

All About the Girl

THE WORK OF CAPTIVATING IN CHINA
JULY TO DECEMBER 2021



CAPTIVATING

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Message from the CEO

Dear Supporters of the work of Captivating in China,

As another six months comes to a close, it's always an overwhelming experience to step back to consider what was made possible thanks to generous support and amazing staff and partners. As you will read, the July to December 2021 period was full of change for our work in China and we are very happy with how things have finished up. We did not anticipate that all of 2021 would be a continuing year of COVID challenge for everyone, but we made it. Financially, we maintained a consistent year amongst all this uncertainty, and although some projects have been difficult to implement, these were quickly replaced with other options. Well done to an amazing Captivating team in China.

This last period marked the commencement of new programs for Captivating across Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces. An incredible **500 hand-picked students** whose families struggle to make ends meet, now have their senior school educations financially secured. This means that instead of a girl worrying about the financial stress and burden she is creating for her rural farming families back in her village, thanks to a Captivating **ONE MORE YEAR** scholarship, she can now focus on doing her best in her studies and go on to graduate from high school or vocational school. We look forward to expanding this program and our partnership with 16 schools spread across these regions.



We were also excited to launch the new Captivating **REMOTE VOLUNTEER TEACHER** program in Sichuan Province. Our on-the-ground program partners find volunteer teachers with a passion to help remote village-based primary schools provide a better level of education to village children. Captivating then makes it possible for them to do what's on their heart by funding their travel, living, and equipment expenses for the year.



Research is clear that it's these first formative years of schooling that impact whether a student goes on to embrace education or not. This program improves, significantly, the chance these remote underprivileged children will go on to "reach out for a better tomorrow". This first semester has seen 10 teachers supported. This jumps to 20 teachers for the 2nd semester thanks to amazing support from the 13th Annual Shenzhen Charity auction. Close to 1,000 primary-level students will be directly impacted by these teachers.

These are just a couple of highlights from this past 6 months, and I invite you to read about everything else that has happened in the pages that follow. As always, we can have the best ideas and projects, but none of it is possible without financial partners, great staff, an incredible Shenzhen-based volunteer and school community, and amazing on-the-ground partners.

Our huge thanks to all of you. We can never thank-you enough.

Andrew Colquhoun
CEO and CO-FOUNDER | Captivating



It's All About the Girl

THE NUMBERS

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	NOTES
ONE MORE YEAR (OMY) *formally Vocational School Scholarship (VSS) - year by year program							
Class of Sept 2016	60	54	46				76% of original class graduated July 2019
Class of Sept 2017		76	72	62			85% of original class graduated July 2020
Class of Sept 2018			102	98	90		87% of the original class graduated July 2021
Class of Sept 2019				105	87		*Please see comments in the Narrative
Class of Sept 2020					92		*Please see comments in the Narrative
Class of Sept 2021						500	# of students joining the program in September 2021
TOTAL	60	130	220	265	269	500	
The Impact							
# of girls who graduated				46	62	87	
# of girls employed				27	54		
# of girls furthering their education				17	2		
% of graduates employed or in advanced studies				96%	90%		
MY FIRST JOB (MFJ) - 3 month program							
Started MFJ training	10	40	30	120	120	61	
The Impact							
# of women who graduated	9	33	30	103	113	60	
# of women employed	9	23	26	91	92		
% of graduates now with jobs	100%	70%	87%	88%	81%		
indirect beneficiaries (2 dependents per woman)	13	46	42	144	158	84	assumes 70% of women have increased their incomes
HUSKY ENERGY TAILORING SKILLS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM (HET) - 3 month program							
Started HET training			44	30	30	60	
The Impact							
# of women who graduated			43	24	27	55	
# of women employed			33	19	27		
% of graduates now with jobs			77%	79%	100%		
Indirect beneficiaries (2 dependents per woman)			60	34	38	77	assumes 70% of women have increased their incomes
SEND A VOLUNTEER TEACHER Program							
Number of volunteer teachers supported (food, travel, accomodation)						10	
Total number of students directly benefiting						260	total # of students who have a dedicated volunteer teacher this year
TOTAL GIRLS/WOMEN HELPED IN THE YEAR	70	170	294	415	419	621	
Total Beneficiaries	13	46	102	178	196	161	
TOTAL VOLUNTEER TEACHERS SUPPORTED						10	
Total Student Beneficiaries						260	
TOTAL LIVES IMPACTED PER YEAR	83	216	396	593	615	1052	



