the young adults are also very reflective of their role and their status: they are well aware that they are partly in a "bubble" (among volunteers or Germans) for different reasons and strive to do so to break through again and again to gain a foothold in the Chinese environment.

On the basis of games and tasks, the participants of the seminar discussed various topics of the volunteering service as for example visible and unconscious aspects of culture. The volunteers collected relevant aspects of their everyday experiences while working in small groups. It became obvious how intensively most people thought about and dealt with everyday experiences, cultural circumstances and historical backgrounds - but they did not always find the right answers and clear explanations. The final findings at the end of the seminar were exciting: The realization that our image of China is presented in the Western media as one-sided and not very multifaceted - and that there are definitely discrepancies depicting the daily life of the people.

Veteran Ms. Phyllis Merritt's 18th stint to China

The 2018 Amity Summer English Program was launched in four counties, including Hanggin Banner and Tumd Right Banner in Inner Mongolia, as well as Dazhou in Sichuan Province and Peitian in Fujian Province. Our focus this time is Ms. Phyllis Merritt, one of the Amity teachers in Tumd Right Banner.



△ Ms. Phyllis Merritt

"I have been teaching English since the 1970s. Education has always been the passion of my life. This is my 18th time to China." Phyllis said with a smile. The team had carried a dozen huge cases from the United States to China. "They are all teaching tools. We carry them from the US so that we don't have to spend time on making these in China."

Phyllis always carried a small pretty hand-made bag with her, and so also the other female teachers. "Haha!" She smiled and opened the bag to show us the contents. "You



△ Teaching tools in the hands, on the desks, on the wall and on the windows

see, this is my cell phone, my camera, and toilet paper.” This time, it was us, Chinese Amity staff, to smile. China is far away from the US. It would not be good to lose one’s cell phone and camera somewhere, more so in a foreign country. In China, most of the restrooms do not provide toilet paper, so people usually carry their own. How smart she was! The small bags carried by other teachers were also made by Phyllis. “It is better that each of us has one.” she remarked. She is kind-hearted, generous and thoughtful.

After a long trip, Amity staff and four teachers from the US arrived at Tumd Right Banner. This is a remote county located in Inner Mongolia. The four foreign teachers attracted a crowd of people and they were happy to wait in queues to take pictures with them. Phyllis was used to this, as she had done this where ever she had been teaching in China. Patient and kind as she was, she made sure she took pictures with every “fan” of hers.

Interesting, outgoing and loving to share her experiences, Phyllis soon gained the students’ love and support. “She is one of my favorite teachers!” One of the trainees said, “Phyllis is so humorous and witty and I cannot wait to attend her class!”

The 2018 Amity Summer English Program aims to provide English training to all primary and middle school teachers in the county. “We hope this training will improve their English skills, as well as teaching skills.” Phyllis described. Before class, the American teachers gave tests to the trainees on vocabulary, comprehension, reading and writing. Based on the results the trainees were divided into different classes, which had different levels, subjects and teaching targets.

After the tests, the teachers went to the stationery stores



△ Pre-class tests



△ In the stationery store

to buy teaching materials as complementary supplies. Although unable to communicate in Chinese, the teachers used body language and managed to find what they wanted.

Right after procurement, the teachers went back to the school to decorate classrooms. “We are teaching English. The classroom should look like what it is for English classrooms in the west. We hope the trainees will be interested.”

“All I want is to give them a satisfying learning experience.” As the team leader, Phyllis held group meetings before and after class every day to exchange ideas, progress and experience and to make adjustments.



△ Phyllis decorating the classroom

All of the trainees for this year's program were teachers teaching English in primary and middle schools. However, due to focus on grammar and lack of application, trainees were shy on the first day. "Members of my class all work very hard, but they lack confidence to interact with me, Phyllis remarked. The other trainees nodded in acceptance.

Phyllis did not see it as a problem, "We can try new ways to communicate," said Phyllis confidently. "Actually today, I find them already good enough compared to my previous experiences. Our trainees need more time to adapt themselves. This is only the first day." She seemed to understand the difficulties which these local teachers have to deal with every day. "They lack education resources. One class usually has more than 60 students. They have already done a very good job." Phyllis explained.



△ Interesting class

With the heavy burdens in teaching targets, local teachers usually teach English in Chinese, they communicate in Chinese so that the students could understand as much grammar as possible, since there is no more time to interact with students.

"We only have around 25 students in a class. I cannot even imagine how these teachers managed to give classes to more than 60 students efficiently. They are good at their jobs!" Mills, another member of the trainers said with amazement.



