



青年發展基金通訊

December 2012 4th Quarter The Youth Foundation



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Your Support

We cordially invite you to join us to create opportunities for all youth from Hong Kong, Mainland China, or anywhere around the world to grow to their fullest potential. I would like to

- Become a supporter, receiving newsletters from The Youth Foundation periodically
- Donate to The Youth Foundation's programs (you may select one or more of the following)
 - (1) Sichuan Holistic Health in Community and School Project
 - (2) Beijing Migrant Children Holistic Development Project
 - (3) Leadership Academy (LA Camp)
 - (4) Train-the-Trainers Program
 - (5) Other training and operating expenses

Name (Chinese) _____ (English) _____

Gender _____ Occupation _____

Name of Organization* _____

Date of Birth _____ (mm/yy) HKID#(First 4 digit) _____

Mailing Address _____

Tel _____ E-mail _____

*Please indicate both company name and contact person.
(Please notify us immediately for any changes to the above information.)

Donation : Tax deduction receipt may be obtained for amount exceeding HK\$100.

1. Crossed cheque made payable to "The Youth Foundation Limited"
2. Direct transfer to The Youth Foundation's one of the following bank accounts:
Standard Chartered Bank #337-1-027522-8 Hang Seng Bank #787-047919-001
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Please send crossed cheque or direct transfer receipt along with this form to:
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*For efficiency, electronic form of quarterly is recommended. If interested, please e-mail to enquiry@yf.org.hk
*If you do not wish to receive any correspondence from us, please notify us by phone or e-mail





Notes on Beijing Training and Research Program

Dr. CHOI Yuen-wan Philemon



Dr. CHOI delivered the opening address at the conference.

Over the past four years (from 2009 to present), the training and research program organized by the Youth Foundation in co-operation with our partner universities in Beijing has achieved visible results. The fruits of these years of training and research were on full display at the November 16th Conference on the theme of “Social Integration of New Generation Migrant Families”: these results have been of great help to the growth of migrant workers’ children, and have led to a mature, developed actionable model for the analysis of relevant policies.

Looking ahead, the main thrusts of the Beijing training and research program will be:

Sustainability of policy action research

The social integration of migrant families and alleviation of intergenerational poverty of the new generation are major concerns in the big cities. Based on the research results of the past few years, we can conduct continued inquiries into these topics: putting the internationally-emphasized notion of financial asset building in a local context; integrating targeted saving, mentorship, resilience training, life planning, vocational planning, etc. into an actionable, sustainable life education model which can then be consolidated by the relevant government bodies; leveraging the resources of the private sector to gradually develop and expand these models. Besides existing universities, enterprises, vocational high schools, migrant schools, and partners from frontline organizations, we look forward to having other local, mainland Chinese, and international scholars, trainers, foundations and enterprises to join our ranks of researchers, and obtaining the co-operation and support of the relevant government departments, so that our research can continue to move forward.

Deepening of youth worker training

There are a considerable number of people in Beijing who work with youth: teachers, psychiatrists, social workers, adventure counselors, project planners and managers, media workers, family educators, and so on. The Youth Foundation adopts a systematic approach to developing training programs for these youth workers based on past experience, deepening these programs in the aspects of youth growth, youth culture, youth work paradigms and techniques, real-life youth work experience, and so on. As always, we welcome local, mainland Chinese, and overseas trainers to join us as partners in collaboration.

Enhancement of youth quality of life

The education sector is now very concerned with how to deliver an educational curriculum that has “Excellence with a Soul” in the 21st century. In our youth training, we emphasize raising the quality of life; “life education” is an important point of focus. We hope to collaborate with educators from universities, high schools, vocational high schools, and schools for migrant workers’ children in the future on action research to develop models and curricula for “life education” among youth that could be feasibly deployed in mainland China.

The Youth Foundation very much appreciates the research and training work on youth growth done in Beijing. Our resources are limited, and we are reliant on more partners to provide valuable input and material support. 🙏



Giving Back

LAU So-man Cheryl, LA2011 Mentor



The author (3rd from left) and the mentees enjoyed the peaceful sunset with each other's company in LA Camp.

