

All About the Girl

THE WORK OF CAPTIVATING IN CHINA
JANUARY TO JUNE 2021





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Message from the Founders

Dear Supporters of Captivating China,

Thanks for turning the page in our latest **ALL ABOUT THE GIRL** - a summary of the work of Captivating in China. If you're reading this as someone who has partnered with us financially through these past 6 months, a huge **THANK YOU** to you. We are so blessed and honored to have your support.

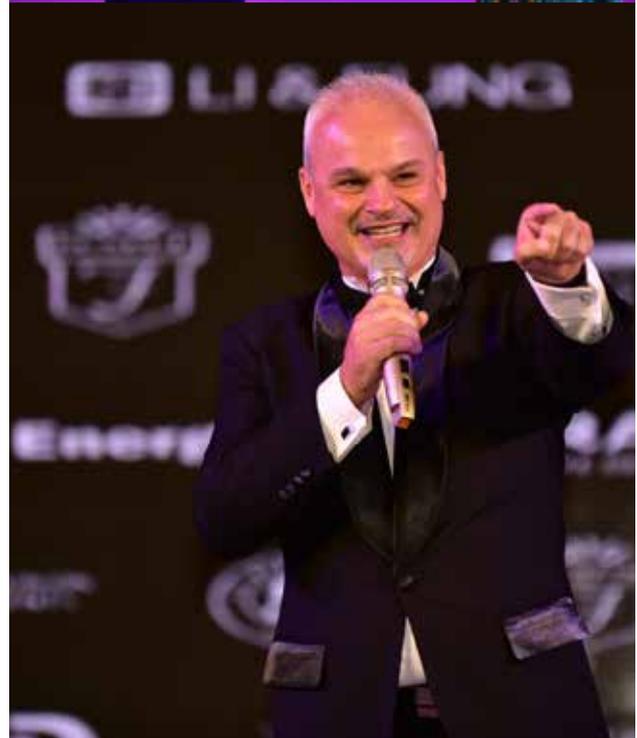
As you will read, this January to June 2021 period has seen lots of activity with not just the implementation of existing programs, but a few extra programs being rolled out.



In total, this past reporting period has kept us on track to significantly impact over 1,000 lives in a year:

- Successful implementation of our **PIGS FOR POVERTY** program (impacting 117 women and their families)
- Completion of four **MY FIRST JOB** programs throughout Qinghai Province (benefiting 113 women and an estimated 230 children/dependents)
- Commencement of the **4TH ANNUAL HUSKY/ CENOVUS TAILORING PROGRAM** for women (impacting 30 women and 60 children),
- 269 girls in our **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** finished another semester of study
- And as a bonus, the commencement of an additional two **MY FIRST JOB** programs (benefiting a further 61 women and 120 children/dependents).

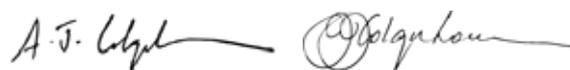
Our thanks to our Captivating team in China, Carrie and her implementation team on the ground in Qinghai (where all of these programs are) and to our amazing financial partners who made all of this happen.



It's been a busy 6 months, although not without its challenges. The purpose of this report is to celebrate the 6 months that have been (and I encourage you to take some time to read some of the amazing stories of impact), although the reality is our next 6 months ahead will look quite different. This has largely been brought about due to the simply amazing and progressive work China is doing to address extreme poverty. We have seen this impact directly in the areas we have been working and the scale of impact is seriously impressive.

Our next 6 months will see our work reach wider into different locations in our quest to reach those that are struggling to progress. This means adding new partners, projects, and provinces - and we're excited about that. But, it will also mean projects like our much-loved **PIGS FOR POVERTY** program will be on hold for a while until we find a community needing it. Our plan has been to always work the gaps - to implement solutions where few other options exist.

Our purpose is unchanged - to make sure every child has their opportunity to shine. We continue to exist to help as many of these children as we can with your help. We celebrate China's amazing progress in addressing extreme poverty while looking even more closely on ways we can ensure everyone gets their opportunity to reach their potential. Thanks for journeying with us.



