



Page 2 - Guizhou & Project Eden
Page 3 - Captivating Nepal
Page 4 - Captivating Western China
Page 5 - SGVTS
Page 6 - Captivating Shenzhen
Page 7 - Captivating Kenya
Page 8 - Captivating Staff and Contact details

You could bring the *GIFT OF LIFE* this Christmas

It's that time of year again where everyone is frantically looking at finishing up school, clearing out those last minute work commitments before the holiday season, and reflecting on yet another year. As we look back on the events that have shaped the story of our own lives this past year, some of us will look back with satisfaction and joy. Unfortunately, others of us might well look back on this past chapter of our life story and wish we could remove it completely. So goes the ups and downs of life. Something my mother always told me... "When you're going through hard times, find someone who is going through even harder times and help them – you'll feel much better". Actually, my mother plagiarized these words from a wise man, however, the advice is certainly true – it works – every-time.

So, here we are at Christmas – for most of us an annual reminder to bring hope and encouraging words of "I love you" to family and friends. Many of us do this through the giving of gifts, eating a meal (or five) together and taking a step back from life. At Captivating, we'd like to make it a bit bigger and brighter for you this year if you're willing. This Christmas, hundreds of girls will be trafficked across the border of Nepal – victims of the terrible business of Human Trafficking. Everyone has heard about Human Trafficking, but many people don't know how they can realistically make a difference. Our partners do. It costs on average US\$100/AUD\$115 for our on-the-ground partners to intercept a girl in the very act of being trafficked out of Nepal into slavery. With your help, we can bring hope and freedom to someone's daughter this Christmas? Can you join us? You can donate online today to make this possible (see further details attached on how to do this).

We hope you enjoy reading up on the work of Captivating these past 6 months. Thank you everyone for your support, encouragement, generous giving and prayers. This year over 1,000 children have found relief, hope and a glimpse of a brighter future thanks to your support.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year to our ever-expanding family.

Andrew & Julie Colquhoun
Founders – Captivating International





October 27th 2014 was a remarkable day for Captivating Guizhou-Kaili Village Development Project. The first passing-on gift ceremony was held in the committee square of Censer Mountain village. At the same time, stage two of the project was launched on this day. Another 150 new families will be receiving training and sustainable gifts/solutions gradually to help them increase their ongoing annual incomes in the next two years. 5 new families from Censer Mountain village signed the agreement on site and each of them became recipients of the Captivating loan program.



The story so far: 153 families were the original recipients of the village based micro-loan's program. Within two years, each family was to "pass-on-the-gift" enabling another family to benefit. To date, 71 families have fully honored their commitment, with a further 18 families partially having done so. The remainder will complete repayment obligations this next period. By the end of this program (2017) 450 families will have benefited.



Yuan Dacheng is one of the local farmers in Censer Mountain village. He is suffering from poor health, the whole family living depends on breeding 13 geese, 16 ducks and planting 10 mu (1.6 acres) of vegetable land. Yuan's younger daughter stays at her aunties' in the downtown during the week for studying because the only primary school in their village was closed down, only at the weekend the family can gather together to enjoy quality time.

The family annual income was 6000rmb, after deducting 2000rmb for the daughter's education fee, the rest of the money could barely cover the expenses and the farming needs, especially when Yuan had a relapse of his diseases. In April he stayed in the hospital for over a month, which cost them more than 10,000RMB. The couple are so depressed about these expenses.



After the Captivating Project arrived in Censer Mountain Village, without any hesitation Yuan joined the project received seed money in the form of a loan to the value of RMB6,000 (US\$1,000). He plans to invest this money in purchasing 100 goslings to make more profit. He has big confidence in this business and hopes everything goes smoothly so he can return the 6000rmb fund in one year as well as give his wife and daughter a better life.

Daxi villager **Wu Chaowen** has two lovely children with his wife, one son and one daughter, which is considered a big blessing in a Chinese family. The couple works really hard to raise them up and try to provide them good education. However, planting 1.5 mu (0.3 acres) of rice land and doing odd jobs isn't enough money to pay their children's schooling fee of 10000 rmb per year and family living expenses, especially in the drought season, there isn't anything.

In August 2012, Captivating Guizhou project came to Daxi village, Wu Chaowen bought 2 pigs and forage by using 4500rmb gift money. Through a variety of training held by the Captivating Project partner Wu learned how to raise good quality pigs to get the maximum benefit. In two years, Wu Chaowen now runs a pretty good breeding business. He sells two pigs each year and has now started raising cows. In June 2014 his family passed on the gift money to another family.