△ From left to right: David Graves, Julia Graves, Phyllis Mills and Phyllis Merritt

“That’s why they need our help, and that is why this is a meaningful program.” Phyllis said with smile on her face.

The Amity Summer English Program, established in 1989, is one of the most famous and popular programs of Amity. It usually lasts for four weeks, on an annual basis. Amity Summer English Program targets teachers teaching English in primary and middle schools in remote areas and aims at enhancing their English speaking skills, as well as quality teaching methods. So far, Amity Foundation has introduced more than 1,500 foreign teachers to schools across China. The program brings contributions from overseas and facilitates civil communication among countries.



△ Group picture

Dao Hong's years towards rebirth

“**T**here is no need to worry about who infected you. Now you need to think of your son. How will he live in the future? You are his only hope.” Said Dr. Song in CDC (Centers for Disease Control).

13 years ago, tests showed that Dao Hong was infected with AIDS. She had lost her husband to cancer not so long ago and her son was only 2 years old. She was distraught and depressed. “I should commit suicide with my son.” This thought was uppermost in her mind. But the words of Dr. Song convinced her to give up this intention. “Then I chose to live on,” said Dao Hong. “I started to take medicines and went for regular treatments and check-ups.

However, life is much more than just taking medicines. Society was not kind, she felt the whole world was staring at her and saying, ‘look, here is an AIDS patient’. Societal pressure flooded into Dao Hong’s life, making her desperate. She thought to herself, “I can do nothing but farming and I have to raise my child.”

In 2012, Amity Foundation started an AIDS prevention program based on its community development in Dao Hong’s village. This was the most important turning point of her life.

In 2013, Dao Hong joined the Amity Farmer Development Association in the village. She took part in health training, underwent cultivation skills training, and undertook site visits. With the support from county CDC and village doctors, Amity AIDS prevention program also set up support groups for local AIDS patients. They invited professional medical workers to

provide medical intervention to the group members regularly. Amity staff encouraged group members to share their treatment experiences, life stories and spiritual journeys. Activities and sharing made Dao Hong believe that as long as she took medicines on time and received treatments, she was just like any other normal person. She desired to raise chickens and do farm work to support her family and herself.



△ Amity AIDS prevention program staff regularly conduct CD4 cell sampling for the target groups



△ Training on HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge to raise public awareness and decrease misunderstandings and discriminations

Many of the group members liked to talk to Dao Hong because she had good therapeutic effect and was willing to share her AIDS treatment experiences. “They consider me as their elder sister. I have gone through this,” Dao Hong told us. “Sometimes patients don’t trust doctors although doctors may be the only ones to know the answer. I am glad to be an alternative.” she said.

In 2016, with the support of Amity Foundation and local CDC, Dao Hong established a small women’s health center, “as an Amity volunteer, I assisted the CDC in educating high risk population and suggested them apply for health certificates.” Sometimes some people, such as demimonde, were hard to be convinced, Dao Hong would ‘stand in their shoes’: “you will have chance to make money only if you take care of yourself!” In addition, the CDC provides volunteer compensation to her every month which made

her feel secure and as ‘a way to save herself and others’. “Now I can accept this fact (of having AIDS) calmly. A doctor once told me that a brand new banknote and an old and oil-stained one have the same economic value. We can’t deny one’s values due to its defects.” Dao Hong told us that these words were like a lamp that lights up her hope.

“I have not told my son about my condition. I do sometimes talk to him that ‘mom may not be able to be with you all the way and please learn to be self-dependent’. He cannot fully understand this now, but he will one day I hope.” Talking about wishes, Dao Hong smiled: “My thinking is simple. I will take medicines, live well, hopefully as long as I can. I want to use my experience and knowledge to help more people in need. And I also hope that one day I will have time to travel, to visit scenic places and meet people from all walks of life.”



△ Amity AIDS prevention program promotes community-based inclusion

Showing you care

Jessie Chen

“It’s always like this... you all come for a while, and then leave so soon.” That was what Danny, my 10-year-old student attending the Amity Summer English Camp in Peitian Village (Fujian Province), said as he wiped his own tears. He had left the classroom that afternoon very suddenly, and, since I wasn’t teaching at the time, I went out and found him standing alone outside by the balcony of the school.