Andrew and Julie Colquhoun
FOUNDERS | Captivating



It's All About the Girl

THE NUMBERS							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (to June)	NOTES
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP (VSS) - 3 year program							
Class of Sept 2016	60	54	46				76% of original class graduated July 2019
Class of Sept 2017		73	72	62			85% of original class graduated July 2020
Class of Sept 2018			103	98	90	90	88% of original class still in the program
Class of Sept 2019				105	92	87	83% of original class still in the program
Class of Sept 2020					95	92	# of girls joined the program in September 2020
TOTAL	60	127	221	265	277	269	
The Impact							
# of girls who graduated				46	62		graduation is in the next 6 months
# of girls employed				27	54		updated with a 12 month post graduation review
# of girls furthering their education				17	2		updated with a 12 month post graduation review
% of graduates employed or in advanced studies				96%	90%		
MY FIRST JOB (MFJ) - 6 month program							
Started MFJ training	10	40	30	120	120	61	
The Impact							
# of women who graduated	9	33	30	103	113		
# of women employed	9	23	26	91	92		updated with a 12 month review
% of graduates now with jobs	100%	70%	87%	88%	81%		
HUSKY ENERGY TAILORING SKILLS FOR WOMEN (HET) - 6 month program							
Started HET training			44	30	30	30	
The Impact							
# of women who graduated			43	24	27		
# of women employed			33	19	27		updated with a 12 month post graduation review
% of graduates now with jobs			77%	79%	100%		
TOTAL GIRLS HELPED IN THE YEAR	70	167	295	415	427	360	

THE NARRATIVE

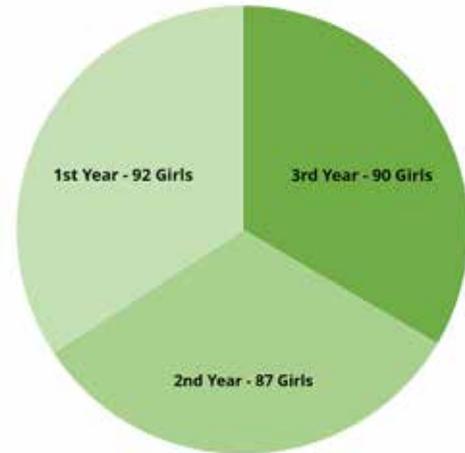
- **90** GIRLS FROM OUR **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP 2018** INTAKE STARTED THEIR INTERNSHIPS IN **MARCH 2021**. Every school has a different internship schedule but this is when the majority of girls started. Graduation for these girls will be in July 2021.
- **61** WOMEN STARTED THE **MY FIRST JOB ASSISTANT CHEF PROGRAM** in May/June 2021 and are set to complete their internship and graduate by November. We look forward to reporting on the graduating women and their job outcomes in our next July to December update.
- **27** WOMEN GRADUATED FROM THE **HUSKY ENERGY TAILORING SKILLS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM** in November 2020. 100% of them have been consistently earning tailoring-based incomes which we are thrilled to see. We will review again in 12 months.
- Realistically, we have been hoping to see 70% or more success rate for graduates from all programs, and it's thrilling to see **84%** FOR THE **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP (VSS) PROGRAM** AND **94%** GRADUATION RATE FOR THE **MFJ PROGRAM**, with **100%** GRADUATION AND EMPLOYMENT FOR THE **HET PROGRAM**. Because we specifically look for girls who have already dropped out of school, the VSS program will be challenging for some girls because of stress from catching up, and/or family issues to deal with. But this result is exceeding our expectations.



Vocational School Scholarship Program

269 GIRLS ARE STUDYING HARD in our 3-year Vocational School Scholarship Program. Since 2016, this program has been empowering girls' futures with better choices and opportunities. 90 girls are set to graduate in July.

- Nursing and Medical Studies
- Teaching
- Language Studies
- Accounting
- Engineering
- Technology
- Environmental and Agricultural Studies



Number of girls per year level

All these girls were not in school when they were given the good news that they can go back to school and learn a vocation that will equip them with knowledge and skills that will open doors and provide a platform for their future. Most dropped school at grade 9 as their families were no longer able to financially support their continued education.





The vocational school scholarship program is inspiring confidence, enhancing dignity and empowering their future with better choices.

It's thanks to ZURU (who fund 50% of the entire VSS program) that we can impact the many girls that we do and our Captivating Sponsorship Family for sponsoring these girls. We also extend our thanks to several other companies that get behind this program (see logos). Together we make it possible for dreams to come true.

