



FIVE News

The Five Project, Inc. 美国五项目机构

Special Focus: Autism Training

Dear Friends —As FIVE nears its **fifth** anniversary as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization we receive increasing requests for training and information related to autism in China. Though our work also includes support groups, advocacy, & peer mentoring for individuals with diverse disabilities, because FIVE was founded after years of volunteering and research about autism in China, our autism expertise is especially sought out, from teachers and organizations both in China and the US. We are committed to providing hands-on training and offering consultations to disability organizations that plan to visit China but have no knowledge of the country or autism context



Patricia Wright and Karen McCabe provide training in Anshan to teachers from 3 autism programs (around Northeast China)

there, as well as to large Chinese organizations with knowledge of China but limited knowledge of autism. In this issue we share training activities of the last 7 months, including direct training at an autism program, speaking at a conference for World Autism Awareness Day, introducing international

volunteers to speak at an autism program in Beijing, and teaching computer skills to young adults with disabilities . **Please consider supporting our work**, or sharing this newsletter with autism organizations that might benefit from our services. (Donate online at www.thefiveproject.org or 33 Fitch Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368) Thank you for your support!

Summer 2011

Board of Directors:

Dr. Helen McCabe, President

Dr. Susan Klein, Treasurer

Peter Angelos

Michelle Badhwar

Dr. Eric Barnes

Robert Delaney

Suzanne Speciale

Karen McCabe, Executive Director, Secretary

Teacher Training: Anshan Angels' Wings

Following a successful training program in June 2010 in Nanjing, in January our team headed north to Anshan for an 8-day intensive training program for teachers from programs in 3 northeastern cities. Based at Angel's Wings Autism Center, FIVE was again joined by lead trainer Patricia Wright. Helen and Karen McCabe translated

and conducted a training evaluation, Lindsey Hagan videotaped and collated evaluation data, and assistance was also provided by Jenny Wu, Wu Suxing, Zhang Guojun, and Zhang Ge in the first three days. Training included observation and immediate feedback, daily lectures about visuals, structure, and instruction, and multiple

evening meetings with the directors, all of whom are very committed to implementing new practices that will increase effectiveness. One teacher wrote in her evaluation, "The Five Project training is great, very successful. I hope we can keep in touch with you and continue to learn more from you." We hope to return to Anshan soon.



The Five Project training team with directors at Anshan Angels' Wings

Autism in the Family: Training Provided by Parents and Siblings

This spring, The Five Project met with staff at Beijing Liuyuan Autism Training Center, who are eager for training in all areas about autism, and have a special focus on training for parents. In order to meet this request, we arranged two lectures at that Center, in March and in May. Because the target audience is parents, we were extremely fortunate to have a parent of a young boy on the autism spectrum, Allen Carlson, and two sisters of young adults on the autism spectrum, Isabel McWilliams and Meghan Hussey, come and share their experiences, give suggestions, and answer parent questions. In March, Allen shared his experiences with parents and teachers at this Center, providing the parents with a very positive role model of a parent whose child is somewhat older than their own. After his 2

hour presentation, parents exclaimed to the directors, "Is there more? That was wonderful, we want him to come back!" In May, Isabel and Meghan also spent two hours with parents, many of whom are considering whether to have a second child, and the potential impacts of autism on a sibling. Thus they had many questions for the two speakers, and gained multiple perspectives about siblings of individuals with autism and Asperger's. The center gave gifts to these speakers in gratitude, and we have an ongoing agreement with them to facilitate future training lectures whenever volunteers are available.

(From left, Isabel, Meghan, and Allen also attended a conference for World Autism Awareness Day)



Allen Carlson shares his family's story with parents and teachers in Beijing. Meghan Hussey and Isabel McWilliams also shared their experiences here.



Friendships and Computer Skills

Another area of education and training that we began this spring was a training class in the use of computers for young adults with disabilities, including but not limited to autism, in our family support group. Members of this group often discuss what they are interested in learning, and computer skills is at the top of the list. So in March, 8 American graduate students from the Hopkins-Nanjing Center (and one Fulbrighter) volunteered to teach the members of our group to create Power Point presentations. In pairs, they created

presentations that introduced us to both the American students and the young adults from the support group. Some were humorous, some were serious, some had multiple pictures, and others were more text. Everyone had a wonderful time. After 2 hours, we invited parents, who had met independently in another room, to view their sons' and daughters' work. Everyone was very impressed, and we hope in the fall to do this again. **Thanks to Jonathan Hwang**, our outgoing FIVE-HNC volunteer coordinator, & **welcome to Laura Dow**, our new coordinator.