THE **N**ARRATIVE

- **87** GIRLS FROM OUR **VOCATIONAL SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP (VSS)** program successfully completed their internships and graduated.
- **500** STUDENTS JOINED OUR **ONE MORE YEAR (OMY)** program in September 2021. To know more about this new program, please go to page 8 in this update.
- ***WE TRANSITIONED OUR VSS PROGRAM TO OUR OMY PROGRAM**, and most of our 179 remaining VSS girls have been able to continue their education which we're excited about.
- **61** WOMEN STARTED THE **MY FIRST JOB ASSISTANT CHEF PROGRAM (MFJ)** in May/June 2021 and **60** WOMEN COMPLETED THEIR INTERNSHIP and graduated by November.
- **55** WOMEN SUCCESSFULLY GRADUATED from the Husky Energy Tailoring Skills for Women (HET) programs. Two programs were held this year.
- **OUR 10** VOLUNTEER TEACHERS have made it possible for **260** CHILDREN to have a dedicated teacher this semester (instead of a shared teacher). Our volunteers are each given responsibility for a Grade in the school. Thanks to them, children in their grade class will have better levels of instruction, closer supervision, and an increased chance of doing well in their studies and progressing.

One More Year Program

IN SEPTEMBER 2021, our Vocational School Scholarship (VSS) program transitioned into our new **ONE MORE YEAR Program**. This has meant some changes and a larger program that impacts even more students and their families who need our help.

We are glad to say that the VSS graduating class of 87 girls, successfully graduated and are now pursuing the next phase of their careers. We are proud of them and their achievement. The remaining 179 VSS girls have continued on in their programs thanks to government support or they have pursued various other options for their futures.

There are **500 students** in our new One More Year program spread across 16 schools located in Yunnan, Sichuan and Guizhou. Some of these schools are senior high schools and some are vocational schools, but all of these students have dreams of careers and making a difference to their world.



Students are selected based on past academic performance, their personal drive and commitment to go further in their schooling, confirmation of their family situation, and past teacher recommendations.

Why ONE MORE YEAR? We all know that for every additional year a child remains in school, that they will exponentially increase their ability to make better choices and live better lives. Our goal is to see more and more girls graduate senior higher vocational school. One more year at a time.

Thank you to our key donors for making this happen.



Chen Mei



Hi! I am Chen Mei, a grade 10 student at Mangbu High School. Thank you so much for your support! It has really alleviated the burden of my family, and I am extremely grateful for that.

When I was in primary school, I could have lunch at home, so I could save my daily allowance of 1 yuan [USD 0.15] to buy learning materials. However, after I got into junior high, I was only able to return home once a week, and I had to spend 50 yuan [USD 7] each week (including 20 yuan for transportation). This caused a huge problem for my family, and the situation even worsened after I got into high school. It felt as if money was being spent like water flowing from a river. I have lived all my life with my grandfather and grandmother. They don't have much source of income, and all they could do to raise me up is to plant vegetables in the farm.

YOUR SUPPORT HAS OFFERED ME INVALUABLE HELP: IT WARMS ME LIKE A FIRE DURING THE WINTER, AND BRINGS ME HOPE LIKE A SPRING EMERGING FROM THE DESERT. With your help, I am now able to buy warm clothes in the winter, and learning tools when I need to. There is a Chinese idiom that says “providing coal in the snow”, which means rendering timely and important help — this is what your help means to me. I feel really touched, and I am sincerely grateful for your support. I promise to strive and try my best in my high school years, get into my dream university, work hard for my career, so that in the future I can have the ability to help others just like you are helping me.

Thank you to Rigards for sponsoring Chen Mei.

Li Tianqin

Hello! My name is Li Tianqin and I am currently studying e-commerce in Pingtang Secondary Vocational School. I sincerely thank you for your care and help.

My family lives in a rural area. My father is too old to work so our family relies on my older brother. However, he also has a family of his own now, with two children to send to school. My older sister also got married at an early age because she can no longer go to school. I almost dropped out as well when I was in junior high school but I fought hard to continue my studies. My father was the only one who supported me; we borrowed money from our relatives just so I can continue. This made me feel very uncomfortable and felt that I became a burden. Your support not only saved me, but also relieved my family's urgent needs. I am very grateful for your help.

