



FIVE News



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December 2017

The Five Project for International Autism and Disability Support, Inc.

美国五项目：国际孤独症和其他障碍支持机构

Capacity Building and Collaboration

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that 2017 is coming to a close. Our focus this year has been on capacity building and collaboration, working together with organizations in China, and also highlighting collaboration between trainers with complementary professional backgrounds. As we continue to ensure that our training is based on deep understanding of Chinese society and education systems, we are very proud to highlight two of our newest volunteer trainers, both of whom are native Chinese speakers. Also in this issue is a report on the increasing interest by families of adolescents and adults with autism in joining FIVE's family support group in Nanjing.

Highlights in this newsletter include:

**Return trainings at Xi'an ZhihuiDAO and Zhengzhou Ruiman Autism centers, and Huiling Community Services (Guangzhou).

**Teacher training by Jiang Tian (Jessie Jiang) and Esther Lam (Lin Bei En), native Chinese speakers and experts in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and Augmentative and Alter-



Above: Jessie Jiang and Esther Lam with teachers at Zhengzhou Ruiman autism center. Plaque recognizes Ruiman as a formal FIVE collaborator and site for teacher training.

native Communication (AAC).

**Professional development regarding inclusive education to general and special education school teachers from Jiangsu province, with inclusion expert Ingrid Flory.

**Training about instruction, behavior and communication at Haikou Xingchen Special Education Center.

**FIVE support group discussion of issues of aging.

We hope that you will consider supporting FIVE, so more teachers and families can receive training and professional resources that they are urgently requesting.

Donate online through paypal (link available at <http://thefiveproject.org/how-to-help.html>) or send a donation to 33 Fiach Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368 USA.

FIVE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

"I am so excited to be back and part of the support group. We were here when you began, and thank you for welcoming us back!" —mother of young man w/autism who attended in 2008 before moving away (and now has returned to Nanjing)

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Thanks to all of our volunteers, including this year's trainers, Ingrid Flory, Jiang Tian (Jessie), Esther Lam, Linnea McAfoose and Patricia Wright.

Inclusive Education in China

In 2017, FIVE was very pleased to be invited to conduct two training activities regarding inclusive education. First, in March 2017, FIVE brought Ingrid Flory, Director of Family Support at the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services — Central/West Region, to lead a training for general and special education teachers in Nanjing, hosted by Nanjing Normal University of Special Education. Together with Helen McCabe, Ingrid provided in-depth instruction in effectively writing and using Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) for students with special needs; her training was based on extensive personal and professional experience, and teachers very much valued her examples and expertise. Helen McCabe assisted in translating and training and provided the important cultural bridge that is a unique and essential part of any training provided by FIVE. Also related to inclusion, in May, Jessie Jiang and Esther Lam gave an intensive training regarding inclusive preschool education at Huiling Community Services for People with Disabilities. The Five Project had twice previously provided training to adult services programs run by Huiling Community Services, and Huiling staff were glad to see Esther, an old friend to Huiling, and Jessie, a new friend. This was a very exciting training for all, as it was the first time that 100% of the training was provided directly in Chinese, by a trainer who grew up and was educated in China (Jessie) and a trainer of Chinese heritage (Esther). Their training was very well-received, with preschool teachers gaining a lot of information about how to work with children with autism and other special needs, including group instruction and individual therapy sessions.



Above: Jessie Jiang (top) and Esther Lam work with preschool teachers at Huiling.

Left: Ingrid Flory and Helen McCabe provide training to teachers in Nanjing.