ZURU

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we make

Husky

W·K

LI & FUNG

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Living Her Dream

My name is Yangkartso and I am living my dream in studying Pre-school Teaching. My main subjects are theory of teaching, general psychology, child development psychology, music and dance. I made good progress on my academic performance this semester. I participated in the campus song and dance competition and won an excellent award this semester.

I like campus life very much. Every day is memorable. I chose this profession since I have always had a dream of being a qualified teacher. Because of your support, I am getting closer to my dream. I cherish this opportunity.



Supportive Daughter and Friend

I am Riskyid. My mom is a single mother, and has always tried her best to provide for me. Now that I am getting older, I know that she will need to rely on me to provide for her. I am so happy to have this opportunity to go back to school and study Nursing. My heart is full of emotion.

I love my school and I have made some good friends. One particular friend is Dedron. We have both had similar disadvantages in life and we are both part of the Vocational School Scholarship program.

Dedron is in her final year of Language Studies. Even though we will likely move away from each other when we graduate and find jobs in different areas, I hope we will remain close friends.

One day, when I am able to have my own career and have a stable income, I will be able to support my mother and take care of her. I know I will be able to be independent while helping the world around me.



PHOTO: Riskyid (left) with her close friend Dedron (right)

Gift of Encouragement

I am Drugmo and now in my second year of studying Business Management. My favorite subject is Tax Law and my least favorite subject is English. Although I have almost completed two years of study, I will never forget my first day back in school. The other students welcomed me and helped me a lot. I love my school and the friends I have made.

I consider myself very lucky to have this opportunity to learn a vocation that will help me find a good job where I can be financially stable and independent. Your gift to me has encouraged me to always do my best. I will continue to study hard and learn as much as I can.

Colorful Chapters for Two Young Women

I AM WENCHANGTSO. I have successfully returned to school and in a blink of an eye, another semester has passed. When I first came to this school, I had no understanding of Equipment Engineering Technology. I was easily confused and struggled with the subjects. However, once I felt more comfortable asking questions and the teacher explained things to me, I started to love my course.

Equipment Engineering is a discipline that focuses on the combination of theoretical knowledge and practice. I have the chance to make new friends. This has been a colorful chapter of my life as I am no longer lonely. After graduation, I hope to find a good job and help my parents. I want to start my new career where I can promote national culture, and entrepreneurial activities such as design and art. Thank you very much for your support.



I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY RETURNED TO SCHOOL. My name is Tserang and I'm studying Medical Care (Nursing). Because of you, I have embarked on a new chapter of my life. Rain or shine, I will never give up. My dream is to contribute to society and make my family proud. I hope I will be a good nurse when I graduate. Although I am about to finish my second year of studies I still feel that I have a lot to learn. I am excited to start my internship next school year. I feel I will learn a lot through the practical application of my studies.

Valued Opportunity

My name is Tinzin and I am 16 years old. I live with my parents and 3 siblings. Neither of my parents went to school and although they know the value of education, they couldn't continue sending me to school so I had to drop out when I finished grade 7.

I have always wanted to have an education that will lead to a good job so I can provide for my family. Now I'm studying Tibetan Medicine and I've almost finished my first year already. I can't believe this has happened to me. I'm grateful for this opportunity. My parents are so proud of me.



Drugmotso (right) with her mom



Reigniting a Girl's Dream

My name is Drugmotso and I am 19 years old. My father left when I was 7 years old, leaving my mom to provide for me and my brother as well as my paralyzed aunt. This has been such a burden for my mother that I had to drop school.

For me, a child born into a poor and incomplete family, finishing my education has always been a dream that I thought would never come true. Now, because of your help, I am studying Civil Engineering. The desire in my heart lights up like a bright sparkle. I know this will change my future. I look forward to the day when I will be able to take care of my mother and aunty because I have a good job.

1ST YEAR



Jarong's Light amidst Difficulties

My name is Jarong and I am 19 years old. I had to drop out of school when I was 15 years old in Junior high school because my parents couldn't afford to send me. My mother had a serious accident and the ongoing medical costs are huge. My brother is still in school, and even though I am a girl, I desperately want to go back to school. I know this is too much for my family.

When I received word that I was able to go back to school and study a vocation of my choice, I couldn't believe it. I knew what I wanted to do. I love Math and so I chose Accounting. I have almost finished my first year of study and I am so proud of what I have learned. I thought this would never be possible for me.