I felt the pain in his words. Peitian Village, in the last decade or so, was striving to preserve its ancient Chinese architecture and generations of traditional village lifestyle by improving its economy through tourism. As a result, the ancient village frequently received visitors from tour groups and volunteer exchange programs. There was no doubt that Danny and his classmates had seen their fair share of voluntourism – a self-centered form of attaining rare opportunities and travel experiences disguised as “short term service work”. How would you feel as a young child growing up, seeing all these people moving in and out of your own community, taking away the most luxurious and delightful parts of it as travel memories without any regard for understanding the local people and their authentic lifestyle and culture?

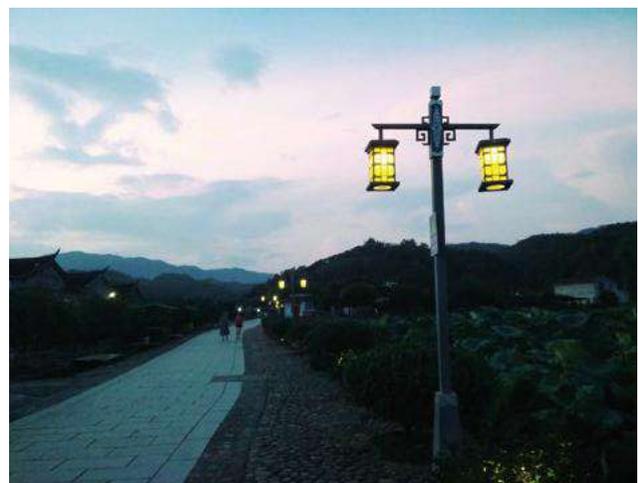
When asked Jessie says, ‘I don’t think the exchange programs should stop -- I think a program only becomes voluntourism if the volunteers are not educated or prepared sufficiently. I believe part of addressing voluntourism is continuing these programs and making sure volunteers are given the resources and guidance not to be harmful visitors.

I think Amity's Summer English Program this year did a really great job of preparing us and reminding us, how to teach ethically and to keep the children upper most in our minds as we guided them.

“Us coming and leaving so quickly... kind of makes it



△ Peitian Village



△ Taking an evening stroll in Peitian Village

improvements to these children’s lives. Help is meaningless if it is not sustainable enough to become self-help. We shifted the objective of our curriculum. The camp was no longer about providing English education to rural communities that lacked access to it. It was about cross-cultural exchange, understanding English’s growing (and concerning) presence in China, and building a solid linguistic foundation of English as a second (or third) language so that those who were truly interested could continuing learning the language after we departed.



△ Amity Summer English Camp 2018

I was the supervisor and English curriculum curator, but I also taught my own course to both classes daily: “Cultural Exchange”. We learned about the history of Chinese paper cutting and made window flowers out of the students’ English names. We discussed the history of the Western record player and its appearance in China and each student designed their own playlist of favorite songs. We talked about American and Chinese views on self-fulfillment – wishes, goals, and dreams – and made a class happiness jar filled of paper stars with our wishes written inside them. We shared about our families and households. We talked about the ways we express gratitude.

The course was never about me teaching them. It was an



△ The students write hopeful messages for me to deliver to their future selves



△ Students look at the favorite music playlists they and their classmates designed

open, ongoing dialogue. What do my students want to share with me? What do they want to teach me and what do they hope I’ll take away from their community? What kinds of things do they want to know about me or where I’m from or the complicated American-born-Chinese identity I have? What do you hope to achieve by attending this English summer camp?

The weeks flew by and soon the camp reached an end. Neither my colleagues or the students looked forward to departing. But as with all volunteers, a departure is inevitable. Reading thank you cards from the students on the balcony where Danny and I had that conversation.



△ Celebrating Halloween



△ Paper roses from my students



Danny wrote me a thank you card. He had been inattentive and misbehaved in class all week, and especially moody on the last day. His card said: Teacher, I'm so thankful for how much you care about me and the other students. You care about how we feel and don't get angry. Teacher, truthfully, I don't want to act badly, but I know if I don't, I'll be really sad whenever I think about you leaving, so, I don't want to cry. Thank you so much for caring about me.

Mr. Shao's English Class

“**G**od gave me a task,
to take a snail for a walk.
I wouldn't go too fast,
the snail has tried its best.”

On reading the above poem “Take a snail for a walk” by the writer Zhang Wenliang, one will get to know the importance of education in all walks of life.

Mr. Shao always believed in the power of education, especially while communicating with persons with mental disabilities. “We must feel what they feel, and only in this way can the ordinary truly understand the minority.” Mr. Shao said with smile on his face. Because of his belief in education and love for those children, Mr. Shao continues his job as their English teacher, spreading love to everyone around him.