I am in my second year now of studying e-commerce in a vocational school. I learned a lot of things, such as picture processing and video editing, among others. I even won an Excellence Award in an online shop art competition held by the school in May 2021. In November, my work got into the semi-finals of the dynamic graphics competition organized by the Cai Chongxin Charity Foundation. I also learned about the process of opening a shop online, the method of delivering goods live, information on the express industry, basic principles of sales, and network marketing which basically teaches me how to open a store on the Internet and sell goods. Learning all these made me think that it was right for me to persist in my studies. I want to go to a higher vocational college to improve myself and my family's living conditions.



Thank you very much for your help. Your care and love made me realize my dream of going to school. You allowed me to travel thousands of miles, read thousands of books, make thousands of friends, and learn a thousand things. You gave me not only material help, but also spiritual support and care. It made me feel that aside from my relatives, many people care about and support me. Thank you very much! I will study harder and become a person like you after graduation, and help more impoverished students like me.

Thank you to ZURU for sponsoring Li Tianqin.

Qiejing Aniu

Hello! I am a student of Meigu county middle school in Sichuan Province. Thank you for your help to me and my family. I will always remember your kindness to me. Because my father died early, only my mother and brother earn money to support the family, and their income is not high. My mother can only do farm work and feed livestock to sell. Meanwhile, my brother has never been to school, so the salary he receives isn't much.

I need to work harder on my grades, and I will try my best so I can enter a good university. My dream is to be a teacher so I can help poor people like me. I have to work hard in order to achieve that.

YOU ARE THE LIGHTHOUSE AT THE COAST, I AM THE LOST SHIP, AND YOU GUIDE ME OUT OF THE VAST SEA. Thank you for your support. I wish you good health.

Thank you to WIK for sponsoring Qiejing.



Wang Yuan

In this warm season, I would like to express my high respect and heartfelt thanks to you, and sincerely wish you all the best.

I am Wang from Class 10. My parents are unemployed. My father is old and my mother is the only labor force. I usually work as a temporary worker around. Plant a little crop. The economic income is very meager, and the annual study cost is a big sum for my family. I am very grateful to you for extending a helping hand and subsidizing my study. Thank you for your selfless dedication and generosity, which has made me feel warm. Your special care for my study and life has made me more motivated for my future studies.

Thank you to PCH for sponsoring Wang.





Youzaimu Rizuo

I am a student in class 12. I am very grateful and honored to have your care and help!

It is very common for each family to have five or six children in our area, so the family pressure is very great. Every school season, parents worry about their children's living expenses. Thank you for lending your helping hand to solve our difficulties and reduce the family burden for our parents. We thrive and learn happily under your care. Even if we encounter difficulties in learning, we will never give up, we'll always be positive and optimistic, and have the courage to face difficulties.

Our current learning environment is very good. School and teachers are very concerned about our learning and life. Students are also very active in learning. We learn from each other and help each other. Each teacher's classroom is very interesting and vivid. I think you can rest assured that we study and live in such a good environment.

Thank you to the Midnight Charity Run for sponsoring Youzaimu.

Graduated USS Girls

WITH THE HELP OF A CAPTIVATING SCHOLARSHIP, LHAMO STARTED BACK AT SCHOOL in 2018 and enrolled in Computer Studies. She worked hard and even though COVID 19 restrictions slowed learning, she graduated in June 2021 and is now proudly working in a Media company doing cover design work. Congratulations Lhamo, we're so proud of you!

Our thanks to ZURU for sponsoring her.



TARSHI WENT BACK TO SCHOOL in 2018 and studied Tibetan. After 3 years of study and an internship, she is now working in a primary school and loving the learning opportunities she encounters in the classroom. We know you will inspire the younger generation to learn and strive for a good future. Congratulations Tarshi.

Thank you to Angela K for sponsoring Tarshi.



DOLMATSO GRADUATED HER VOCATIONAL TRAINING in June 2021 and is now working in a county hospital. She is a nurse and takes care of patients all day. She has a full life with life-long friends made through her studies. She possess determination and confidence that show through in everything she does. Congratulations Drolmatso. We are so proud of you.

Thank you to Nicky Z for sponsoring her.

PENGMO WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO SCHOOL in 2018 and studied Tibetan Language. She is now working in a kindergarten with her own students. The young children keep her on her toes and are very energetic and keen to learn. She is so grateful for a steady job and a career where she can shine in her community. Congratulations Pengmo.

