



*Treasure every life*

*Value every blind kid*

## **Golden Key Newsletter**

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### **CBM Experts Review Inner Mongolia Project**

Mr. Kirk Horton, Ms. Karin Van Dijk and Mr. Durgesh Raj Panta, three experts from CBM visited Inner Mongolia's Golden Key Visual Impairment Education Project from April 11 to 17. They went to Ningcheng County and Aohan Qi of Chifeng city, and Kulun Qi of Tongliao city. Many low vision educational programs, resource/guidance centers and hospitals were thoroughly reviewed. Separate discussions with the two cities' Directors of Educational Department were held. A special trip was made to Tongliao's Naiman Qi, and reviewed the blind students enrolling in regular middle school with normal students. They were accompanied by the Inner Mongolia Education Officer, Mr. Tian Yong'an, CBM-China Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Wang Maoqiang, Co-ordinator of Amity Foundation, Ms. Lin Wenxin, and Ji Yuqin and Hu Mei of Golden Key Center.

### **Shaanxi Project Presented Teaching Backbone Workshop**

From March 2 to 6, Chang Wu county of Xian Yang City presented "Shaanxi Golden Key Project Xian Yang Experimental Zone Teaching Backbone Workshop Class". Attendees included specialists from Xian Yang Guidance Center, various counties' special projects' centers' teachers and administrators, and related members from the two newly jointed counties of Shaanxi. Mr. Wang Riyuan, Director of Heilongjiang Educational Bureau, Mr. Zhu Yahui, specialist from the Heilongjiang Resource Center, Heilongjiang Golden Key Project special administrators, and various teachers also joined. The topics of the workshop were headed by six project counties' representatives;

students discussed and finally a team of specially invited experts by Golden Key Center commented and appraised. The seminar also invited Mr. Deng Meng, Associate Dean Faculty of Education Center for Special Education, Central China Normal University, and Dr. Zhu Zhiyong of Beijing University Sociology Department, reported on learning.

## **Heilongjiang Project Thorough Review Again**

Heilongjiang Province Education Bureau has put the work of Qiqihar Experimental Zone of Heilongjiang Golden Key Project on the urgent list for this year . The two counties, Fu Yu and Yi An, have scheduled their 2006 work plan based on the summary of their 2005 work year. From March of this year, (during Shaanxi Golden Key Project Teaching Backbone Seminar), more thorough review work plan will be improved again. Review work started in march and is currently organizing the result.

## ***Education and Teaching Recommendation Third Issue Published***

The goal of the Golden Key Projects is to set a foundation for the future development of local VI education. For this, Golden Key Center has designed and included a guided evaluation plan in the next three issues. Implementation will be attempted by all parties involved. After three years, all levels' teachers and administrators can "master the basic" of VI education with clear result. After the project is finished, should a building be built on this foundation? What is the size of the building? This will be decided by the local educational bureau and it is a suspense. Inner Mongolia Chifeng Education Bureau took the opportunity; they not only cemented the original achievement, but also developed the deaf, mute and low IQ education. The schooled VI children are increasing every year. Under very tough condition, Chang Wu county of Shaanxi Province adopted a series of measures. Chifeng city and Chang Wu county's experience will be published in the third issue of *Golden Key Education Teaching Recommendation*. Hope it can help boost and promote the continued development work.

## **The Story of Tina's Mother**

Golden Key has opened a door for groups of VI children; a door of hope. There is a group of high level massagists, who are influenced by the Golden Key spirit, and wish to save money through their labour to



help those little children who are eager to go to school. For this, we built a Golden Key Blind Massage Center. Because we have not been in the business too long, it is still not well known. Clients have been an agonizing matter. During this process, a kind hearted mother and her daughter appeared. From then on, her husband, her friends also pay their patronage. Everyone forgot to ask her name, but everyone remembers her lovely daughter's name, Tina. Everyone calls her "Tina's mother". One day Tina's mother called us; she wanted to organize a group of friends to visit our center. We were overjoyed.