We still remember that when Wu Chaowen first joined the project, he was not confident due to his poor education background, and rarely spoke. Right now he becomes more open and bright, he is generous and talkative with people, exchanging experiences of breeding. We are touched by his story and feel so pleased to see how the project affects a farmers' life not only just on the financial aspect.



Written by Francine Zhang (Project Manager)



Project Eden has 18 children living on-site calling Eden "home" with an additional 5 children attending the school being run on-site by a committed local group. With the key issue being Chinese language development and math, as well as some special skills such as English & computers, the aim of Eden is to fast-track learning of girls that are well behind in their education. The ultimate aim is to prepare a girl for a safe transition into her first job. Thanks to partner organizations operating in the local area who can offer safe internship opportunities for girls who are ready, and thanks to amazing financial support from CHEVRON, Treasures of Hope, and others who give food and gifts-in-kind, Eden continues to help progress these girls. For more information on Project Eden, please contact tracy@captivating.org

HOW TO HELP?



We want to do more. Your support helps us help our partners – dedicated groups doing amazing things. To donate to this program – **please consider giving a Christmas gift of US\$100/AUD\$115 as shown. You can do this by going to www.captivating.org and selecting the DONATE button.** Alternatively, maybe you want to do much more. If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please email nepal@captivating.org and someone will follow-up with you to discuss our work in more detail.



We are sickened by the thought that, if today was a typical day in Nepal, 40 girls would have been trafficked – tricked into a life of slavery and prostitution. This can be prevented if we do our job and support wonderful Nepal based partners. A girls life can be spared for a US\$100.



Girls rescued at a border station.

Thanks to your support, the July – September quarter saw in excess of 50 girls intercepted at the four border monitoring stations supported by Captivating and run by our two partners – 3 Angels Nepal and Tiny Hands Nepal. In this six monthly reporting period (July - Dec 2014) over 100 girls will have been saved from a life of utter disaster.

ANOTHER 18 YR OLD GIRL RESCUED (HER STORY).

"I am 18 years old, my parents are poor and cannot afford to provide the daily needs at home. My mother is often sick and father is not very well. I am the eldest in the family of 4 brothers and sisters. I left my studies while studying in grade 8. One day a man came to me with promises of a good job in India where I would be paid well. I believed and started dreaming how well I can support my poor family and prove to be a responsible person for the family. That's how I came up to this border"

This is the testimony of one of the girls rescued from one the border monitoring stations funded by Captivating and run by our Nepal based partner, 3 Angels Nepal. Her case is in the court with our lawyer fighting for the eventual arrest and imprisonment of the traffickers. The trafficker is in the custody until the case is decided. The girl was sent to the Captivating funded transit home managed by 3AN to undergo rehabilitation and counselling.



WHAT'S NEXT: for Nepal in 2015 we will be investing US\$200k in keeping border monitoring stations running; prevention strategies focused on educating girls and families through radio broadcasting, school visits, and community networks; and focused on specific rescue efforts in conjunction with local police. We are also close to forming new relationships that will see us move into specific poverty solutions – programs aimed at hitting one of the root causes of all this mess – poverty at the village level. It will be a busy year. None of this is possible without dedicated on-the-ground partners, our Australia, HK and USA based organizations making it possible for us to provide tax-deductibility to donors, and of course you, our supporters. Special thanks to Greg & Sharon, Dean and Chris and their respective families for giving so much to this program. Also, massive thanks to the Shenzhen Charity Auction for funding what will be 150 girls saved progressively throughout 2015. We want to make this possible for so many more – there is no limit.

OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

Captivating International is partnering with 3 Angels Nepal (3AN) to expand their border monitoring and community intervention work into Central/Eastern Nepal. Captivating is also fully underwriting the operating costs of a nationwide radio strategy aimed at making a significant dent in this pandemic problem. We are also proud to be in partnership with Australian based charity – Asian Aid for this program.

Captivating International has teamed up with Tiny Hands Nepal taking their successful Nepal/ Indian border monitoring model and expanding it along the Nepal/China border. We are proud to have the support and partnership of Australian based International Children's Care with this program expansion.





THIS CHRISTMAS SET A GIRL FREE

Young girls are being trafficked from Nepal into China, India & Bangladesh every day
and sold into the sex trade.