My journey serving as a mentor started like this: one day in 2007, the LA Camp staff called me and said: "Cheryl, we would like to invite you to become a mentor for LA Camp this year." I had no prior mentorship experience, but I accepted this challenge with courage out of nowhere. My friends asked me why I decided to become a mentor. My answer was actually rather two simple words: giving back. I had participated in LA camp when I was in middle school. This experience has had tremendous influence on my development and has always provided me with motivation. People, events, and discussion topics at the camp not only broadened my world view, but also changed my perspectives on life. I thought the camp was a terrific experience, and it would be great if I could help other young people benefit from the uniqueness of LA in the capacity of a mentor, to help them better understand themselves, better connect with others, and courageously follow their dreams and live the life that they want. With this in mind, I served as a LA Camp mentor for 3 consecutive years.

That was an ambitious outlook. However, the process was far from easy and there were so many things that I needed to learn. I had to master the essential skills for group facilitation and team building with so much time and energy. Yet the most important aspect of mentorship was in fact the way I lived my own life. I really like one LA Camp staff's analogy: being a mentor is like being a diving instructor. There is no shortcut to learning how to dive. The instructor can take the student only as deep as he himself is able to go. "Life influences life" - if a mentor doesn't even have a full grasp of what kind of mindset or attitude dictates his own life, or is able to synthesize his own experiences and daily learning to share with young people, then how can he expect to influence them and help them finding directions on their journeys? For this reason, mentors' search for

their own growth trajectory and understanding of their own lives were key components of the mentorship training process. Only in this way can the mentors be competent at helping their mentees find their own belonging.

Several years have passed, and I have long understood that I am not really giving back anything, and instead I have been a beneficiary the whole way through. I really think that spending the unforgettable seven days and six nights with my mentees, accompanying them in their studying, and giving each other support and encouragement have allowed me to grow as a person as well. Friendship built in this way is priceless.

I still remembered the dinner where a mentee introduced her new boyfriend to me, the heartbreaking phone calls with mentees who talked to me about their emotional breakups, and the afternoons when we just talked about work, school, and life decisions. These small things really enabled me to feel my mentees' trust. I am really grateful to have had the opportunity to witness and being part of their growth. The best reward is no other than hearing last year that two of my mentees went back to help run the camp themselves - one worked as an event promoter and the other was in charge with preparing camp activities. I saw myself in them. I look forward to seeing more former campers to give back, to allow the mission and spirit of LA Camp to be passed on. 



New Milestone, New Challenges

CHEUNG Choi-lan Hilda, Project Manager



Conference guests listened to our speaker presenting the results of our action research.

“Migrant Children Holistic Development Project” successfully commenced in September for Phase 4.

In particular, students from Phase 1 of “Financial Asset Building” (FAB) Project graduated from junior high school this year and should further study in high school after the summer. Thus, beginning from early September, we started contacting participating families to check on the students’ progress on entering high school, and to notify qualifying parents to collect the scholarship. From September to mid-November, we disbursed some 200,000 RMB in scholarship vouchers to 115 families. Although many families no longer qualified to receive such scholarship because their children did not enter high school, we did find that, among the participating families, about 25% of students did choose to go on to high school. This figure was far higher than the one we had been familiar with all along; this simple statistic is already an indicator of the preliminary success of the project.

Moreover, in order to present to the government and private sectors, social workers, educators, and local and global service organizations with a clearer picture of our work on migrant workers’ children and the positive impact this work has had on the children over the past few years, the Youth Foundation and China Youth University for Political Sciences (CYUPS) jointly organized a major conference on the topic of “Social Integration of New Generation Migrant Families” at the Lakeview Hotel in Beijing . There are also three co-organizers – the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China Institute for Educational Finance Research at Peking University , and Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Sciences – and four participating universities – Capital Normal University, Capital University of Economics and Business, China Institute of Industrial Relations, and China Women’s University. Although a few officials and invited speakers were unable to attend the conference due to another important event occurred at the same time, the conference was able to go ahead as planned. More than 300 attendees were present for