Thank you to Valerie C for sponsoring her.



Dari Tso



Growing up in a pastoral area, my family was not rich. After my parents divorced, life at home became more difficult. All the burdens fell on the two old people, so I couldn't continue to go to school. Fortunately, I joined the VSS project in September 2018 and was funded. I successfully went back to vocational school. Our school is a skill school focusing on Tibetan medicine, so I chose Tibetan medicine.

At the beginning, it was very difficult, but I gradually got used to school life, and there was no great difficulty in learning. After three years, the theory of Tibetan medicine was ok. In the final practice assessment, the school arranged each of our students to the hospital to practice the theory we studied.

For Tibetan medicine, there are many kinds of treatment, such as pulse taking, fire rust, dry needle, acupuncture, medicine bath, etc. During the internship in the hospital, under the guidance of the instructor, my practical operation has improved a lot.

In September 2020, I began my internship in the Tibetan Hospital of Zeku County. During the internship, I was a nurse. I had to go to various departments in turn every week to learn different practical knowledge every week.

My internship ended at the end of June 2021. I have been interning in this hospital for about 10 months. This is a hard month for me, but it is very helpful for me in Tibetan medicine.

After the internship, I successfully got my graduation certificate. I was very happy at that moment. ***THIS CERTIFICATE IS NOT MINE ALONE, BUT ALSO A SPONSOR WHO HAS GIVEN STRONG SUPPORT TO MY STUDIES IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.*** After graduation, I rested for two months, and then began to work in September. I have worked in Zekuli Public Tibetan Western Medicine Hospital for five months now.

During the past five months of work, I have been admitted to the College of Radio and Television University. This college is online self-study; I don't have to go to school. I can get the diploma after completing all courses and examination on time on the Internet after two years, so I take this opportunity to improve my degree. I'm also taking the examination of doctor qualification certificate, nurse qualification certificate and other certificates. The 3 years of vocational school have opened so many new doors for me. I've so grateful.



Our thanks to Bruce R for sponsoring Dari Tso.



Tsedin Thamo

My name is Tsedin and I am 26 years old. I entered vocational school in September 2018 and began to study Tibetan medicine. I like my major very much. I successfully completed my studies for three years and got my diploma. Thank you very much for your help.

From January to the end of June 2021, I completed the internship examination for more than six months in the modo clinic of Tashi Datang temple. In the process of learning theory in school and practice in clinic, all aspects of skill have been improved a lot. I got my diploma in July last year. Since August, I began to work officially and chose to stay in the modo clinic of Tashi Datang temple. Now I have worked for nearly six months.

The patients from the clinic are herdsmen in pastoral areas. Most of them sleep on the ground while grazing, wash clothes with very cold water, which leads to serious joint disease. The treatment methods in our clinic include moxibustion [a Chinese medical practice performed by burning small cones of dried leaves on certain designated points of the body], dry needle, medicine bath and so on. My main job is to give moxibustion treatment to patients. Sometimes I go to the pharmacy to help take medicine. Up to now, I have been working for a long time and can fully keep up with the pace of work in our clinic.



Although my salary is not very high, I am very satisfied with the current working environment and life. There is no pressure on renting houses and meals here, also, I can help many illiterate Tibetans like my family. They don't want to go to big cities to see doctors for fear of communication problems, and some people want to save money if their family situation is not good, so we can help a lot of people here.

While working, I have improved myself by looking at various knowledge of Tibetan medicine. I have been trying to get the doctor's qualification certificate. This year, I will strive to get the qualification certificate. Finally, thank my sponsor again for not giving up and helping me finish my studies. Thank you very much!

Our thanks to Kidraft and Sylvio & Julie M for sponsoring Tsedin.

My First Job

ASSISTANT CHEF PROGRAM

SIXTY WOMEN GRADUATED from the My First Job Assistant Chef Programs in 2021. The first program started in May 2021 and the second one started in June 2021. After 3 months of training, graduation day arrived and each of the women received their hard-earned certificate that they proudly showed off.

The My First Job skills building program helps women from remote regions in China, who have little to no education and looking for a stable income opportunity. The training teaches around 40 restaurant quality dishes, and includes sourcing good quality food, food presentation, and food hygiene practices.

