

A Letter from our EEF President

As we reflect on 2024, it is inspiring to see the positive impact we've achieved through partnerships and projects that strengthen education and support underserved communities. This year, we collaborated with Professor Wang from Peking University to create an impact evaluation model for our Household Reading Project, which was presented at the 2024 Asian Conference on Education and International Development. This model provides insights that will strengthen our literacy efforts.

We are also funding Professor Wang's Household Reading Site (HRS) project, which places books in rural homes and sets up neighborhood reading centers to improve literacy access for "left-behind" children in rural areas. By fostering a culture of reading, this initiative creates supportive spaces for these children's learning and growth.

In partnership with Li Geng Sheng of Peking University, we are providing support for the annual STEM Competition and the Future City Competition, encouraging hands-on learning and innovation among students. Additionally, we are investing in *The Community Parenting and Play Center Project* to support early childhood development for children aged 1-6 in rural areas, building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Our Board also approved \$15,000 for a pilot project, Family Stories, focusing on preserving family history within the Chinese diaspora in the US. This project helps students connect with their roots while developing skills in interviewing and summarizing, while gaining insights into cultural differences. Starting with 12 families, we aim to expand this project, offering a website and database to archive these valuable histories.

These initiatives reflect our dedication to education, cultural preservation, and community development. As we move forward, we are encouraged by the resilience of those we serve and the commitment of our partners.

Warm regards,
Winnie Wong, Ph.D.



Student participants in the Future City Competition



青樹教育基金會

EVERGREEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

2024 Annual Letter

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Household Reading Sites Project

By Dr. Lili Luo

EEF has funded Professor Zizhou Wang's Household Reading Site (HRS) project, which aims to improve literacy and reading access for rural children in China by placing bookshelves in selected households and establishing neighborhood reading centers in villages. The project addresses the pressing issue of "left-behind" children, a consequence of rapid urbanization, where approximately 70 million rural children are left behind as their parents migrate to cities for work. These children often face poor educational quality, with high dropout rates and limited access to extracurricular reading materials, which hinders their literacy development.

To combat this, the HRS project has identified 15 villages for intervention, with five households in each village receiving bookshelves stocked with age-appropriate reading materials. These households also serve as neighborhood reading centers, and the families are trained to manage these household libraries to encourage reading among local children.

In collaboration with Professor Lili Luo, the HRS project developed an impact evaluation model for the HRS project. This evaluation aims to provide data that will inform strategic decisions and contribute to broader efforts in poverty reduction and educational development. Findings suggested that the project had a positive impact on the children's academic performance as perceived by their teachers. The project team delivered a presentation at the 2024 Asian Conference on Education and International Development to disseminate the findings to an international audience.

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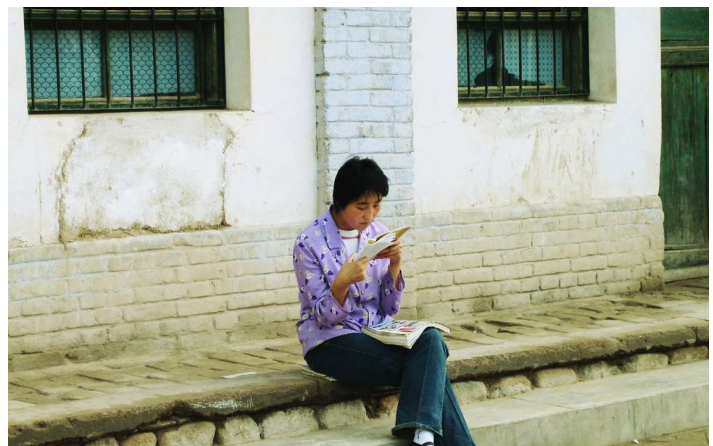
Every Child in Rural China Has Access to Relevant Educational Opportunities

MISSIONS:

- To improve education opportunities
- To promote information literacy
- To bridge between China & the world
- To help Chinese diaspora understand their cultural and historical background

VALUES:

Bringing education opportunities to rural China



Parenting and Play Centers

By Dr. Jo Bell Whitlatch

Evergreen (EEF) is funding the establishment of two community-based parenting and play centers to support additional development of the Humana People to the People's rural-based community early learning, responsive care, and pre-school education work. Parenting and Play Centers are being funded in two different villages in Teng Chong City, Yunnan Province, China. The Centers will focus upon childhood development programs for the youngest rural children, ages 0-3 years, where the most crucial brain development occurs ("Give Me a Child" Economist, October 29, 2016). Compared to urban areas in China, children in rural China are at greater risk of developmental delays in language, cognition and social emotional skills. In their book, *Invisible China* (University of Chicago Press, 2020) Scott Roselle & Natalie Hell noted that the most effective action to spur lifelong success and reduce inequity in the world is to invest in programs that target the youngest children (*Invisible China* pp. 149-150). The project funding supports providing a local parenting and play center in each village, identifying and training a local lay teacher and establishing grassroots community village parents' committees to participate in planning and conducting appropriate development programs and activities.

EEF's funding continues support for funding this very important early childhood development program, which has also benefitted from funding by other organizations, including:

- World Bank <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P152860>
- SOAR Foundation <https://soarfoundation.net/en/home/>
- GenWell Foundation <https://genwellfoundation.org>

This funding opportunity, which supports the Evergreen mission, was first identified by EEF Board member, Jingyi Yu. Evergreen is inspired by the ongoing research results of Stanford University Professor, Scott Rozelle and the University sponsored Rural Education Action Program (REAP): https://sceei.fsi.stanford.edu/reap/people/scott_rozelle



STEM Challenge and Future Cities Competitions

By Guojuan Shang

The Evergreen Education Foundation provides opportunities for students in remote rural areas of China to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) projects by hosting an annual STEM Challenge. The challenge features engaging in STEM activities and creating a platform for the application of knowledge in STEM. This initiative aims to ignite the students' passion for STEM disciplines, nurture their creativity, learn problem-solving skills, and facilitate their holistic development.

Evergreen began supporting rural teachers and students in China to participate in the Future City competition this year. Future City® is a globally recognized project-based learning STEM competition for elementary and middle school students. In this competition, students work in teams to design a city that is 100 years into the future using a project-based learning approach. The design process and outcomes are presented through project journals, city papers, physical models, and presentations. In February 2024, Evergreen introduced Future City to our member schools; from March to April, we actively provided interested schools and teachers with project guidance and training, connecting them with professional engineering mentors.

Family Stories Project

The Board approved \$15,000 to fund a pilot project, Family Stories that will focus on the Chinese diaspora in the US. The pilot project will collect background information, provide a summary of interview information as well as full interview transcripts for 12 families. Results of the pilot project will be evaluated to determine the feasibility of a long-term project by the Board.

I want to support rural education in China by donating to Evergreen Education Foundation:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation Total

\$ _____



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