Most will contract HIV / AIDS and die at a young age.

Unless they can be intercepted and freed at the border.

For 600 RMB / US\$100 / AUD\$115

**you can help us keep border monitoring stations open
and help another girl avoid her worst nightmare.**

To donate, go to www.captivating.org, select donate,
& follow the instructions.

Contact andrewc@captivating.org for more details.





An amazing 6 months has seen lots of action in Western China. Our thanks to Carrie, our Program Manager, for championing these activities. Here's the snapshot of what's been happening:



Husky Energy



The Husky Energy Shangga Village Clean Water Project

Husky generously donated US\$64K to fully partner with us on this project – bringing clean water to 92 families, a primary school, and in excess of 300 children. News was recently received that this project was eventually financed by the local government, which means that Husky's remaining funds can now be used to support a second village. We love 2 for 1 deals. Thank you Husky for your amazing partnership.



Emergency Medical and Intervention Fund

Coming out of the Healthy Village Initiative is what we expect to be many different requests for emergency medical treatment of children who without help will miss out; school scholarship needs; and single mothers who need a help up with a workable business idea or seed funding. To make this possible, a fund has been established to ensure quick decisions.

Our thanks to Greg Schultheis and his Shenzhen based Midnight Charity Race for underwriting the establishment of this fund. Keep an eye on our BLOG stories for updates on how lives are changed.



PCH International's Capacity Building Program

25 university level students enrolled in a Captivating organized development program focused on teaching Program Management and poverty reduction strategies to qualifying scholars. 21 eventually graduated with 5 being awarded internships at local NPO's. Since then 5 development programs have been implemented helping children and families in poverty. Requests from local university professors to run this same program every semester are being considered.



Captivating Healthy Village Initiative

We are in the middle of rolling out a Health Education initiative that will reach in excess of 1,800 people – most of whom are from nomadic farming communities. Spanning in excess of 42 villages, people will come together over a three day period to attend one of 10 village based programs covering general health matters especially women's health, infant mortality issues, AIDS/STD's, and the importance of getting medical check-ups. Many will receive for the first time a medical inspection. Our thanks to the Shenzhen Annual Charity Auction which exceeded our goals and raised enough funds to make this program a reality. Also, our thanks to the Macau Oilman's' Annual Golf Tournament for specifically fund-raising for this event (and who continue to do so).

PROJECT REVIEWS

Our Program Manager recently visited previous projects as part of a one year review program we have. PCH International's Solar Panel project from last year has been INCREDIBLY successful with all families interviewed very happy with the constant electrical supply. And, for 74 families who received a PIGSTY and PIGLET just over a year ago, 80% of them are still running the business, have already sold their first batch of new piglets with good profits, and 70% of them have already honoured their commitment to pay back the gift to Captivating so we can do it all again. We love that.

120 girls call the SGVTS home at time of writing. As is always the case it seems, the total population exceeds the planned 100 girls. I think we are all quite happy with that. Dockpo and the team at LOVEQTRA (the provincial level NPO responsible for this project) continue to do an amazing job with minimal resources. An additional 40 girls are living around China in advanced learning schools, middle-schools, or in vocational development opportunities. Thank you everyone for your amazing generosity that provided for the living and schooling expenses of the 120 girls living at the home, and for the additional support given to fund Vocational Development initiatives both on site at the school, and in different locations across China.



THANK YOU DONORS and SUPPORTERS



LI & FUNG
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



We are very excited that 140 girls in this program are fully sponsored thanks to our growing international sponsorship family (some of whom have been sponsoring their girl for over 6 years now) and to an amazing new (and large) group of sponsors from Li & Fung. We are so thrilled to have such a supportive group – a group that funds such a huge percentage of our total financial commitment to this program. Incredible thanks also to Lynn & Gus Velez, as well as Paula Whalen. Paula, our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family following the passing of Ken a few months ago. This project is what it is today thanks to his encouragement and generosity. Final thanks also to the amazing Shenzhen community and Auction Committee for supporting such an amazing charity event (see next page). All of this meant our financial commitment to the SGVTS was met for yet another year.



Ken Whalen at the 2013 auction, second from left. A great man who will be missed.

VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GETS STARTED AT THE SGVTS



Tailoring Training Course

We were thrilled to hear from Dockpo that the new Tailoring training course has commenced on-site at the girls home. Thanks to full funding by the Li & Fung (1906) Foundation, 5 girls (up to 10 girls) are starting to learn skills that will open doors for them in a few years.



