



The Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada

NEWSLETTER

加拿大宋慶齡兒童基金會

SUMMER 2006



Left to Right: Stars and Rain Director Hope Tian, our Directors, Eve Adams, Nina Halpern, Cynthia Lam and a family attending the institute.

of the Institute, Ms. Tian Huiping (English name Hope Tian), toured the facility, and learned about the Institute's history and current needs. In May 2006, SCLCFC Director Howard Chu paid a follow-up visit to the Institute to learn more about its current situation and to discuss ways that the Foundation might assist.

The Stars and Rain Institute is the first private, non-profit educational institution created in China to help children with autism, a developmental disability that causes children to be severely handicapped in their ability to communicate, learn, and interact socially.

It was founded in Beijing in 1993 by Ms. Tian, whose son has autism, at a time when this diagnosis was virtually unknown in China, and there were no services, public or private, to help children like hers.

The Institute owns a very small house in southeast Chaoyang District outside Beijing, and rents a larger building where most classes are held. The building is not in good shape and is in great need of repair; everything is very "bare-bones."

Despite the difficult working conditions, through the dedication of Ms. Tian and her hard-working teachers, the Institute has grown to the point where it can provide four 11-week training sessions each year, each accommodating about 60 children with autism and their families. The families attending the Institute come from all over China, at their own expense and often at considerable hardship. Because children with autism typically do not attend school or receive other public services in China, the Stars and Rain Institute aims to teach families how to work with and educate their own children. The Institute also operates a shorter outreach program in many distant locations for families who cannot afford to come to Beijing for the longer sessions.

The SCLCFC Directors were truly inspired by the dedication of the individuals working at the Institute and how much they have accomplished to help children with autism, despite receiving absolutely no public support. They felt that SCLCFC should offer support to the Institute.

Continued: Stars and Rain Page 2

THE STARS AND RAIN CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM—Beijing

A New Project for SCLCFC--

Last October, while in China to attend the 2005 International Seminar on Early Childhood Education in Multicultural Background (see the Winter 2005 newsletter), three members of the Board of Directors of SCLCFC (Eve Adams, Nina Halpern, and Cynthia Lam) paid a visit to the Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism outside Beijing. The purpose of the visit was to explore whether the Foundation should consider supporting the Institute. During their visit, the Directors met with the head

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EVENTS

Mark your calendar:

"For the Children"
Soong Ching Ling Children's
Foundation of Canada
Annual Fund Raising Dinner
to be held
September 15, 2006
Victoria Chinese Restaurant
1088 Melville Street., Vancouver.

Tickets \$800 Table 10
GOLD SPONSORSHIPS
are available for \$1,250 per table
\$80.00 for single ticket
6.30 for 7 pm. - Dinner

Guest Speaker
The Honourable Linda Reid ,
Minister of State for Child Care
MLA Richmond.

Presentation of the
"For the Children Award".

If you would like tickets
or more information
Call Tony Lau 604 879-7177



B.C. Chamber Orchestra
Chan Centre, UBC
Fund Raising Event
September 23, 2006

Tickets: \$35.00 per person
Tel: Howard Chu 604-868-1233



Web site:

www.sclchildren.ca

Find more information about our
Projects

How to become a member
and how you can help...
Call: 604-868-1233

Currently, the **SCLCFC** plans to offer two types of assistance to the **Stars and Rain Institute**:

- **T**o help the Institute achieve its goal of upgrading teacher training, we have invited two of their teachers to come to Vancouver, funded by the Foundation, to observe and learn from some of the first-rate programs offered in this city for children with autism
- **W**e have offered to raise funds to pay partial salary to engage an assistant director, to free-up the director, Hope Tian, to address some of the long-term issues of the Institute, such as establishing a Board of Directors, finding a long-term solution to the problem of a facility for the school, starting a care home for autistic children, spreading the work of the Institute to more locations in China, etc.

The **SCLCFC** recognizes that these are small contributions, and that more help is needed. We hope to raise additional funds so that in the future we can offer even more assistance to this wonderful program that has helped so many children and their families. ■

Fundraising Dinner on Friday September 15, 2006

The SCLC Foundation is holding another fundraising dinner on Friday, September 15th, 2006. In addition to raising funds for two very important projects, this is an excellent opportunity for the Board to meet and socialize with many members and supporters, and at the same time keep them informed of current projects and developments. The ticket price is set at \$80 and the venue is our favourite Victoria Chinese Restaurant.