Thank you to my sponsors for believing in me and giving me this opportunity.



My First Job

ASSISTANT CHEF PROGRAM

The My First Job program is continuing to bring opportunities to disadvantaged women. When she first comes to the program, she is shy, lacks in confidence and often can't read or write. By the end of the training, she is confident in her knowledge and skills and empowered in a job that she can call her own and earn an income where she can provide for herself and her family.

The women learn how to read measurements, what ingredients work together to bring out the best flavors, and how to present the dish on a plate for a customer in a restaurant. Using professional kitchen equipment is totally new to these women and so they practice diligently to master the kitchen. Learning to read ingredients lists, menu items, and product names on packaging, is something that each of the women treasure and are able to hold their heads high with this knowledge.



As reported in our last All About the Girl update, 120 women started in the My First Job program from July 2020 across 4 program locations. All of these programs have now concluded with the final group finishing their internships in April 2021.

Thanks to budget savings made through this program due to some COVID savings and discounts, two additional programs have been made possible.

AS A RESULT, 61 WOMEN (TWO GROUPS) STARTED THEIR JOURNEY through the program in May/June with the plan to complete their internship and graduate by November.

They are excited and thrilled to learn as much as they can through the help and support of the experienced teacher. The teacher is excited to see these women learn so many new things while growing in confidence and self-sufficiency.

TWO MORE GROUPS OF WOMEN (30 in each group) are planning to start their training within the next few months.

Our special thanks to **ZURU** for half funding the My First Job programs. Thank you also to **The Shenzhen Midnight Charity Run, SWIS, GPA, CAF America** and all those who purchased a plush toy at the **Annual Charity Auction**.

First Day of Training

All the women were excited to turn up for their first day of training in the My First Job Program. Many of these women live in remote locations that make travel very difficult, however, incredibly grateful for this opportunity, they wouldn't have missed it.

Some of the first things that were addressed was the importance of time management and self-discipline. These principles are not often thought about in their daily lives out in the fields.

The next most important thing was to give each woman her very own white chef hat and coat. These are worn with pride and help provide an added sense of professionalism and food hygiene.

The teacher was introduced to the class. This professional chef was very excited to teach fellow women skills that will not only open doors for income opportunities for them but also brings a new-found confidence to each woman.



Midterm Test

After one and a half months of learning, and practicing and sharing, it came time to test the skills and knowledge of these women. The mid-term evaluation contained four key assessment areas.

1. Controlling the heat and cooking time of the food as well as the process used to prepare the dish.
2. Basic knowledge of the primary and secondary ingredients of the chosen dish.
3. The color and taste of the dish.
4. Learning attitude as well as the practical ability to navigate kitchen issues.

Each of the women chose their favorite dish to prepare, paired up for this particular test, and quickly but nervously started. Everyone did really well and enjoyed the challenge. First prize went to two young students who chose “West Lake Beef Soup”. The dish and the whole process was perfect. Congratulations ladies!





A Dream Coming True

Tsering Tsomo is 25 years old and she is a mother of two daughters. Her elder daughter is 6 and she is at kindergarten and the little one is about 1 year old. Her family has about 30 yaks including 11 baby yaks. Her husband is looking after the family livestock while she stays home with her parent to look after the kids.

Her husband has never gone to school and has no job opportunities other than raising their yaks. She understands the value of education and really wants her daughters to go to school.

She wants them to have many opportunities in life, however, with limited income and resources, this has always been just a dream.

"I love to cook, but I know I need to learn so much to be employable. I can't believe I have this opportunity to learn something that will make it possible for me to earn a good income to support my children's future. This is very important to me," beams Tsering while reflecting on her journey so far.

Tashi's New Journey

Tashi is 27 years old. She had to move back to her family home after her divorce as she had nowhere else to go. She owns no land or livestock and she has never been to school. In the remote location of her parents' home, she has almost no income opportunities.

"I am kind of lost now and I do not know what to do. Without an education background and skills I cannot do much and people don't want to employ me. I am not afraid of working hard and learning something new", explained Tashi to our field staff.

Tashi started her new journey in the My First Job program in May. Although she is shy and reserved, she is strong and determined to learn and become self-sufficient.