The opportunities that this training provides these women are life changing. Doors open for stables jobs and financial stability. These skills empower these women with confidence as they can hold their heads high in the community. For all these women, this is the first certificate they have ever received. It is treasured and received proudly with gratitude.



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



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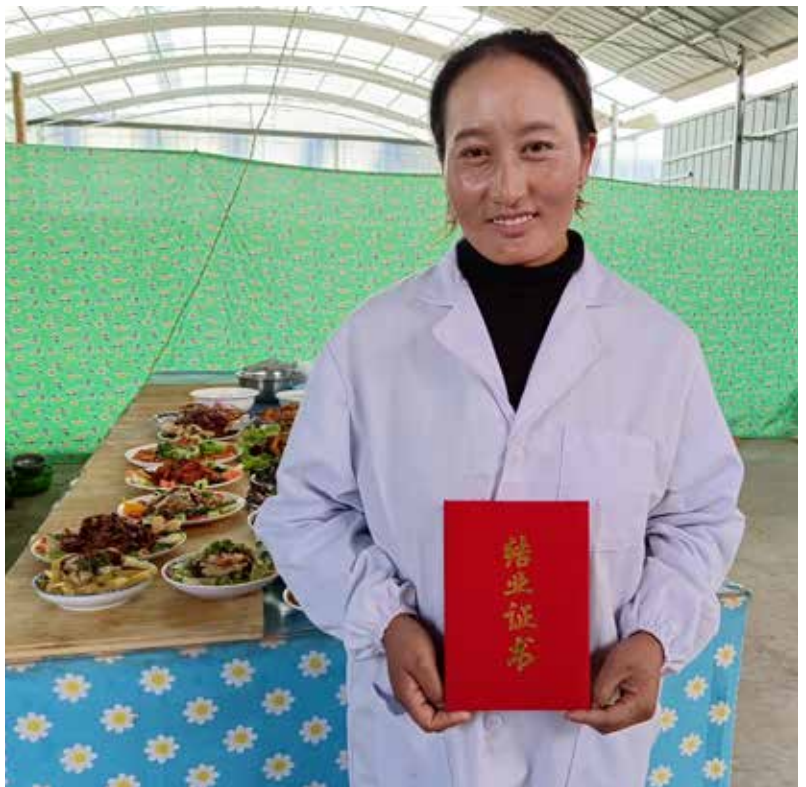
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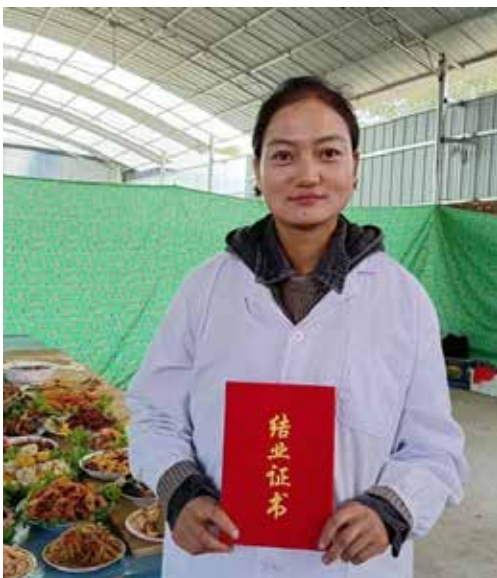
Never Too Old to Learn

My name is Lhanchintso. I am from Qinghai Province. I am 31 years old and dropped out of school after the third grade. I am a single mother living with my parents. My daughter is 10 years old and going to school now. My mother has lung disease and is seriously ill. It is up to me to take care of my parents and my daughter and provide for them financially.

My main sources of income are the small jobs I am able to find during the summer and winter vacations.

Being part of the My First Job Assistant Chef Program has changed my life. Although I am not good at reading and writing, I am proud that I am learning these things as well as a skill that will help me secure a good job that will give me financial security. I have made many new friends who are a huge support to me.





Great Sense of Responsibility

My name is Zhuoma and I am 26. I live with my parents and grandfather. I had to quit school after I finished primary school because my parents couldn't afford to send me anymore. My grandfather is very old and so needs constant care. My mother was hospitalized with gallstones last year and the operation costs made our financial situation even worse.

I have always loved to cook since I was a young girl, but I never had the opportunity to learn the skill. The My First Job program has been really valuable to me. I was so eager to start the training.