Developing and Sharing Expertise

FIVE has always provided training by a team that includes fluent Chinese speakers as well as experts in education systems and practices in both China and the United States. That linguistic and cultural expertise was further strengthened when three of the five trainings this year were designed and delivered entirely by two native speakers of Chinese. Jessie Jiang (Jiang Tian) and Esther Lam (Lin Bei En) are two incredibly gifted and dedicated volunteers and FIVE is very grateful and proud to share their work here. In addition, our goal in the past couple of years has been both to provide as much support as broadly as possible, but also to increasingly focus more on following up with those teachers and organizations that we have previously trained. In addition to going to Huiling Community Services (see page 1), Jessie and Esther also conducted training at two of FIVE's ongoing partner sites—Zhengzhou Ruiman and Xi'an Zhihuidao autism centers. They were very impressed with the level of knowledge and energy at both places, and were

warmly welcomed as new lead trainers on FIVE's training team. Jessie recently completed a master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) and has taught children with autism in the US and China. Esther had volunteered at previous FIVE trainings, is currently pursuing graduate study in ABA, and has worked with children with autism in China and Canada. Because of the dedication of teachers at both sites, we were pleased to formalize our partnerships with both of them in the form of "FIVE project training site" designations (see plaque in top photo). More ongoing training is still urgently needed in both sites, as well as in many other organizations around China who often reach out to us, and we are very grateful for the work of our training volunteers as well as the support of so many people who believe in the importance of capacity building for teachers and parents of children with autism.



Top: Jessie (Tian) Jiang and Esther Lam conclude their training at Xi'an Zhihuidao with a recognition of the ongoing relationship between FIVE and Zhihuidao.

Above: Jessie Jiang teaches staff at Zhengzhou Ruiman autism center about Applied Behavior Analysis.

Support group turns 10

In January 2008, FIVE founders, along with volunteers Zhang Guojun and Wu Suxing (parents of Zhang Ge, FIVE's inspiration), established two support groups in Nanjing. One was for parents of children with autism, and the other for teenagers and young adults with a range of developmental disabilities and mental health challenges. After a few years, we found that it made sense to combine the groups, as the families seeking mutual support (versus training, which is a separate component of FIVE) were the older families. In the last year or two, increasingly we have been approached by parents of teenagers and young adults with autism, eager to join us. Our group has grown, and grown up! Patricia Wright, ongoing FIVE training

volunteer, joined the group in April. With Helen McCabe translating, Patricia led an open discussion. With January 2018 the 10th anniversary of the support group, we are forced to face issues of aging—stressful in the US as well, but especially so in China where there are no government-provided services or funds for adults with autism or other developmental disabilities. Sadly, we have lost three parents since the group began, and several young people have health issues of their own. What is encouraging is how much the group members look out for each other, and provide any support that they can, both emotional and financial. FIVE is proud to be the facilitator of such a warm and family-like group.



Above: The Five Project support group has grown up, with many families with us for almost 10 years! Thanks Patricia Wright (not pictured) for joining us in April!

Interdisciplinary Training in Haikou

In April of 2017, FIVE once again collaborated with Hussman Institute for Autism and TobiiDynavox to provide training in education, behavior support, and communication. Trainers included Helen McCabe, Linnea McAfoose, and Esther Lam. The April training was provided in Haikou, in collaboration with Xingchen Special Education Center. Par-

ents and teachers were excited for this intensive 4-day training, and expressed multiple times about the lack of training opportunities available in Haikou, a city on the island province of Hainan. The staff at Xingchen Special Education Center are very dedicated to learning both about Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Applied Be-

havior Analysis (ABA), and the teachers asked many excellent questions to more deeply understand and be able to apply effective strategies in their classrooms. The Five Project would love to return to Haikou, if funds and human resources allow.



Left: FIVE team with teachers and staff of Xingchen Center.

Right: Linnea and Esther answer teacher questions during "break" time.



Thanks to those who donated in the past year!

FIVE gratefully acknowledges donations received since our last newsletter.

Bruce Acker
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Patricia Wright
Yan Dong
Susan Yuan & Eric Adler
Zhang Ge (FIVE's inspiration!)

Please consider partnering with us, and with our collaborators in China, to strive for better services for children and adults with autism and other disabilities.

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