Thamo's Motivation

"My son is in kindergarten this year and I am so proud of him. I want to be able to give him a future of many opportunities however my husband and I cannot earn much as we both don't have any employable skills."

"This opportunity that you have given me, I will not take for granted. I love to learn and my motivation is my son. I am very hopeful for the future for me and my family."

For My Parents

My name is Lhamotso and I am 22 years old. I have had very little education and so I have never had a job where I can earn a good income. My family rely on our livestock to survive but last winter was really heavy snow and five of our cattle were trapped. We couldn't do anything about it. This devastated my family.

I joined the My First Job program in 2020 and am grateful for the devotion of the teacher to teach me the skills and knowledge to be a chef. The restaurant that I did my internship at, is now where I work. I am glad that I can have a nice place to work, that I am now financially independent, and will be able to support my parents in their old age.





The Importance of Learning Employable Skills

My name is Lutsokyid and I am 27 years old. I have never been to school and I can't read or write. I am now married but my husband is also illiterate. No one wants to employ us.

When I joined the My First Job program in 2020, I had no confidence in myself. I really wanted the opportunity so I was brave and was not disappointed. I even learned how to read and write basic words and menu items. I never thought this would be possible for me.

I love my new job and I feel enthusiastic to go to work. I now understand how to work as a team member and how important it is for women to learn employable skills.



Husky Energy Tailoring Skills for Women

THIRTY WOMEN BEGAN THE HUSKY ENERGY TAILORING SKILLS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM in May; this is the 4th year Husky Energy (now a member of the Cenovus group of companies), has supported this program. In just three short months, they will have learned a brand-new skill that will open doors for them that would not be possible without this training.

At the start of training, none of these women could use a sewing machine. The beginning of this program included the very basics of measuring, using scissors and understanding how a sewing machine works. Most of these women have never been to school.

Although some were privileged to receive a few years of primary school education, most could not read or write.

During the three months of training, they will learn to read measurements, create patterns, cut and sew different types of fabric, and produce a finished garment of quality. This training provides opportunities that help elevate her status in the community and bring financial sustainability.

Our special thanks to **Cenovus Energy** for believing in this program and making it possible to change the world for these women.

cenovus
ENERGY



A Dream of Financial Independence

Drugmokyid is the youngest among the trainees and is not married. She was only able to go to grade 6 at school because the family could only afford to send one of their children through school, and that was her brother. She spends her days helping her parents herd the family cattle which is their main source of income. Sometimes, she is able to find odd jobs to help supplement the family income.

She doesn't want to depend on a husband for her future but with no skills or education, job prospects are very few. Her dreams came true when she joined the Husky Energy Tailoring Skills for Women program in May.

She is embracing this learning opportunity and is determined to do her very best. This positive and outgoing young woman, is looking forward with excitement to a future of opportunities and financial independence.



Sonamjyid (left) with her co-trainee

For My Children

I am Sonamjyid. I have never been to school because my parents were too poor. They didn't think that education was important, so, since I was 8 years old, I helped my family work and herd cattle and sheep.

Now my family is large, my parents, my brother, my niece, my husband and our 3 children. We all live together to try and help each other. My husband does his best to financially support the family but as he has never been to school, he has no reliable income source.

I've always wanted to learn a skill but I've never had the opportunity. I am so thankful that I am part of this program. My family are also proud of me and are supporting me to do this. I am learning so much and although some things are difficult for me, I am determined to master this trade so I can support my family financially and be able to provide something for my children that I didn't have – a quality education.

The Power of Education

I am 24 years old and enjoying the training in the tailoring program. I have made some precious friends and we help each other through the difficult things. I am one of the lucky ones who got to go to school for a few years, so I am proud to be able to help some of my fellow students with basic reading and writing.

My child is 4 years old and although not ready for school, I believe in a good education in order to have better opportunities in life. My husband and I have limited education and so we find that most employers won't hire us. I know that when I graduate this training, that I will have a skill that will make me valuable to a tailoring company. I look forward to being able to provide for my family and especially my child's future.



A Dedicated Teacher

Mr Gabu has been teaching the Husky Energy Tailoring Skills Program for Women since 2019. He is a patient and kind man who is proud to share his knowledge and skills with these women each year. Mr Gabu promised that the trainees can call him if they have any questions, even a year after they graduate. He believes in this program and feels honored to be part of it.