On the afternoon of March 21<sup>st</sup>, she brought ten friends. They listened to our introduction, and tried our service. They promised that they will advertise for us from now on and try to improve customers. Golden Key has made the kind hearted Chinese and German close. Tina's mother is called Elisabeth. They do not live very close, but because of the Chinese blind children's welfare, they are willing to put themselves out of the way to spread the seed of love. We will forever remember this valuable freindship. Hope many Dina's mothers will come to support our work.

## **Wide Distribution of *Training Series for the Parents of VI Children***



After 2 years of struggle, with the support from UNICEF and New Zealand Ambassador Foundation, all the *Golden Key Project — Training Series for the Parents of VI Children* have been published by the Chinese Braille Publishing Company. This field is finally filled after more than ten years of blankness.

This series are intended for: 1. parents or teachers of VI children in poverty areas, so that more VI children can benefit. At present they have been donated to Inner Mongolia, Shaanxi and Heilongjiang. 2. teachers and students of special education universities, so that knowledge can be spread through them and exert a subtle influence. More visually impaired children can benefit. At present they have been donated to Beijing, Nanjing, Wuhan, and Harbin schools.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, under the support of Mr. Li Shuhua, administrator of Beijing Disabled Association, had a special donation ceremony. Mr. Masahiro Ono, Chief of Protection and Community Services Section, UNICEF Office for China, sent a letter to congratulate it. Ms. Guergana Guermanoff, Education Counsellor of New Zealand Embassy Beijing was present. The summary is as

follows:

*“ON behalf of the NZ Embassy, I would like to congratulate Golden Key Research Centre on the launch of the three resource books, aimed at assisting parents and teachers in raising and educating children with vision impairments. This is a significant achievement in the important work of mainstreaming children with disabilities. The New Zealand government and related*



*agencies are engaged in similar work to ensure that children with disabilities are able to go to their local schools and achieve through the mainstream education system. The New Zealand Government, working together with relevant governmental and non-governmental agencies, has two important strategies for ensuring the people with disabilities receive fair and equitable treatment; and students with disability are mainstreamed into their local schools.*

*The over-arching strategy is called the New Zealand Disability Strategy. It was developed in 2001 and has 15 objectives. The objectives include:*

- Encouraging the emergence of an inclusive society that respects and values the lives of disabled people.*
- Improving education so that all children, youth and adult learners will have equal opportunities to learn and develop in their local, regular educational centers.*
- Enabling disabled people to work in the open labour market and maintain an adequate income.*
- Providing opportunities for disabled people to have their own homes and lives in the community.*

*The New Zealand Ministry of Education has particular responsibility for implementing the objective of providing the best education for disabled people. This involves ensuring that no child is denied access to their local, regular school; ensuring that teachers understand the learning needs of disabled people; and ensuring that disabled students, families and teachers have good access to resources available to meet their needs.*

*In addition, the New Zealand Government has developed a policy to specifically deal with the education of students with disabilities. This is called the Special Education Policy. The aim of the Government's special education policy is to improve learning outcomes for all children and young people with special education needs at their local school, early childhood centre, or wherever they are educated.*

*However, as we all know, Government policies are about setting the*

framework for action. Implementing those policies also involves the cooperation of agencies, schools and communities.

This is where the work of Golden Key Research Centre and the other agencies and institutions represented here today is of vital importance.

The New Zealand Embassy is very happy to have been able to contribute to this project by Golden Key Research Centre, into putting together these three resource books to be used by parents and teachers of children with visual impairment. Once again, congratulations on the launch of the teaching resources and best wishes for all your future work.”



Compiled by Golden Key Research Center of Education for Visually Impaired

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Address: Golden Key Center of Education for the Visually Impaired, Enjili Bldg. 33, Haidian, Beijing

Zip code: 100036

Email: [goldkey@public.bta.net.cn](mailto:goldkey@public.bta.net.cn)

Tel: 86-10-88122497 / 88126524

Fax: 86-10-88122497