



Treasure every life

Value every blind kid

Golden Key Newsletter

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Special Education Investigation Team of Ministry of Education and China Disabled Persons' Federation Go to Inner Mongolia to Investigate

From September 11 to 14, headed by Mr. Xie Jingren, a special education investigation team consisting 8 officials and experts from the Ministry of Education and the China Disabled Persons' Federation investigated for 4 days special education undertakings in Chifeng City and Tongliao City of Inner Mongolia, accompanied by Director Wang Peiyong of the Basic Education Department, Inner Mongolian Education Commission and Director Ji Zhaohui of the Education and Employment Department, Inner Mongolian Disabled Persons' Federation. The investigation team listened to the reports on special education developments made by Inner Mongolian Education Commission, Inner Mongolian Disabled Persons' Federation, Chifeng Municipal Education Commission, Tongliao Municipal Education Commission and related personnel. The team also investigated on site special schools of the two cities, the Special Education Guidance Center in Chifeng City, the Special Education Resource Center for Eastern Region in Tongliao City, and the Golden Key Education Project for the Visually Impaired in Balinzuo Banner (county) and Alukeerqin Banner (county).

Strengthen Construction of Guidance Centers in Inner Mongolia

One of the key achievements of the Golden Key Project in Inner Mongolia is that the project has built a guidance network covering the entire autonomous region, while the core operation of the network are the special education resource centers and guidance centers set up in 12 prefectures and cities. After receiving trainings, teachers and administrative staff members of each center have become the backbone of the sustainable

development of special education. To further strengthen the capacity of guidance centers, the Xing'an Prefecture Education Commission assigned Mr. Guo Fengqiu, director of the guidance center of the prefecture, to work in the Golden Key Center from September for 1 year.

Phase 2 Appraisal of Golden Key Project in Heilongjiang Province

From October 9 to 16, the Golden Key Center dispatched expert teams to



Training in Yi'an



Training in Fuyu



On-site Guidance

visit Fuyu County and Yi'an County of Qiqihaer City and carry out the Phase 2 Appraisal of the Golden Key Project in Heilongjiang Province. After the appraisal, each county convened a meeting attended by classroom teachers, itinerant supervisors and special education administrative staff members of the entire county, further explained the implicative connections between ideas of inclusive education and the implementation of the Golden Key Project, and organized seminars and trainings with reference to the problems discovered in the appraisal. The appraisal team is quite satisfied with the achievements made by the two counties, and believed that, after over a year's efforts, all parties concerned had basically reached the objectives of the Phase 2 Appraisal: they are "quite familiar with education for the visually impaired", have visited the family of the newly-enrolled visually impaired students, and classified the visually impaired students.

Launch of *Vision Aid Characters Library*

To improve teaching quality for low vision students, and to alleviate teaching burdens on classroom teachers, the Golden Key Center decided to compile and print the *Golden Key Vision Aid Characters Library*, which is financed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Golden Key Center set up the Editorial Committee on the database, invited experts in the field of special education, ordinary education, low vision rehabilitation, compilation of teaching materials, printing and binding to discuss issues in editorial guidelines, collection and screening of Chinese characters from various sources, cards' template design.

There have been a total of 11 versions of the Chinese textbooks for primary schools that have been approved by the Teaching Materials Department, Basic Education Commission, and Ministry of Education. It is beyond China's economic capacity to compile and print Chinese textbooks with larger characters respectively. Low vision children often can recognize Chinese characters but cannot write them during the children's Chinese study, mainly because the children cannot see the Chinese characters clearly and consequently fail to remember them. The Golden Key Vision Aid Chinese Character Database aims at assisting low vision students in respect of the appearance of Chinese characters, phonetics, words and expressions, Chinese character components, Chinese character structures and orders of strokes. On the precondition of protecting the eyesight, the database strives to help low vision students build a solid foundation for learning Chinese characters.