The training lasted for 3 months and during that time, I learned 40 different dishes. Each day we would learn one cold dish and one hot dish. I learned how to mix seasonings and how to cook using equipment that I have never used before.

We divided into groups and I was the team leader for one of the groups. This meant that I was responsible for answering my teammates' questions and asking the teacher for help when we needed it. I felt so proud of the responsibility the teacher gave me.

I got 3rd prize for the Tibetan fried dumplings which I was randomly assigned to make in the final exam. I am quite satisfied with my grades and I really appreciate the training and skills I have been able to acquire. I am confident that I will be able to find a stable job where I will be able to financially support my family.



Young Empowered Woman

My name is Suonan and I turned 20 this year. I never knew my father and so my mother raised me and my two siblings alone. I have a 5-year-old daughter too that my mother helps to care for while I am away trying to find work. The little money that I earn helps pay for my siblings' education. I cannot stay away from home for too long as the burden for our family's daily needs falls on my mother.

I was working as a waitress in a local restaurant, but because of my lack of skills and training, my wages were very low. When I learned about this training program, I immediately applied and was accepted. I told my boss about it and he said that he would employ me as a chef after I graduated.

Attending this training has been a precious opportunity for me. Our teacher was a Tibetan woman so it was not so difficult for me to learn. The training was not too far from home so I was able to go home and help my family every night.

My favorite dishes to cook are shredded potatoes, seared green chili pepper, scrambled eggs with tomatoes, fried broccoli and all the Tibetan dishes. There are some dishes which included some expensive ingredients, which I cannot afford to cook at home, but I still got the chance to learn to cook with them.

Because of the skills and training that I received through this program, I now have a job as a chef in one of the restaurants in my village. I receive a salary of 4500 RMB (USD 700) per month, which I am quite satisfied with, comparing to the 2000 RMB (USD 300) per month salary I received as a waitress. This level of income will greatly improve our family conditions. I want to express my gratitude to everyone who made this training possible.

Determination to Send Her Kids to School

My name is TarGa and I am 38 years old. I have never been to school and so I've never had a stable job. I am a single mom and I raise my two children on my own.

My eldest daughter has passed the college entrance examination and my second child is starting high school. I know education is something to be treasured and I want to be able to provide a good education for my children. I understand the difficulties and limitations that the lack of education bring, and I don't want that for my children.

My life was very embarrassing. I borrowed money from all my relatives and friends around me so I could send my eldest daughter to school. I'm really tired, but there's nothing I could do. I'm willing to do odd jobs to make a living, but in recent years, I've been powerless.

I needed this learning opportunity and I am so thankful for it. It has changed my life. I am proud that I will be able to repay my debts and be able to continue providing for my childrens' education.



Husky Energy Tailoring Skills for Women

THE HUSKY ENERGY TAILORING SKILLS FOR WOMEN PROGRAM has once again trained and capacitated mums and young women who are under-educated and who struggle to make ends meet. The skills they learn in this program, not only bring confidence and empowerment, but also income providing opportunities.

There were two programs in 2021; May to July and August to October. One was held in Zeku County and the other one in Henan County in remote Western China.

When the 60 trainees started, they didn't know how to use the sewing machines. As most of them haven't been to school, even the simple task of measuring and using rulers was difficult for them.

They had to learn classroom regulations and the concept of time, both things they have never had the opportunity to understand before. Navigating so many new things, they never gave up and the teacher was very patient and understanding.

After three months of training, both theoretical and practical, these women have made remarkable progress. **Fifty-five women successfully graduated.** We are so proud of their accomplishments and their determination to succeed.



Our thanks to **HUSKY ENERGY** (now a member of the Cenovus group of companies) for making these programs possible.



Now a member of the Cenovus group of companies



Meet Namkargyal

My name is Namkargyal, 31 years old, from Qinghai Province. I grew up in an ordinary family in the pastoral area and I didn't have the opportunity to go to school. Neither of my parents have been to school so they never had a stable job and income. They worked as herdsman but there were not many cattle and sheep at home, so it's very difficult in terms of finances, so they can't afford to send their children to school.

I got married in my twenties like many other girls who didn't go to school. A year after I got married, I gave birth to a boy. Unfortunately, my husband and I divorced a few years ago because of conflicts. At first, my son stayed with his father, but I took him back to my mother's house. My father died of illness four years ago so there's just me, my son and my mother now in the family. My son is now in middle school and my mom helps me look after him.