the day-long conference; in addition, almost 200 people participated in the afternoon concurrent sessions. The speakers included Professor Michael SHERRADEN (who was listed by Time magazine in 2010 as one of the 100 most influential people in the world) from Washington University at St. Louis , the Youth Foundation President Dr. CHOI Yuen-wan Philemon, researchers Dr. TSANG Yuk-piu Bill and Dr. MING Ho Holly, as well as other scholars and experts from the US, Canada, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai. Guests invited to the conference included officials from the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League, students and faculty from various universities in Beijing, representatives from various organisations concerned with and serving migrant workers’ children, including World Vision, Oxfam, Compassion for Migrant Children, XinGongMin, and Growing Home, as well as principals, teachers, and students from migrant schools; representatives from more than 10 media organizations were also present. We believe that the action research results presented at the conference can lead to greater awareness of the needs of migrant worker families and children and to more enthusiastic participation in our various programs across different sectors. For our team in Beijing, organizing and preparing for the conference was yet another learning experience. We are sure that our colleagues have gained greater understanding of the meaning of service, and have become more capable in the process too! 



Professor Michael SHERRADEN, Dr. TSANG Yuk-piu Bill, Dr. CHOI Yuen-wan Philemon, and Dr. NI Bangwen, Chairman of University Council of CYUPS, were in discussion.



The Rainbow after the Rain

KO Kam-ying, Project Manager
ZHAN Qunwei, Volunteer



The author (second from left) visited the family and gave them her good wishes.

One morning in October 2012, a woman from Hongbai Town of Shifang City, an area devastated by the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, successfully gave birth to two twins in an obstetric operating room at West China Second Hospital in Chengdu. The elder and younger twins weighed 2.35kg and 1.75g, respectively. This was a very touching moment for the family as well as all the volunteers who had been by their side along the way.

Four years ago, the couple lost their pair of children to the earthquake. Our team had been very concerned about their whole family from the very beginning, including the woman's mother and sister. When they had to move the deceased children's tombs two years ago, the mother's tears rushed out uncontrollably upon seeing the delicate skulls of the children – she really cried her heart out. Subsequently, the mother witnessed many women, who had lost their loved ones in the calamity, getting pregnant again one after another. Her own inability to conceive was very much at the source of her growing depression and anxiety. ZHAN Qunwei, a dedicated volunteer always stayed by her side to provide her support. Sadly, by the time of our departure, we still failed to see a smile on her face. Several months later, however, we received the good news that she was pregnant with a pair of twins. Qunwei was able to keep up with her situation via phone calls. The mother started showing symptoms of bleeding before the fetus even reached seven months gestation period. This was very concerning, since this could have been very dangerous for the fetus. Qunwei helped her get in touch with West China Hospital, where the mother ultimately had a successful and smooth delivery.

Throughout this entire time, our team did what we have always done - being there for the family, paying them visits, and helping with whatever that are needed. The babies finally came to the world

two weeks ago. The couple would bring them to our office and name them here. This pair of charming children is like the rainbow after the rain - the family has lived through tears and despair but is now full of happiness and smiles. It is regaining hope. Although we could not have controlled the timing of the miracle, it is nevertheless very heartwarming to know that our caring and company made a difference in the process. The couple especially insisted that I should relay their gratitude towards Dr. CHOI Fai-ming Jonathan, Ms. Huo, and everyone who have helped and visited them. They have also kindly invited us to attend their beautiful daughters' one month celebration on December 9th.

"Never abandon, never give up!" are words that we will never forget. Whether it is this couple or other people in need, we firmly believe that we love, care and persist, we can always find meaning and hope in life. 🌈



The newborn twins gave the couple a renewed sense of hope.



“Lives Influence Lives” ——Short Note on “TEAM”

**MA Dong, Research and Training Center for Youth Education in Mental Health,
East China Normal University**

On November 17th, TEAM (“Training of Excellent Adolescent Mentors”) conducted another youth worker training session in which the trainees first together watched a video of September camp highlights. The trainer used this as a starting point and, through the activity called “QR CODE”, guided the trainees to reflect on relevant issues such as “individuals or groups motivating others to serve as youth workers”, “closeness with one’s mentor in life”, and many others. The outcome of this reflection process were displayed in the form of an illustrated “Life QR-code”, leading trainees to deeper understanding and appreciation of the theme of the camp, “Lives Influence Lives - How can I Influence you?”

As we proceeded deeper into the TEAM Program, it became important to give the trainees space and opportunities to practice what they had learnt. Starting from the 17th, each day two trainees designed and led warm-up exercises in the group. After



A mentor and a trainee shared their “Life QR-code” with each other.

the exercise, everyone participated to discuss the key points from the design. At the same time, five trainees undertook new roles - group discussion facilitators. At the end, the mentors responded to the questions raised by the facilitators, allowing the trainees to practice their persuasion and explanatory skills in actual debate.