HNC volunteers with support group participants. (Above)

Training Lectures

In the last issue, we briefly introduced a new and amazing FIVE volunteer, Amaryllis Paidosi, a Greek psychologist and educator who spent five months in Nanjing and went several times a week to provide teacher training at the Nanjing Child Mental Health Research Center in Nanjing. The Five Project and the Center are very grateful for her ongoing guidance to families and teachers in Nanjing in the spring of 2011. Amaryllis also provided a series of training lectures to parents and teachers, as part of FIVE's

monthly autism support group. Thanks to Shao Xiaojie of Nanjing for providing ongoing translation and support to ensure that Amaryllis could work effectively. Other lectures were provided this spring by board president Helen McCabe, including to 100 autism professionals from across China at a conference for World Autism Awareness Day. There, numerous requests were made for FIVE to provide training. As more children are diagnosed, and more programs opened, the need for FIVE's services is increasing.



Amaryllis lectures to parents and teachers attending The Five Project's support group. (From left, volunteer Shao Xiaojie, Amaryllis, and volunteer Jenny Wu.)



Increasing Requests for Training, Information and Consultation

In recent months, The Five Project has been approached by increasing numbers of organizations in China, both private autism training centers and government-run foundations and agencies about providing training, as well as by professionals and organizations in the US to provide information and resources about autism in China. Among the requests are a group of parents and organizations in small towns in northern Sha'anxi province, to educate parents, teachers, and government officials. FIVE's Board is committed to our two-prong approach to meet these demands. One way is by providing direct training at autism

organizations in China. The other approach is providing consultation to non-Chinese organizations who want to provide services there but do not have an understanding of the context, education system, or situation for individuals with autism in China. Because we have extensive experience living and working in China, including working and conducting research on autism intervention, FIVE is uniquely qualified to provide culturally relevant training and consultation to ensure effective training. We strive to provide services and assistance that is hands-on and makes sustainable changes, to lead to higher quality services for individuals with autism in China.



Helen McCabe and Patricia Wright consult with teachers in Anshan. FIVE receives requests for this kind of training and consultation frequently.

Please consider making a special donation to FIVE in our FIFTH year

We have entered our fifth year of operations. As we near our fifth anniversary (December 26, 2011), we look back with pride, and forward with excitement, at the difference we have made and will continue to make in the lives of individuals with disabilities in China. We are grateful to all of our supporters this year. We continue to be grateful to the Luce Foundation (special projects grant), and to all of you, who have

supported us along the way.

We hope that in order to help us celebrate FIVE's 5th year, you will consider supporting our work.

If you would like to contribute to The Five Project, you may do so on our website (www.thefiveproject.org) or send a check to The Five Project, Inc., 33 Fitch Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368 Thank you!

Individuals with disabilities, their families, and volunteers celebrate at a winter get-together.



Thanks to all who have donated since the previous newsletter:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| Selcuk Amasya | Ming Ho | Jacqueline Meade | Anne Serino |
| Peter Angelos | David Holtman | Tom Mechem | Shawsheen Village Liquors,
Andover, MA |
| Bob Arnove | Atsuko Iso | Chuck Melchin & The Bean
Pickers Union | Sarah Beth Speciale |
| Eric Barnes | Lois Judson | Meg Murphy | Suzanne Speciale |
| Frya Barnes | Jinhyung Kim | Janet Nicholas & Susan Jacoby | Tom and Sarah Speciale |
| Roland Barnes & Charlotte Szabo | Myungwhan Kim | Bobbie Partenheimer | Sweet Mimi's Chocolates,
Andover, MA |
| Cafe Verde, Lawrence, MA | Susan Klein | Cheryl Pyburn | Gloria Watanabe & The
Boston Woman |
| Janette Cox | Jim Lonborg | Barbara Reeder | Patricia Wright |
| Elizabeth Dahl | Brenda Lynch | Rosie and Larry Rines | Susan Yuan |
| Chris Drane & Grillo's Pickles | Francis McCabe | Beverly Rosario | Zhu Man and Zhao Qing |
| Mary George | Helen McCabe | Leah Samanta | |
| Rose George | Karen McCabe | Jane Schwerdtfeger | |
| Alan and Amy Harchik | | | |



The Five Project, Inc.
33 Fitch Terrace
Randolph, MA 02368 USA



FIVE is a nonprofit organization serving individuals with autism and other disabilities and their families in China and the USA.

Visit our website!
www.thefiveproject.org
Or contact us at
thefiveproject@yahoo.com
or 1-617-413-0620

