



FIVE News

The Five Project, Inc. 美国五项目机构

Special Focus: Volunteering

Friends of The Five Project—thank you for reading another issue of FIVE News! We have been extremely pleased with the work and enthusiasm of many FIVE volunteers during the past few months, and so we have chosen to focus this newsletter on them. FIVE is now an all volunteer organization, including all board members and director, and it is thanks to the help of other volunteers as well that we have been able to accomplish so much in the past year. In this issue we introduce you to some of our volunteer mentors, our amazing teacher training



“Welcome American Volunteers”: Spending the day at a program for teenagers with developmental disabilities

volunteers, our Nanjing based volunteer coordinators, and more. While FIVE has done quite a bit over the last year with very little funding, we are also grateful and thrilled to report that we have recently received a small special projects grant

from the Henry Luce Foundation, which will help to support our upcoming training program in Anshan. Please consider including FIVE in your charitable giving this year (online at www.thefiveproject.org or 33 Fitch Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368). Thank you!

Winter 2010

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Teacher Training Programs

The first intensive training program was conducted in June 2010 in Nanjing. Volunteers including Patricia Wright (expert trainer), Lindsey Hagan (videographer and assistant), Karen and Helen McCabe (translators and coordinators), spent two

weeks at Sanxin Autism Training Center, conducting a thorough review and revision of the instructional environment and practices. Post-training evaluations demonstrated that teachers had come a long way in their knowledge of and ability to

implement effective teaching practices. On January 1, the same 4 volunteers will head to Anshan to complete a similar training. We are also grateful for the voluntary assistance of Jenny Wu and Sue Hart who both attended the Nanjing training for 2 days.



“For the first time, I could really grasp this ABA method. Other speakers just lecture about theory, but The Five Project has shown me how to put this method into practice!”—Sanxin Teacher

Mentoring, Sharing, and Teaching: Individuals Volunteering

Having met hundreds of families and teachers over the past 18 years through individual volunteering, FIVE was founded to meet the needs expressed to us regarding training and information. However, in addition to expanding the reach of our work through teacher training and written and video materials, we are convinced of the value of 1:1 friendships such as that between Helen and Zhang Ge which prompted the founding of FIVE. Since September, three new 1:1 matches have been made, one in Beijing and two in Nanjing. In addition, other individuals have sought out FIVE’s assistance in finding more short term volunteer opportunities. In the summer, we arranged for Stephen Shore, a special education professor and autism advocate, to share his experiences with families and

teachers in both Beijing and Xi’an. We also connected a parent of a child with autism from Canada to Aihui, an autism organization with sites in Chengdu and Guangdong. He shared his experiences with families and teachers at various Aihui sites. Each of the programs responded to FIVE with enthusiasm and gratitude for what these volunteers brought to them. Most recently, we have arranged for Amaryllis Paidousi, a psychologist and educator trained in the UK (and originally from Greece, but currently living in Nanjing!) to volunteer at the Nanjing Child Mental Health Research Center and at our support groups. We are eager to connect others with a background in special education to our partner programs in China, so if you will be in China and would like to volunteer, let us know!



Andrew Kang mentors a young man with autism in Beijing—and enjoys weekly home cooked Chinese food at the same time!

Promoting Advocacy and Awareness

One of our goals is to increase awareness about the challenges and needs in the field of disability services in China. We welcome invitations to speak to various audiences about this topic, as well as to introduce volunteers to families and programs in China. Recently Karen McCabe spoke at Harvard University Graduate School of Education about the need for improving teacher training at autism programs in China. Helen McCabe spoke with students in the CET Beijing Service Learning program about disability in

China, which resulted in a group of five students volunteering at a residential program for teenagers and young adults with developmental disabilities on the border of Beijing and Hebei. Board Member Rob Delaney is preparing a communications campaign for FIVE among the Canadian Chinese community where he lives, in order to promote volunteerism and awareness of disability challenges in China among overseas Chinese.



Sharing FIVE’s experiences, Karen met many people at HGSE, both Chinese and American, interested in learning more about disability in China.

Video and Volunteering

While previous issues of our newsletter have introduced FIVE friends to our video work, given that this issue has a focus on volunteering, it is only fitting that we include the video work here. FIVE has filmed, produced and distributed two training videos to hundreds of Chinese families and teachers, and thousands more have viewed them online. Another video has been filmed and is currently being edited. All of this has been

done by volunteers—multiple volunteers participated in the filming, role playing skits, etc., and one volunteer, William Smith College student Lindsey Hagan, has put in hundreds of hours on each video for the editing process. Helen is currently living in China, and often when she meets families or teachers, they recognize her from the videos and express how useful that these materials are. Our ability to help families and teachers

in this way is thanks to our volunteers like Lindsey!



While filming takes a full day or more, video editing takes hundreds of hours of time, which is completed thanks to volunteer Lindsey Hagan.



Introducing Volunteer Coordinators: Wu Suxing & Jonathan Hwang

There are many important roles played by FIVE board members and volunteers. Two volunteers who work with FIVE on an ongoing basis are Wu Suxing and Jonathan Hwang, both of whom live in Nanjing and coordinate Nanjing volunteers. Wu Suxing, as many of you know, is Zhang Ge's mother. Zhang Ge, of course, is our inspiration, who loves the number 5! Wu Suxing, in addition to facilitating FIVE's two monthly support groups, coordinates FIVE's program for children or adults with disabilities who are interested in meeting an American (or Chinese) college or graduate

student volunteer for 1:1 mentoring. Jonathan Hwang is in charge of recruiting those mentors, which he does through his affiliation as a student at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies. Jonathan and Wu Suxing also work together with FIVE board members to plan group activities ranging from holiday parties to trips to the park, to getting together to sing. Jonathan joined The Five Project as a volunteer in the fall of 2009, and took over the coordinating duties formerly done by Jennifer Smith and Lyle Goode.



Wu Suxing and Jonathan Hwang introduce two individuals with disability to their mentors, at Nanjing University.

Gratitude to Luce Foundation, Temple Sinai, & all supporters

We are grateful to all of our supporters this year, including individuals, Temple Sinai in Rochester, NY, and others. We hope that you will continue to include us in your holiday donations. We also are pleased to take this opportunity to let everyone know that The Five Project has just received a small special projects grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, which will partially support our upcoming on-site teacher training in Anshan. The first such training

was this summer in Nanjing, and in just two weeks, teachers showed immense improvement in their grasp of teaching methods, practice and theory. We are grateful to Luce, and to all of you, who have supported us along the way.

Teachers at Nanjing Sanxin autism organization welcomed volunteer trainers in June 2010.

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!



Thanks to all who have donated since the previous newsletter:

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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