We didn't have a stable source of income, so the village committee helped me join the village environmental protection team out of compassion. I can clean the environment when the government arranges tasks, and get paid 1,500 RMB (USD236). This income is very helpful to our family.

I am honored to be part of this training. I know this will provide me with job opportunities that I would not be able to find otherwise. I'm looking forward to a future where I will be able to take care of my son and my mother.



My New Career

My name is Zhou and I am 22 years old. I am one of the lucky ones who was able to go to school for 6 years. After that, because my parents were not in good health, I had to drop school. I live with my parents and my brother. He is in high school now, and as my parents are not able to work, it is up to me to pay for his education.

I have often found temporary jobs moving bricks on construction sites in summer and earn a small amount of money. Other times, I would do some waitressing but I have very few opportunities.

I was the youngest when I joined the Husky Energy Tailoring program in May. I felt very nervous as this is the first time I've participated in any skills training. I was very active and attended the courses on time every day, so at the end of the training, I not only mastered this skill, but also completed all kinds of Tibetan clothes. After three months of training, I am proud to say that I successfully graduated in August.

I was looking for a job in tailoring, and I chanced upon a Tibetan clothing distribution dealer who was looking for a new staff member. I applied and got the position. After the internship period, I was paid 2,500 RMB (USD 393) a month. In the future, my salary will increase according to my work situation. My main job is to sew and cut all kinds of Tibetan clothes. I have been working for 4 months now. In the past 4 months, my skills have improved. Now my job and income are stable. I believe that my family's life will also improve with my hard work, and I also hope to give my parents a better life.

Finally, I would like to thank the kind people who funded this project. With your help, I have learned this skill and now have a stable job.

My Own Clothing Store

My name is Yeshi and I am 31 years old. I never had the opportunity to go to school. I am a mother of two children, my 13-year-old son, who is in first year in junior high school, and my 6-year-old daughter, who is not ready for school yet. Together with my husband, we try our best to give our children a good future. Sometimes I can find temporary jobs and earn a little bit of money. With no education, it is not possible to secure a stable job where I can earn a decent income.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this training program. For me, a housewife who has never been to school, I've had a very good experience in this skills training. It made a big change for me - from an illiterate to a skilled woman. After three months of training, I got very good grades and won the second prize in the final product assessment.

I also made some good friends. Most of us women have never gone to school, and our families are all the same, so there is no dislike or inferiority when we are together. Our goals are the same - to learn this skill well for our own future and improve our family situation.





My husband has been working in a temporary job with a monthly salary of about 3,000 RMB (USD 470), so he has been able to save a little money. After graduation, I was able to work in a Tibetan clothing store. It was a little difficult at first, but I believe that my skills are not inferior to others. I also believe that I can rely on this skill to reduce the burden on my husband, and to improve the situation of the family.

At the end of December, we rented a house and bought two sewing machines. I have realized my desire to open a clothing store of my own. It's not very good, but gradually I believe it will get better and better.

Finally, I would like to thank the kind people for giving me this opportunity. I wish the good people a safe life and a prosperous career!

Send a Volunteer Teacher Program

We are currently partnering with 4 remote Sichuan schools where our 10 volunteer teachers are located. Recently, a team spent 2 days at each school assessing the performance of the teachers and impact of the program. It was an opportunity to assess the teaching quality, community atmosphere and living conditions of the teachers, and listen to how things are going from their perspective.



*Tracy, our China Program Manager,
with one of the volunteer teachers*





These volunteer teachers don't receive a salary, but live off the support from this program to provide food, accommodation and transport. They will be joined by another 10 teachers in February, bringing our total teacher support to 20.

These schools are in remote and mountainous regions in China where access is difficult. Many of these school struggle to get teachers because of the harsh weather and isolation.

Thank you to ZURU for underwriting this program and to those who purchased a "plush panda toy" at our 13th Annual Charity Auction.

ZURU[™]

Shenzhen Charity Federation
CAPTIVATING
ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION

A group of five people, three men and two women, are standing in front of a wall. The wall features a large red mural of a horse and a sign with Chinese characters. The sign reads '宁波市少年体育运动学校' (Ningbo City Youth Sports School) and '后备人才基地' (Reserve Talent Base). The group consists of three men and two women, all smiling and looking towards the camera. The man on the far left is wearing a dark jacket and glasses. The man next to him is wearing a bright blue jacket. The man in the center is wearing a striped shirt and glasses. The woman on the far right is wearing a white jacket. The woman next to her is wearing a red jacket. The background wall is white with a green base and a red horse mural. The sign is white with black and red text.