△ Amity Home of Blessings

“Morning... Welcome... Wednesday...”

Passing by Amity Home of Blessings around 8:30AM each morning, one will be impressed by the voices trying to read English lessons. These students, with an average age of 27, mostly have learning difficulties. However, their disabilities do not deter them from learning English from Mr. Shao.

“Honestly, in the beginning, I was a little surprised at their language learning skills and their strong interest in the English language.” Said Mr. Shao. Due to his devotion in volunteer service and hard work in language teaching, these students have made great progress. “I have been doing this volunteer work for more than eight years, and I will never give up this meaningful job.” Mr. Shao said proudly.



△ Mr. Shao teaching students at Amity Home of Blessings

Mr. Shao retired as an English teacher in a middle school of Nanjing. He first knew about Amity Home of Blessings through an article in the newspapers. “I was deeply touched by the article in the newspaper about these hard-working children with learning difficulties, and I believed that they deserved better care and more education.” That is the reason why Mr. Shao volunteered to become an English teacher in Amity Home of Blessings.

In the eyes of Mr. Shao, these students are innocent and adorable. “They truly love me for who I am, and always appreciate my work. After teaching them for a whole summer, I decided to become a long-term volunteer.”

After his retirement in 2010, Mr. Shao began his volunteer



△ Mr. Shao's explaining of English words

work in Amity Home of Blessings, 8:30AM – 9:30AM, five days a week. He taught more than just the language itself. During the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, Mr. Shao gave lectures on the history and culture of different countries and knowledge about the Olympic Games.

As an excellent teacher with extensive teaching experience, Mr. Shao received countless job invitations after retiring from a famous middle school in Nanjing. But he politely refused all of them. He had set his mind on helping those mentally challenged youth. “After retirement, I decided to spend time enjoying the freedom from years of teaching and doing other meaningful things. That is why I volunteered to work at Amity Home of Blessings.” Mr. Shao said.

“All I truly want is their willingness to attend my class.” Mr. Shao said with shining eyes. He does not set any limits on the content of his class. He teaches English, calligraphy and even Chinese classics. During class, Mr. Shao always pays attention to students’ needs, and now he is accustomed to speaking as slowly as possible and asking questions to involve students in the topics of discussion in the class.

“The students really enjoy his class.” Said Ren Ying, director of the supporting office of Amity Home of Blessings. To Mr. Shao’s surprise, his students have made great progress.

“They can even make short conversations with foreign customers!” Mr. Shao smiled and said excitedly. He has never skipped a single class since he started eight years ago.

Mr. Shao said, “Teaching them knowledge, witnessing their progress and participating in their recovery have always been my pleasure. Now, my biggest hope is to bring them happiness as much as I can until I am too old.”

According to Ren Ying, the director of the supporting



△ Students saying goodbye to Mr. Shao after class

office of Amity Home of Blessings, their aim is not all about giving knowledge. “In Amity Home of Blessings, all types of classes are provided to stimulate the students’ mental developments. What counts is not the result in their academic achievements, but the process in which our students explore themselves as much as possible.”

Now, there are 30 students in Amity Home of Blessings, however, the number of teachers is only five. As a saying goes, “The greatest happiness of man is to give, not to take.” It is those volunteers who constantly support Amity Home of Blessings and relieve the burden of its staff. However, long-term volunteers like Mr. Shao are still in minority. The staff deeply appreciate the devotion of the volunteers and are hoping for more involvement from every part of the world.

Aunt Liu's life after retirement



△ Shadowboxing Team

In 2006, Aunt Liu Longying, a retired music teacher, came to live with her daughter in the city of Kunshan in Jiangsu Province. At first, she could not adjust to the new place and surroundings. She felt lost and hopeless.

Early 2010, Aunt Liu moved to the Xinjiangnan Community, where Amity Foundation has an NGO development program. She joined as a volunteer member with the patrol team of the community. The services rendered by the team members were to patrol the community every Thursday, to visit the elderly who lived by themselves and also to look into any security concerns they may have.

Aunt Liu also signed up for the Shadowboxing classes for the Elderly at Kunshan City University. Under the encouragement of Kunshan Amity NGO Development Center ("Kunshan Amity"), Aunt Liu became an "Amity Volunteer Teacher" and organized a "Shadowboxing Team" in the community. In less than a month, the team grew from ten members to more than forty.

