



FIVE News



www.thefiveproject.org/thefiveproject@yahoo.com May 2014

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

New Name, Same Organization

Greetings!

2014 has already been a busy year for FIVE. As we receive more inquiries and requests for partnerships and collaboration, the board decided to formally change our name, to clearly indicate the mission of FIVE. The Five Project for International Autism and Disability Support, Inc. retains the important "FIVE", which was chosen because "5" is a favorite thing of the young woman with autism who inspired us to begin our work in autism in China. In the last few months, FIVE has provided training, responded to requests for videos and training, and welcomed new families to our monthly support group in Nanjing, China. 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 share FIVE's latest activities including advocacy work in both



FIVE training team went to Dalian in March. Pictured here with teachers from Little Dolphins Autism Rehabilitation Center.

China & the US, teacher training in Dalian, China, monthly support group activities in Nanjing and video production. We are especially pleased that both FIVE's onsite teacher training model and video training materials have been repeatedly praised for being so practical, innovative, and uniquely helpful. One parent recently wrote, "I have already watched the videos many times, & I have benefitted greatly (获益颇丰). I will continue to eagerly follow FIVE, and am so grateful." Teachers

who were trained by FIVE in March also were struck by the unique nature of our training. One admitted, "Though I felt nervous at first having trainers watch my teaching, it was more useful than any training I have ever attended! Please come back soon!"

See page 2 for information on the needs of Chinese children with autism, their families and teachers, and please consider supporting our work, so that we can provide the support and education that they urgently need. (Donate online at www.thefiveproject.org or send a donation to 33 Fitch Terrace, Randolph, MA 02368)



"Thank you for your work for children with autism in China. We parents often feel alone and helpless. We don't know where to start. I truly thank you for your cross border help!" (parent from small town in central China)

Board of Directors:

Helen McCabe, PhD, Executive Director

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Left: FIVE trainers and Little Dolphins director provide feedback during instruction at Little Dolphins Autism Center in Dalian.

Praise for FIVE's Innovative Training Model: Dalian Training



In March, three FIVE team members went to Dalian to provide hands-on teacher training at Little Dolphins Autism Rehabilitation Center, and ChunYu Preschool (which serves children with and without disabilities). Our onsite training involving in-class guidance and immediate feedback and practice opportunities was repeatedly praised by the teachers and organizational leaders as being innovative and unique. One leader noted, "We have never had such a useful and practical training like this before, where the teachers immediately practice what they learn." All

of the teachers were excited about using their new skills, and FIVE trainers and translators (Patricia Wright, Helen McCabe, and Karen McCabe) were extremely impressed with the solid foundation and the rapid improvement of the teachers. FIVE was also able to provide two informational sessions to families who are part of the Dalian Region Parents Association (a regional branch of the Beijing Association for the Rehabilitation of Children with Autism) in the evenings. It was an extremely busy 8 days in Dalian, but the excellent results mean more effective instruction for the children, thus making the hard work worth it!! We thank all of the staff, as well as Professor Yu from Liaoning Normal University, who accompanied us almost the entire time and was a great bridge to her students and others who could not be there. All organizations are eager for FIVE trainers to return for follow up training, which we hope to do within the next 8-12 months.

Left: Children participate in exercise at the inclusive Chunyu Preschool.

Below: Patricia Wright and Karen McCabe provide consultation to teacher at Chunyu Preschool, Dalian.



Awareness & Advocacy in the US and China

The Five Project for International Autism and Disability Support, in addition to providing practical training and materials to teachers and families in need, also is active in promoting awareness about disability in China, advocating through action for better services and inclusion. In February FIVE collaborated with REEL Abilities: Boston Disabilities Film Festival to host a showing of "Son of the Stars", a fictional account of the efforts and experiences of a young boy with autism and his mother. FIVE Co-founder Helen McCabe led a discussion with the almost 100 audience members after the film, and through this was able to educate and make viewers aware of the challenges for families of individuals with autism in China. Through this event, FIVE was invited to join the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities, and Helen will represent FIVE as she helps lead an

early childhood task team to promote a similar partnership in China. Another activity that has allowed us to promote awareness and advocacy in society was our training in March at a preschool that serves children with and without disabilities in Dalian. Local media publicized this training, drawing attention to the importance of providing inclusive education for all children. In July, co-founder Helen McCabe will speak to American college students at "Princeton in Beijing" about autism and disability in China. This is an opportunity to educate almost 200 students and their Chinese faculty, and promote understanding about needs of individuals with disabilities & their families in China. This is especially meaningful as Helen worked at "PIB" in 1995-6, while also volunteering with children with autism. Students will gain a vision of the way they too might add service and advocacy into their time in China.

"From this training, we now more fully understand the supports needed for children with autism, and will use what we learned to better provide inclusive education for children with autism." (Teacher at ChunYu)



Above: With teachers at the inclusive Chun Yu Preschool. Working together with general and special educators, FIVE supported their impressive efforts to include children with autism.

Ongoing Projects: Support Group and Videos

The FIVE Mutual Support and Activity Family Group continues to meet monthly in Nanjing. Group members are constantly reminding us how valuable they have found the chance to be with families just like them. One father shared that before joining this group, he, his wife and son were very isolated. They never felt comfortable going out, whether to a park or a restaurant. Now, they eagerly look forward to the monthly gatherings, and often get together informally with other group members as well. Friendships have formed among the young adults with disabilities as well as among the parents.

Also ongoing is the creation of videos to teach parents and teachers about autism and related

teaching strategies. Our local support group leaders, Wu Suxing and Zhang Guojun, have also taken on the responsibility of distributing videos within China to families and teachers who request them. We often receive notes of thanks, and some families even call Wu and Zhang to thank them personally. The videos are both providing training and information, and also bringing people together!

Recently, after sending videos to parents in dozens of locations in China, one wrote and said, *"Thank you so much. Your videos are so practical and clear. It is hard to get useful information in China. I look forward to more materials from The Five Project, and really need your help."*



Above: FIVE support group members visited Yuhuatai in March. A little rain did not lessen the enthusiasm for spending a day together with friends!

Thanks for Your Continued Support! Children in China need your help!

Thanks to all who have donated already in 2014. You will be recognized in our year-end newsletter. FIVE has applied for several grants to further support our work providing training and resources to children, families and teachers in China. Meanwhile, requests for assistance continue to come in from all over China. These autism organizations that are seeking our support are often in small cities and less central locations, with limited financial resources. We are grateful that the Chinese organizations that we have worked with are doing their best to provide whatever support they can—paying for

hotels, paying for meals, even sponsoring a plane ticket. But the organizations that we work with are often parent-run, and serving families of limited means. That is why we need your help to support our work. We feel proud that our relationships with Chinese organizations are collaborative, and the teachers and families show their commitment by providing the funds and support that they can. In the spirit of serving the children with the most need, we are focused on those organizations that, despite their commitment, are struggling to pay teachers' salaries and get by.

This is why we need your help. 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.

Please donate online at www.thefiveproject.org or send a donation to:

*The Five Project
33 Fitch Terrace
Randolph, MA 02368*

Below: Thanks to the advocacy efforts of Professor Sun Dunke (center) who has worked tirelessly for children with autism in China for over 20 years. Thanks to Prof. Sun for inviting FIVE to Dalian!

