



# FIVE News

December 2013

*The Five Project, Inc.*      美国五项目机构

## 2013: Year in Review

Happy Holidays!

The Five Project has been very busy in the last few months, responding to requests for videos and for training, and welcoming new families to our monthly support group in Nanjing, China. Throughout 2013, The Five Project has continued to promote awareness of and advocate for services for individuals with disabilities and their families in China. We are grateful to supporters of FIVE and hope that you will enjoy reading about recent and upcoming events. In this issue, we share some recent work as well as plans for 2014. All of our work directly serves families and teachers of children and adults with disabilities, and we are grateful to supporters and volunteers! In this issue we describe:



**FIVE support group meets monthly, facilitated by parent Wu Suxing (lower photo, right). 23 families, including parents and young adults with disabilities, attend regularly (group photo, Nov. 2013)**



**\*\*Increased requests for FIVE's training videos from parents and teachers from around China**

**\*\*Planning begins for March 2014 training in Dalian. Numerous requests for training.**

**\*\*Promoting awareness and advocating for improved services through presentations in the China and the US (World Autism Awareness Day conference in March and United Nations CRPD presentation, July)**

**\*\*Monthly disability family support group in Nanjing welcomes new members and families share their views on what makes a successful support group**

***In your annual giving at the end of the year, please consider supporting our work, so that more families of individuals with disabilities can receive support and education that they urgently need. (Donate online at [www.thefiveproject.org](http://www.thefiveproject.org) or send a donation to 33 Fitch Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368)***



**A warm family:** Support group participant drawing (see p. 2)

### Board of Directors:

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## Teacher Training: New Organizational Partnerships



The Five Project has received numerous requests for teacher training from autism educational organizations around China. Since 2011, we have been in contact with a wonderful advocate for individuals with autism, Professor Sun Dunke, whose own grandchild has autism. Like many autism advocates in China and around the world, his commitment to serve and provide better services began with a personal connection (often family) with one individual with autism. Indeed, The Five Project has its roots in the 21-years (and counting) relationship between

co-founder Helen McCabe, and Zhang Ge, a 29 year old young woman with autism who loves the number 5. In March 2014, FIVE will send a training team to Professor Sun's city of Dalian, to provide 8 days of training to teachers of children with autism. As in previous training, this will be an onsite training to provide in-class guidance and immediate feedback and practice opportunities. While there, we will also meet with families who are part of the Dalian Region Parents Association (a regional branch of the Beijing Association for the Rehabilitation of Children with Autism), which Professor Sun was a founding member of almost 20 years ago. We are thrilled about this opportunity to work with this Dalian parents association and the autism educational organizations with which they work. FIVE currently has requests pending for training in diverse locations, including Guangdong, Sha'anxi, Hubei, Beijing, Jiangsu, etc.

**Left:** Helen McCabe and Professor Sun Dunke from Dalian, together with Dr. Yang Xiaoling, at autism conference

**Below:** Patricia Wright and Karen McCabe meet with teachers in Anshan, China.



## Advocating and Teaching In-person and through Technology

In addition to intensive hands-on training provided by The Five Project to autism educational organizations in China, FIVE board members and volunteers also participate in conferences that inform and educate about effective services, and about the needs of children with disabilities in China. FIVE also provides training and educational support through training videos for Chinese families and teachers.

FIVE members participated in two large-scale disability events this year. In March, one of FIVE's consultant trainers, Patricia Wright (vice-president at Easter Seals), and FIVE co-founder, Helen McCabe, participated in an autism conference in Beijing, on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day. Together they presented a keynote address about evidence-based practices for autism intervention. Sponsored by Beijing Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism, the conference was attended by approximately 125 teachers and parents of children with autism. In addition to noting World Autism Awareness

Day, the conference also celebrated Stars and Rain's 20th year of educating children with autism and their parents. In July, Helen presented at the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) at the United Nations. Her focus was on challenges and possibilities for including children with disabilities in general education in China.

As FIVE has now produced and distributed three training videos about autism (viewed thousands of times online, with hundreds of DVDs mailed to families with limited or no internet access in China), we increasingly receive emails from teachers and parents seeking assistance and requesting new videos. Work on the 4th video, about Applied Behavior Analysis and Discrete Trial Teaching, is underway. Families or teachers who provide this type of intervention and are willing to serve as volunteers for this video, please contact us! Educators and parents in China are eager to observe this intervention provided in the US. (contact: [thefiveproject@yahoo.com](mailto:thefiveproject@yahoo.com))

A parent wrote recently to us: *"I saw your videos online, they are so wonderful, it makes me feel I am seeing light in the darkness. I hope to get more help from you."*



Above: Patricia Wright presents at the World Autism Awareness Day conference in Beijing. Helen McCabe served as co-presenter as well as translator/interpreter.

## Support Group: A Warm Home and Family

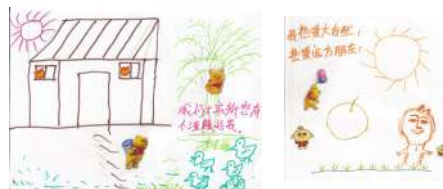


Above: Group facilitator, Wu Suxing, provides materials to families for group activity.

On the 2nd Sunday of every month, the FIVE Mutual Support and Activity family group meets in Nanjing. Of the 23 families currently attending, 12 have been attending since the group began in January 2008, and 4

are recent arrivals from the past 2-3 months. Whether spending a morning at a local park, or participating in discussion, games and songs indoors when the weather is cold, all of

the families look forward eagerly to the monthly activity. This month, the families used drawing to express what they value most about the group. Everyone participated, including facilitators, parents, and young



Above: "We all want a warm family" (chicks represent support group members) (mother of a young woman with intellectual disability); "We love nature, we love friends from afar" (by mother of young woman with psychological disability)

adults with disabilities. Here we share some of their work, and their explanations.



Above: **"No discrimination. We are a loving family"** (mother of teenager with autism)

Photos: FIVE inspiration, Zhang Ge, and her father, Zhang Guojun, share their drawings.



## Thanks to those who donated in the past year!

- |                                 |                              |                                     |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Catherine Aborjaily             | Kristen Gotter               | Paul & Joan McCabe                  |
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| Anonymous                       | Alan & Amy Harchik           | Isabel McWilliams                   |
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| Allen Carlson                   | Amy Kemp-in memory of Gao Ru | Rosemaria Recchia                   |
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| Rose George                     | Helen McCabe & Eric Barnes   | Patricia Wright                     |
| GoodSearch                      | Karen McCabe & Peter Angelos | Shoko Yamada-in memory of Gao Ru    |

The art event **in memory of Gao Ru (高儒)**, a beloved friend of Helen's since 1997 and a treasured friend of FIVE, has been postponed, but is still being planned (summer 2014). An artist with a physical disability, Gao Ru was a role model for people with disabilities, and she believed strongly in the work of The Five Project. Donations in her memory are welcome and will be used to honor her in our future work.