With the increasing number of organizations supported by Kunshan Amity in Xinjiangnan Community, more elderly residents were in need of senior citizen services and activities. Kunshan Amity's staff invited Aunt Liu to form various teams or organizations to develop and promote hobbies for these citizens. She was instrumental in setting up the "Happy Neighborhood Chorus", a music group, a waist drum team as also discussion groups were set up under her guidance. Songs, dances, talk shows, cross talks and other original performances appeared on the community stages and won the praise and applause of the audiences.

As a volunteer and a team leader, Aunt Liu takes ownership of everyone's affairs as her own and is enthusiastic about solving their problems and providing opportunities for development. For example, Aunt Liu teaches softball in the community. Some elderly with disabilities watched the game and became interested in learning to play Softball. With the help of the Amity staff, Aunt Liu and the Kunshan Softball Association, a Softball team for people with disabilities was formally launched.. Aunt Liu is very concerned about the 9 players in this team. She teaches



△ Teams of Xinjiangnan community



△ Teams of Xinjiangnan community



△ Aunt Liu and the softball team for people with disabilities in a competition

new players repeatedly until they master the skills, while encouraging players who cannot keep up with the progress. “I am your teacher. How can a teacher give up on her students?” says Aunt Liu.

Aunt Liu and the softball team for people with disabilities in a competition

"No matter what time it is, no matter how busy I am, as long as my team needs me, I will try my best to attend." Said Aunt Liu with a smile.

Nowadays, Aunt Liu lives her retired life with whole hearted dedication to the new neighborhood relationships of Xinjiangnan community, while realizing a new life style for herself in this era of “positive aging”.

I didn't want to go to China just for traveling



This interview with Lina, one of Amity's YAP volunteers, was conducted during the Amity Winter-Term Conference in the beginning of 2018.

In the photo Lina is teaching English to young students in Peitian village during Amity's Winter Conference.

You are an Amity volunteer teacher in China, now for half a year. Can you explain a little bit about your assignment? What are you helping with?

I teach students at the technical vocational college and my work load is one class of 50 minutes every week. At the beginning of this year it was 60 minutes weekly, but we have reduced the time. There are 14 girls in my class and they have 50 minutes oral German lessons and another 50 minutes regular German lessons. They will learn German for two years before taking the B2 level qualifying exams. This will help them to go to Germany to work as nurses there.

So your students will not be future teachers, but Chinese people who will be nurses in Germany?

The technical vocational college has a collaboration with a school in Germany and there they get further education for qualifying as nurses and work in Germany.

So, are they already nurses in China?

As far as I know, they already have some nursing classes besides my classes, like three hours every week. But I do not think they are qualified nurses because some of my students are just 18 years old.

How is it to teach German to the Chinese? Did you expect you would be teaching German when you came to China?

No, I applied as an English teacher and at first I was kind of shocked by the offer. In my opinion it is easier to teach English, because English is not my mother tongue. I know this sentence is correct, I learned it in 5th grade. But I just speak German. I don't know if this sentence is correct or not, or whether what I am saying is correct.

But now, do you like it?

I really like it. I especially like it that I only have one class to teach and we are very close to each other and I know my students well. I know who is good and I can really help them with their individual problems. But I realized German isn't that easy to teach, because of the grammar. And sometimes I have to think about what I am saying. Am I speaking the standard German or am I speaking my dialect? I have to pronounce the vocabulary in front of the students. At times I make mistakes, but I think it is fine. It is kind of more complicated than I expected, but I absolutely like it. I am really enjoying teaching it.

And besides your teaching job, what do you think of being in China?

For me, it is one of my biggest wishes come true, because since the 7th grade I had this desire to visit China.

Oh, why was that?

While I was in the 7th grade I had to do a presentation about China and after that I had this burning desire to go to China, and I not only wanted to go to China just for traveling but I wanted to live in China. So when I heard about this gap year, I decided to apply for it. I applied throughout Germany. I applied everywhere. I live in Bavaria, but I sent the application from Hamburg. I took every possible step to get a place in China, so that my childhood dream came true. And to be honest it is not as I expected. It is even better, because I totally love this city. I come from a village and now I am living in a Chinese city. Here everyone is very excited to meet you. Chinese calligraphy is one of my hobbies that is totally Chinese. Everything has been perfect.

Oh are you doing calligraphy?

Yes, in my college. It is very nice to learn Calligraphy. They told us in the beginning that we too can choose everything they offered their students. So everyone of us (the volunteers) chose Calligraphy. They offered calligraphy only once a week. Hence I asked them if I could come over more times. And they said that I could. Now I have 700 minutes of calligraphy every week and it is the biggest thing for me besides teaching and I absolutely love it.