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a black long-sleeved top and a white vest with blue circular patterns, is seated and focused on sewing a piece of fabric. She is wearing a long red beaded necklace and a watch on her left wrist. The background shows a window with patterned curtains and a wooden chair.

I am Proud of My Accomplishments

My name is Gazingjyid and I am 30 years old. I dropped school after grade 2. Because of this, there are very few job opportunities for me. Now I have my own family with two children and I want to be able to give my children the best opportunities possible.

This tailoring program has been a great benefit for me to learn a skill so I can find a good job where I can earn a stable income. I have learned so much and I'm proud of my accomplishments. I treasured my learning during my internship and graduated in 2020. I now have a job and continue to learn and refine my skills. I'm proud of the clothes I create and feel good when customers buy them.



I am a Woman and I am Capable

My name is Tsedan and I am 29 years old. I missed out on going to school because my parents thought that boys are more important than girls. Now that I have my own family, I want my three children to be able to go to school - an opportunity that I didn't have. Neither my husband nor me have any education so we rely on odd jobs that my husband can find.

I consider myself very lucky that I was able to join the Tailoring program in 2020. I like to do well and I worked hard to get my highest score of 98! I have new confidence in my ability to earn a steady income for my family. Being a woman, I never thought this would be possible. Now, I value my job and am proud that I can provide for my children's future.



Pigs for Poverty

Our current Pigs for Poverty (previously reported in our last AATG update) has now been completed reaching across 12 rural villages in the eastern region of China with the aim of assisting 117 families, most of which were single mothers households. These families earn very little income and struggle to cover their daily living expenses, much less to cover additional school expenses or provide for the medical needs of their family members.

When this year's program first commenced, gatherings were not yet allowed, so our coordinators had to go through the process of selecting the recipients, and purchasing and distributing the pigs individually. This cost us additional time and expense, sometimes even facing the risk of having the implementation stopped by local officials checking on COVID compliance which caused a slight delay on the project completion date.



PHOTOS: Our Captivating staff with local coordinators

Families were also concerned about entering into the pig raising business as large scale pig farming has been under severe restriction due to the pandemic. Some families opted to purchase bigger pigs instead of the little ones in order to minimize the risk of the pigs dying due to swine disease. However, this has caused additional financial pressure for them.

This has certainly been our most difficult time of implementation. Nonetheless, despite the adverse effects brought about by the pandemic, the project has been implemented successfully thanks to the support of local village leaders and coordinators. In the end, we were able to help **117 FAMILIES, EACH RECEIVING TWO PIGS (TOTAL OF 234 PIGS/PIGLETS DISTRIBUTED)** to start their own small pig raising business.

- **80% OF THE BENEFICIARIES ARE SINGLE MOTHERS' HOUSEHOLDS** (many of these are single grandmothers caring for their left-behind grandchildren – still considered poorest in the village).
- **97% OF THE PIGS ARE IN GOOD HEALTH CONDITION** and the families are progressing well in raising pigs.

An Exceptional Beneficiary

Cunhua is 38 years old. She and her husband both deal with mental health concerns. Life has been very difficult for her and her husband as they struggle to raise their two children and care for Cunhua's mother.

Two years ago, her mother accidentally started a fire, burning their house down. Their family condition worsened ever since. The whole family depends on her husband's income of only about 5,000 CNY (USD 774) annually.

Since she received the pigs, Cunhua has diligently cared for them and is expecting them to breed in June. We hope that little by little, this will help Cunhua and her family move forward in life.





Small Business for a Loving Grandmother

Fujie, 44, is a single mother. She raised her son alone after her husband left home many years ago. Her biggest regret was not being able to send her son to school to complete his studies. Since she hasn't been in good health, she could not find work and her son had to stay home to care for her.

Now that her son is in his twenties and has a family of his own, Fujie hopes to be of help to them in any way she can. She hopes that she will be able to help her granddaughter to be able to go to school.

She was very grateful to have received two piglets to start her own small business. Even though she could not leave home because of her health, she can still generate income while also helping look after her little granddaughter.

She received the pigs in October 2020 and had them vaccinated immediately. They have been in good condition and Fujie was able to breed them in May this year. She is very excited and often talks to her granddaughter about it. Fujie has also regained her confidence as she is able to help her family financially.



You can be Involved Today

Contact info@captivating.org

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