Principal Zhang

FROM MALQIAN VILLAGE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

I worked in Ningbo for about three years after graduating from university. One day, I saw my friend on TV as a volunteer teacher here. I came here to teach through my friend's introduction in the autumn of 2017, and the conditions were very difficult at that time. All the land was muddy, and there was no cement road. I didn't adapt to the environment here. I had strong altitude sickness, nosebleeds every morning, and sometimes vomiting. I walked down the mountain every day for an infusion, and it took me a month to get used to it.

At that time, I planned to teach only for one semester, but I'm still here because I am reluctant to leave these children. They need teachers to help them to form good habits.

They are also very poor in knowledge. It's not that their teachers here are not good, but because they are also Yi people and still keep many Yi habits. We are here to also teach children to wash their face, brush their teeth, wash their hair and take a bath, because some of them don't take a bath for many years. We set up a washing program to teach children how to keep healthy. We also set up other programs, such as teaching little girls and boys how to wear underwear and how to protect themselves.



I majored in engineering and graduated in July 2021 this year. I promised my good friend to be a volunteer teacher with her. She has been at this school for a year now.

I'm teaching fourth grade math. At the beginning, I didn't know how to teach, but with training and the help of the other school teachers, I can teach skillfully.

What we do is meaningful. The children's mother tongue is Yi language. Before they came to school, no one at home spoke mandarin at all. Our school now has a preschool class to let the children take some basic education, and after learning Pinyin and arithmetic in the lower grades, the later teaching will be smoother. Through these studies, children broaden their horizons and learn good manners.

I'm very happy to be a volunteer teacher here, the teachers in this team are very good, and there is no lack of food and clothing. Thanks to amazing sponsor support. Although sometimes three classes a day will be a little tiring, to see the progress of children, is worth the effort.

In order to prevent these children from dropping out of school in the future, I hope they have good performance and can get the support they need to love studying.

When I first came here, I had some difficulties in communicating with the children. Some children had poor learning foundations, so it took a lot of time to teach them. Thank you for supporting me to be here and teach these children.

VISITING THE STUDENTS

Our team recently had the privilege of visiting some of the schools and seeing where some of the students live. Being able to go to school and get an education is important for the future of these children. They live a very simple and basic life and work very hard to support their daily needs. When they have teachers at school who believe in them and help them see their full potential, it makes all the difference.



Yihong's Home

It takes about 15 minutes to walk from school to Yihong's home. He is 13 years old in the fifth grade. His older brother has just graduated from primary school, and his younger brother is in the second grade. His mother grows corn, beans and buckwheat, and they own a cow and six pigs.

Yihong was very happy to take us to his home and be our translator. When we asked him where his father was, he couldn't answer and his tears fell down his cheeks. The volunteer teacher explained to us that his father was in jail and proceeded to comfort him by talking with him. He told us that he wanted to be a policeman when he grows up. We saw a little boy who misses his father deeply but who is determined to be strong and create a good future for himself and be able to take care of his mum.





Qubi's Home

It's about 2 hours walk from the school to the Qubi's house. She has an older brother in junior high school, an older sister in fifth grade, and another younger sister. Her mother goes to the farm daily and her sister goes to herd cattle. They don't receive government subsidies.

The inside of the house is a unique structure of the Yi people. The narrow wall cabinet with decorative patterns is the place where they sleep and grain is stored on the crossbeam of the roof. There is a cooking stove on the ground. Next to it is the place where livestock feed is prepared.

Qubi brought in a bunch of cornstalks to cook potatoes for us. A very independent and diligent girl, she carries a schoolbag weighing more than ten kilograms to and from school every day along the mountain road. The volunteer teacher told us that she usually can carry about 20 kilograms of corn in the field.

When we were about to leave, her older sister came back with her youngest sister on her back. At the end, we were going to take a group photo. Her grandmother tidied up her clothes and put on her headscarf. The volunteer teacher told us that if the old people here can survive through the winter, they can live another year, since the lowest temperature in winter is more than ten degrees below zero.



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