What do you think about young volunteers going to China to teach German or English. Do you think that it is necessary?

I think people could also live without it. But I think it is a good thing to learn other languages. At least it was a good thing for me, because I have learned and I improved myself. But it also feels good while I walk through the city and I meet people who make small talks with me or I see students and I get feedback from other people that they are now inspired to learn another language. They cannot talk to me otherwise because I do not speak Chinese. They realize, there is more to see and more to learn from foreigners and they are inspired to learn the language. Besides I really think it is good for my students to have foreign teachers because we had students before, they had just one year of German, very intensive German, but they could not speak much. They always looked or checked on their phones whether it was right or wrong? The German teaching style is a bit different now. I see it with my students that after they have had half a year of German lessons they can speak quite fluently when I introduce my friends to them.

So you really can see the progress?

Yes, I just had the winter exam now and it was only an oral exam. They had a dialogue, they had to introduce themselves, answer questions – and it was amazing. When I go to the restaurants with them we do not have to use translators as often as before, because we can do it with actions and the words they already know. It is really rewarding!

Are you looking forward to the next half of your exchange year?

Yes, I am really looking forward to it. It was a lot of work and very hard work, but now I can review what I have done and I am motivated to go on. I am really excited and looking forward to another fruitful year.

God's plan for Ms. Chie Bautista



△ A Peitian village woman shows Chie how to play the Chinese drums during Amity's Winter Conference

Chie Bautista was a participant of Amity's Teacher Program. For one year, Chie was a part-time teacher sent by General Board of Global Ministries, and the first teacher in the program who was part of a new south-south approach for this program. Chie was as well the first teacher who taught nursing English. Her kind personality, her passion and her hard work truly made Chie's presence felt. The following interview with Chie was conducted during Amity's Winter Conference in 2018

How long have you been working for the Amity Foundation and what is your assignment?

I have been working for Amity for the past five months now and actually, I have two assignments. Firstly, I am teaching at Suzhou University, in the school of nursing, I teach nursing English to third year nursing students. Next term I will be with the graduating students, teaching nursing English as well.

Chie is a very good teacher. She is helpful and very friendly. During the first English activity which was organized, she gave English names for each child who participated in the event. She is very conscientious and responsible preparing the English courses in detail. She desires that the children understand as much English as possible. Her English activities are vivid and

engaging. She does not have a teacher's attitude at all. She is very friendly and outgoing.

Amity volunteer at the Kunshan NGO Center

So you are a nurse and an English teacher?

Yes, you could say that (laughing).

How is it that you a nurse and English teacher came to China teach nursing English?

I studied nursing in college, because that's what I wanted to do. While I was already working as a nurse, my mother encouraged me to become a teacher as well. In the Philippines, at that time, getting a regular job in nursing was a challenge. I have a job as a nurse, but it doesn't pay very well. I told her: "But I don't want to do that, I don't want to leave the nursing profession". I prayed about it. I continued to pray about it for a long time. Then there was this one instance, it dawned on me that God was telling me to do it. He just said: "Do what your Mother desires" I know of stories where people hear God's voice but never believed it as true. But at that moment when I experienced it, I knew it was the holy spirit leading and speaking to me.

So do you think it was like a spiritual voice?

Yes, something like that.

How did you learn about the Amity Foundation?

The Global Ministries has a partnership with Amity. That is how I learned about Amity.

You are originally from the Philippines. How did you choose to teach in China and why China?

At first I did not know that it would be in China. I just trusted that Global Ministries will find a good match for me,



△ Amity's parttime teachers Chie and Isa receive bilingual bibles from Chair of the Board Mr. Qiu after they accomplished their service with Amity. Besides their normal work, both ladies volunteered at the Amity NGO Center in Kunshan, working with local communities

wherever that is in the world. When they told me that I had a match with China, I really had to think about it. I didn't say yes right away. I had to talk with Ms. Helen and Ms. Olivia (former staff of Amity's Exchange Department) so that I can do it. After talking to both, I still thought I could not do it. They told me to talk to the supervisor of the university. When I talked to her, she told me what they really needed. They felt that since I had a Bachelor degree in nursing, I was qualified and hence could impart the knowledge that I had with the students. They also need a teacher who can speak to their students in English and use nursing terminology. After that conversation with her I felt a little comfortable. I prayed again about it and trusted that if this is going to work out, then it is where God wants me to be.

Since you are in China for five month already, how has your experience been?