Cooking Program

Also funded by Li & Fung (1906) Foundation is a Cooking program. Still in the process of being established, this program will see 10 girls taught different cooking methods with the aim of getting their first restaurant job, and possibly even opening their own restaurant one day.



Painting Diploma

Up to 5 girls will have the opportunity to attend a 3 year Vocational school program teaching them the art of specialized painting and art – a vocation that has good employment prospects. Again, thanks to the Li & Fung (1906) Foundation for making this possible.



KING GESAR OPERA

Thanks to national support from the Beijing Government to promote and encourage cultural preservation and history, millions of dollars are being invested throughout China to promote a cultural dance performance known as the King Gesar Opera. 12 girls have been awarded a government funded 3 year tuition scholarship at a prestigious dance and performance school. This is a wonderful honor and opportunity. Not only that, at completion of the 3 year program, these girls will start being trained to run and manage an office of the King Gesar Opera in a capital city. So, their future looks quite bright. We are excited about this.



Year on year an amazing community in Shenzhen, China gets behind our work in China and beyond. The last 6 months of 2014 have been fantastically busy for organizing committees, over 100 volunteers, and a group of incredibly committed staff at the Captivating office. Here's a quick snapshot of what's been happening in Shenzhen:



Captivating's 6th Annual Charity Auction

A record RMB1.58million was raised to support our work through partners in Western China. Thank you so much Lynn Velez and Dana Milne for co-chairing an amazing committee that were outstanding. ALL of our project plans for 2014 have been met thanks to the success of this auction. www.captivatinggala.com



The Nanshan Challenge

A NEW EVENT this year is The Nanshan Challenge – a competitive event for those wanting to push hard with their fitness. This Run – Bike – Climb event was the brain-child of an amazing woman named Claire Taylor. Claire, who also coordinates our Kidz With Heart Mini Olympics event, pulled together an amazing event with over 130 runners, and sponsors. We are thrilled to have this event added to our annual fund-raising programs for Shenzhen. www.nanshanchallenge.weebly.com



The 6th Annual Midnight Charity Race

Founded and coordinated by Greg Schultheis, this 5km and 10km race run at Midnight recorded its highest fund-raising effort in the history of the event, with RMB204k raised to support Captivating and create an emergency development fund in Western China. Our thanks to 140 runners and amazing sponsors. Check out www.szrace.com for details.

If you are interested in running a local based event in support of Captivating, please contact us directly as we'd love to help you do this. We would link your event to a specific project you could call your own. Contact andrewc@captivating.org for more details.



AMAZING ALICE

We were so thrilled that one of our original Seng Girls, Yeshe Lhamo (Alice) took her first BIG step into independence this past period. Alice is breaking new ground for the Seng Girls program as the only girl to be currently in a full-time paid job. After studying hard for several years and doing very well in English, Alice was offered a wonderful job at the Shenzhen based Coyotes Mexican Restaurant. John Guy and his team have been amazing in helping Alice settle in, and she is experiencing the joy of having money coming in each month, a bank account of her own, and the ability to start transitioning into being independent. It's now been 4 months since Alice started. Alice was 12 years old when she first came to the Seng Girls Home program having never been to school before. Alice, congratulations on all that you are doing. We are very proud of you.



The Captivating/ACDF Micro-Finance Program



This program is going incredibly well with over 110 families now enrolled in the program. These families have received their repayable loans, and are implementing their business solutions, and making progressive payments. Thanks to the dedicated support and work of staff and leadership at the African Community Development Foundation (ACDF) and our own locally based Project Manager (Everlyne) this program is bringing financial stability to foster families who are already supporting 100 orphaned children. Although life is still extremely difficult, these families are living with hope which, of course, means better and

more permanent options for the children in their care. As this program continues to develop, we and ACDF are hopeful that this program will expand into a Youth Micro-Finance initiative – a program focused on helping orphaned youth of working age get into their first job. Our special thanks to Leanne & Stephen (Lightstream) for underwriting the program, Nick and Sue, and Scott & Judene.



Regina's Story

This is Regina and her grandson Micah. Micah's mother passed on 4 years ago leaving him with his grandmother. She was just fifteen years when she died leaving her child. She was a secondary student in a local school. She fell ill for just one day and passed on due to meningitis. Micah goes to a local academy and the grandmother does fish business in the Daraja market. He is a sickly boy constantly in and out of hospital for check ups which sometimes interrupt his education.