Friendly Exchanges

- The China Friendship Peace and Development Foundation is a national foundation supported by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. On September 21, the 10th anniversary celebration of the foundation was held in the Great Hall of the People. Director Li Xiaoling chaired the meeting and the awarding ceremony. Secretary General Xia Guozhu made the work report. The great contributions made by the foundation to China's welfare undertakings during the past decade impressed all attendants. It was with the help of the foundation that the Golden Key Project of Heilongjiang Province succeeded in obtaining the fund from Deutsche Bank. The director and deputy director of the Golden Key Center was invited and attended the celebration.

- Upon the arrival of its newly-appointed priest and the oncoming change of coordinator with the Golden Key Center, the Congregation of the Good Shepherd invited representatives from the Golden Key Center to go to the rite on August 6 and share with brothers and sisters our achievements. We met on the day Mrs. Jan-Marie Mccallum, responsible person of social welfare undertakings, and later got to know Mr. David Vance Wagner, responsible person of communicating with the Golden Key Center. Mrs. Jan-Marie Mccallum visited the Golden Key Center on November 26 to know further about various businesses of the center and brought us the donation for the *Ode to Joy*. Our director specially told Mrs. Jan-Marie Mccallum touching stories about Mr. David Vance Wagner supporting the Golden Key Center to set up



our website, and Mrs. Barbara Birmingham helping blind massage therapists to learn English.

- The 13th Awarding Ceremony of the Soong Ching Ling Camphor Tree Honorary Award was held in the Great Hall of the People on November 18. Among the award winners, there are Ms. Gu Xiulian, who set up and promote the “Mother Cellar” project, and holds the post of Vice Chairman of the National People’s Congress and Vice Chairman of the All-China Women’s Federation, Mr. Daniel Vasella, Swiss entrepreneur who donates drugs specially effective in curing leucocythemia, Mr. Tan Mingjie, Vice Director General of Guangxi Health Commission who developed the “Life Stretcher” program and greatly lowered the death rate of pregnant women in Guangxi, Mr. Shi Huashan, Leader of Jiangxi Police Detachment who saved 178 women and children who had been abducted and sold, Mr. Pu Chunxin, Image Ambassador of helping the HIV orphans and Vice President of the Beijing People’s Art Theater. As an award winner of the 6th session of the Song Ching Ling Camphor Award, Mr. Xu Bailun, Director of the Golden Key Center was invited to attend the ceremony.

Touching Nordic Spirits

Led by Manager Mac Karlsson and Mr. Cheng Ping, Radisson SAS Hotel Beijing established a donation box for the Golden Key Center, devoting their care to children in poverty via the Golden Key Center. To provide medical treatment fees for visually impaired children in urgent need, the hotel and all its staff members generously donate their money to the children. The noble Nordic enterprise spirit deeply impresses us.

We Can Do Everything

Mr. Masahiro Ono of UNICEF’s China Representative Office contributed to the *Ode to Joy* an article with the title: *Except Seeing Things, We Can Do Everything*, expressing his care and encouragement to China’s blind children. The following is his article:

“My name is Masahiro Ono. I work for UNICEF’s China Representative Office. I have the pleasure to contribute to the magazine, because now I have an opportunity to exchange ideas with so many friends.

First of all, when I write this article, I do not consider this is an article

specially dedicated to blind children or blind people, because you, above all, are human beings, though you have certain visual impairments. It means that you, like those people with good eyesight, possess the entire potential to achieve your life's goal. However, sometimes some people will say, 'because of this or that, you are unable to act as others or are only able to do certain things.'

For example, I often come across massage training programs for blind people. If you really want to be a massagist, of course it is a good choice. However, I want to know why you must be a massagist, because as long as you believe in yourself, and are willing and determined to do what you want to do, you can achieve anything – you can become a teacher, professor, lawyer, manager and even president of a state. What you can do has no limit.

Of course, if you are lazy and only waiting for things to happen, you can achieve nothing. You must make your dreams come true by yourself. What does it mean? It means that you must study and work very hard so as to acquire what you want. If possible, establish a goal and strive to achieve it. I believe that you can make it.

I wish everything is fine at yours and look forward to receiving your good news. If you have any questions or want to ask me anything, please write to me at any time.'

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