It is great! I did not think that I could ever teach in a college. This experience is like an eye-opener to me. This opportunity that I have been given is really one of a kind. It makes me realize that I can do something like teaching

nursing English, and I am so thankful that my supervisor has been very helpful. On second thoughts, I wondered if I was doing the right thing. One of the things that made me really happy towards the end of my course, I think was one of the last sessions when, one of the students talked to me and told me that she really liked the way I taught the course. I was touched by her words.

And did she say why?

She said that my teaching methods were different from what she has been used to. For my approach of the lessons I gave them some terms that they would learn for the new text of their unit. The teacher normally would give them the word and then tell them the meaning in English. But what I did was to change it a little bit and the teacher, gave me permission to do it. I got some pictures on the internet that would match the word. Every time we would have these words we would have pictures that would match those words. Many of the wishful learners would be able to remember it well, because of the images that they seen. This really helped them grasp the words and meanings.

Before Chie gave the children classes, she had to handle learning material that required Chinese translation. The teacher always sent us the curriculum before to check it out. There are many Chinese Pinyin comments in the learning material. The teacher was particularly worried that because of Chie's lack of knowing Chinese, there won't be any effect on the children's learning progress may be hampered. (In fact, her progress in speaking Chinese improved vastly very large.) She also earnestly learned about China's folk festivals. For Every time Chie experiences Chinese holidays, Chie she would will carefully prepare gifts for the children. We and the children both particularly like our teacher Chie, and we will be particularly feel sad when she leaves.

- Amity staff -

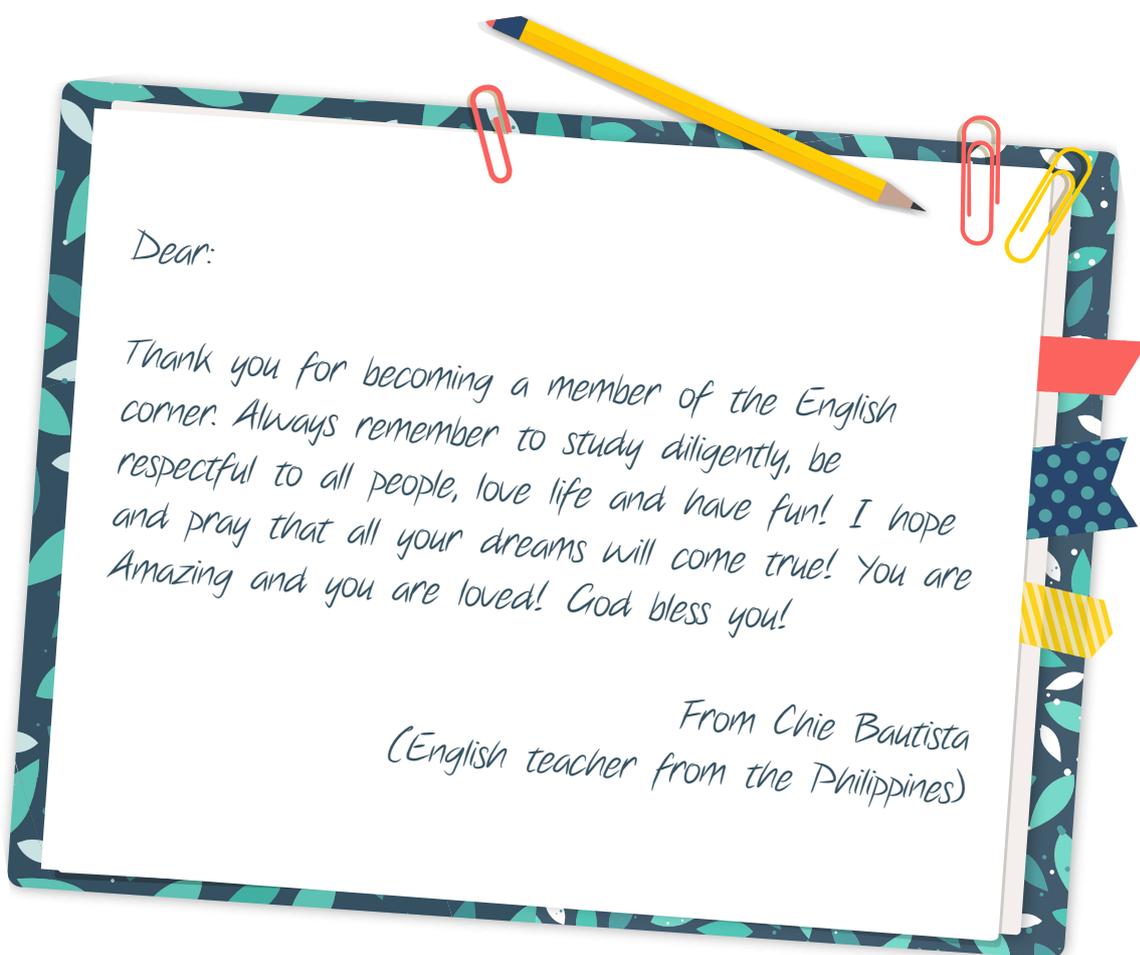
Nowadays China is so rich, so do you still see the need of people coming to China teaching English and nursing English?