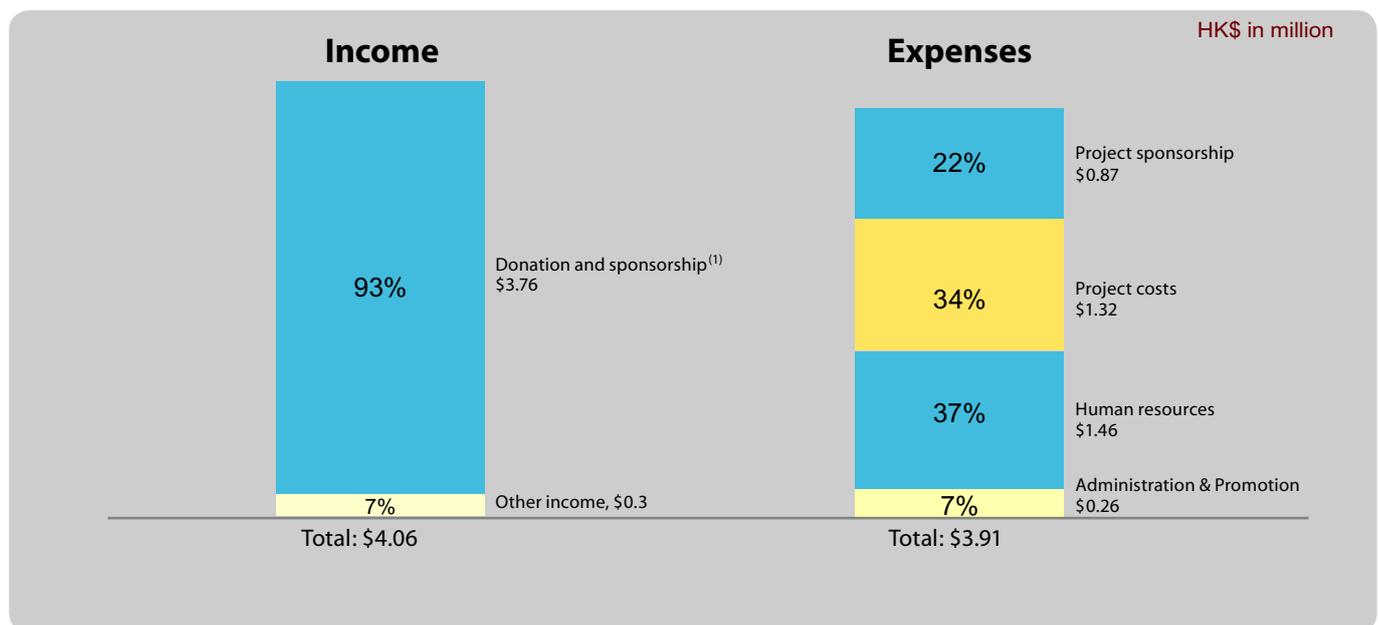
A facilitator led trainees in a small-group discussion.

On December 15th and 16th, the training centre would invite Professor LEUNG Seung-ming Alvin of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to lead the “Youth Life Planning Development” workshop. We believe that our partners will gain new insights from each training session they participate passionately.



Balance of Accounts July to September 2012

(Financial Year: from July 1 to June 30 of the following year)



Note:

- (1) Donation and sponsorship included HK\$1.06 million of sponsorship income based on project expenses calculation, specifically for "Sichuan Post-Disaster Support Program". Moreover, the income of Endowment for Youth Global Development (EYGD) was HK\$1 million (see Note 4).
- (2) The surplus for this quarter was HK\$0.15 million. Excluding the surplus of HK\$0.7 million in EYGD (see Note 4), the deficit of the Youth Foundation's operation was HK\$0.55 million.
- (3) The total of all funding balance was \$6.21 million, and the total funding balance of EYGD was \$6.66 million.
- (4) EYGD is a separate endowment fund newly set up for the development of global perspectives of youth workers and youth. The funding of EYGD was included in the book of the Youth Foundation due to the registration of EYGD was still in progress.