This is Regina at the market. When we first visited she had a bunch of fish for sale. As the focus was to help the young Micah, Captivating offered her a loan to expand the fish business at Daraja mbili market.

She buys 10kg of fish at Kshs.1800 and sells them at Kshs. 3000 within two days. She sells for four days in a week. Fish is usually brought from the Lake Victoria which is far away. So sometimes the prices are so unfavorable to the extent that on a bad day she can make Kshs. 300. In a months time she makes an average of Kshs. 9600 i.e \$120 as profit from this business.

This in addition to her second hand clothes business she is able to cater for the needs of Micah who is now on holiday and helping out in the sale of second hand clothes.



Kisii Kids Care Home (KKCH)

After three years of support of the amazing work Stevenson and Damaris have been doing with over 40 orphaned children, they have recently informed us that they will not be continuing this support program in Kisii. They are an amazing couple who have given everything in support of these children, but for a variety of very valid reasons, they have decided that it is not possible to continue running this program - a key reason being the impossibility of getting it registered due to it's size and location. The next few months will focus on Stevenson seeking alternative arrangements for the children. We are not sure what this means at this point, but those who sponsor children and support this project will hear about the developments in due course. Thank you again to everyone who has been behind this project these past three years. Special thanks to David and Karyn for making much of this possible. We believe that this project served an important purpose for each and every one of these children for the past 3+ years of their lives, and that they are much better placed to handle the next stage. We will keep an interest in what happens to them.



CAPTIVATING STAFF

It is said that behind every successful man stands a surprised wife. In the case of Andrew and Julie, and the Board of Captivating, standing behind us is an amazing and dedicated Captivating team of ladies who work tirelessly day in and day out in our Shenzhen based office. We try to acknowledge as many volunteers and donors as we can (and we miss a lot – we are so sorry about that). However, certainly a group we don't even come close to acknowledging enough is our China office team.

Starting with our amazing Office Manager, Tracy is responsible for keeping our whole office humming along. Dedicated, efficient, and incredibly personable, Tracy makes even the most difficult of days seem bright. She sets the tone for the whole office, and plays mother to 3 beautiful Seng Girls who call our office home. We have our Graphic Designer Vivian (who is about to commence a 4 year Graphic Design Diploma generously funded by the Tractor Design School). Vivian is the glue that holds together all of the fine details relating to our Shenzhen based charity events. Vivian is always happy so long as her Mac is turned on and she has a long to-do list. When things get quiet – look out. Francine drives our Child Sponsorship program and oversees our Guizhou Village Development program. Francine works quietly and tenaciously to get the best possible updates to child sponsors – not an easy task. She also cares for many other administrative functions from Visa's to online purchases. Chris is our Accountant ensuring we account for every cent received and that Captivating complies with statutory requirements in China and Hong Kong. Bonnie helps Captivating expand into new funding areas and opens new opportunities and networks for us as well as keeping a happy tone in the office. And then we have Mag – a volunteer who has for the past 3 years helped us with financial analysis, reports and, in effect, kept us on our financial toes. Sadly, Mag and her husband will be leaving Shenzhen the end of the year and she will be greatly missed. Mag, thank you so much for everything you have done for us – free. You have been amazing.

Thank you Captivating Shenzhen.



About Captivating International

Captivating International is a registered charity of Hong Kong (No. 91/9723). In Australia, we operate in partnership with two Australian registered and certified agencies - International Children's Care (ABN 57146287274.), and Asian Aid. In the US we operate in partnership with Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc (FOHKC), a 501(c)(3) registered charity (ID No: 30-0136665).

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:

AUSTRALIA, HONG KONG & UNITED STATES

We can accept donations from: ANYWHERE

Can you help us help others?

"the habit of giving only enhances the desire to give"

– Walt Whitman, poet, 1819-1892



Looking for more info on Captivating?

Our Website

www.captivating.org

Be sure to check out our BLOG section which usually has a new MONTHLY story for each project.

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www.captivating.org (Select your country and follow the directions)

Email: info@captivating.org for any further instructions or questions.

CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL

Admin office

CHINA: F1 Guan Tao Xiao Zhu, Haiwan Garden, Hai Chang Street, Shekou, NanShan district, ShenZhen, Guangdong Province, China
Phone +86 755 2667 4830, Fax +86 755 2669 1450

Get involved by emailing info@captivating.org or visit www.captivating.org