I think there is the need for someone to come over and teach nursing English. Their nursing English teacher is really good. But she also has many other responsibilities. So I think it is really helpful to have someone else handle the lessons as well.

Besides your work, what is your favorite thing to do in China? What are you doing for fun?

The only thing I do for fun is to go to church. (laughing). That is the only thing I do for fun and the only thing I really do for myself outside of school is, go to Church on Sunday, attend the English bible study in the Chinese church on Saturdays and I teach in a Kunshan community on Saturday mornings and in the afternoon as well. Amity has projects in Kunshan. So one of the things I did was to go there on Saturdays and do an English corner and English club with second to 5th grade students. So that's a lot of fun. It's still part of the job, but I have a lot of fun in there. I love being with these kids. It's a migrant workers community. Amity says, these kids do not have enough exposure to English, so they wanted to help these community children. That is why they have this project. And I am assigned there to help out.

Before Chie's last class at the Kunshan community Center, Chie prepared a goodbye card for each and every student.



Hope in Action – Putting People first



△ Amity delegates He Wen, Du Ying, Mr. Qiu and Theresa Carino

From October 27th to November 1st the third General Assembly of ACT Alliance was held in Upsalla, Sweden. The event was hosted by the Church of Sweden. The Assembly adopted ACT's new Global Strategy (2019-2026). Focus areas of the meeting were ecumenical cooperation, youth participation, gender justice and overall governance issues. Among others, the delegates decided a new engagement model for ACT membership and elected new Governing Board Members.

Mr. Qiu Zhonghui, Chair of the Board of the Amity Foundation, was elected as one of the new Board members. It is the second time Amity, the ACT Alliance founding member, is represented in the Governing Board. Birgitte QvistSørensen, General Secretary of DanChurchAid, also an ACT member, was elected as the new ACT Alliance Moderator.



The General Assembly is the highest governance body of the Alliance and brings together more than 145 ACT members every four years. The work of the General Assembly aims to strengthen the members' commitments and to discuss the future direction of ACT Alliance.

Amity teams up to build partnerships in Sri Lanka



△ In 2017, the Amity Foundation provided relief supplies and medical aid to people affected by flooding in Sri Lanka

Recently, the Sri Lanka China Society sent a letter to the Jiangsu Provincial Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries ("Jiangsu Friendship Association") and expressed its gratitude for ongoing cooperation and exchanges. In recent years, through the active coordination and liaison by the Jiangsu Friendship Association, the Sri Lanka China Society and the Amity Foundation started to cooperate in joint development efforts.

In the first half of 2017, the Amity Foundation actively participated in the flood disaster relief work in Sri Lanka. The Amity Foundation worked with its disaster emergency cooperation networks, especially in collaboration with ACT Alliance and local partners in Sri Lanka and ensured timely and professional humanitarian relief. The project was supported by an Amity Emergency Care Team, helping with medical support and epidemic prevention work in the affected areas of Sri Lanka.

In response to the call of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide learning opportunities for all for life”, Amity strives to support the development of Sri Lanka’s education sector. Education plays a decisive role in alleviating social poverty and promoting human development. Amity will spare no effort in helping Sri Lanka’s education development.

With the financial support from the Jiangsu Overseas Friendship Association's 'Going Global' program, the Amity Foundation is currently working with the Sri Lanka China Society and Council for the Blind to implement the “Sri Lanka Blind Student Scholarship Program”. In the program, Amity contributes RMB 45,000 to 55 local students with visual impairment and helps them to improve study and living conditions, so they can receive inclusive and equitable education. It is the first time, for the Amity Foundation to receive funding for overseas development projects from the Chinese government.

In the letter, Mr. Jinit, Vice President of the Sri Lanka China Society, wrote that friendship between the two countries has a long history. Sri Lanka China Society has been and will be committed to exchange and further cooperation with Jiangsu Friendship Association and the Amity Foundation.