Tony Lau has again assumed the Chair of this fundraising event. **Linda Reid Minister of State for Child Care**, will again lend support to our fundraising event by taking time out from her busy schedule to attend the dinner. The target is to raise \$12,000 from dinner ticket proceeds to fund the continuing hiring of a part-time family support worker at Hastings Community School.

Tickets call: Tony Lau 604 879-7177

B.C. Chamber Orchestra Fund Raising Event September 23, 2006

As a second feature to the fundraising dinner, tickets to an exciting concert on Sunday September 23 performed by and a brilliant violinist from Hungary and the **B.C. Chamber Orchestra** at the Chan Centre, UBC. \$35 per ticket. Tax deduction receipts for the whole ticket price will be issued and all of the proceeds will be donated to the Stars and Rain Centre for Autism Children in Beijing.

Tickets call: Howard Chu 604-868-1233

Please try your best to attend the fundraising dinner to meet other friends and supporters of the Foundation, and also bring your family and friends to attend the exciting BCCO concert.

The Children need your help...



Photo by permission

Honorary Chairperson Mrs. Eileen Lin
and pupils from Hastings School

Hastings School Project

Since 2004, the Foundation has been providing assistance to two very important projects at **Hastings Community School**.

The fundraising dinner proceeds of \$12,000 in 2004 were donated to the school to hire a part-time, Chinese speaking, family support worker to fill a void which was created by the government funding cut. The work of this family support worker has proved to be very valuable, based on the reports from the community school coordinator at Hastings Community School. The Foundation has decided to continue to fund the hiring of this family support worker, and a fundraising dinner is being organized in September this year for this purpose.

The Foundation is also very aware of the importance of the after-school programs for the students, especially students at the inner city schools such as Hastings Community School. Through the work of the Foundation, \$12,000 was raised from the Ministry of Child Care in 2005 which was contributed toward the cost of the Kids First Program. The Kids First program provides supervised activities for children at risk in the after-school hours. In 2006, again through the work of the Foundation, Teck Cominco Limited has committed to donate \$20,000 to the cost of the Kids First program for three consecutive years.

The Board members of the Foundation are very concerned that many of the needs of the students at the Hastings Community School, and many other inner city schools, are not met due to a lack of funding.

The Foundation intends to inform the public of the needs of children at risk and approach other organizations such as the Rotary Club and Lions Clubs in our community to enlist more support for these schools.



Paul & Eileen Lin Endowment Trust

The Paul and Eileen Lin Scholarship Fund was established in 2001 to help students in needy areas of China to complete senior high school education. By the end of 2005, 120 students from four schools in different provinces have been placed on the scholarship assistance program, with each student receiving 1,000 RMB per year out of the interest income of the trust fund of approximately Cdn \$400,000.

Since it was recognized that there is an immediate and urgent need to help students going to senior high school, a fundraising drive was launched in late 2006 and \$15,000 was raised with similar amounts committed for two additional years. Instead of increasing the trust fund and spend the interest income on scholarship assistance, it was decided that the entire amount will be spent in the current year on the scholarship program. This has the effect of immediately increasing the number of students we help from 120 to 220 starting with the school year in September 2006. It was further decided that to facilitate the administration of the program, the entire amount will be channeled to the Gu Yuan region of Ning Xia. Up to 2005, only 30 students in Gu Yuan is receiving support from the scholarship program.

Scholarship programme is a success ..

In early May, Board member **Howard Chu** visited Gu Yuan in Ning Xia and met with the school officials from four schools: Number 2 Secondary School, Hui Secondary School, Number 5 Secondary School and San Ying Secondary School. The purpose of the trip was to identify the needs of these schools and try to determine how the extra 100,000 RMB should be spent and allocated among the four schools.

It was decided that varying sums will be distributed to each of the four schools for students' financial assistance based on the size and needs of these schools. It was also determined that there is a need at three of the schools to receive funding to help some of their teachers to travel to other cities to learn from their peers at other schools. As a result, 100,000 RMB will be provided to the schools for students' assistance, and 30,000 RMB will be provided to three of the schools for teachers' professional training.

We will continue to fundraise for the scholarship fund in the next few years as we feel that the need is the greatest now and also we are hopeful that the Chinese government may begin to provide more financial support to students in the senior high school level. Please consider making a donation to this program. The Board members will continue to visit all the schools in the scholarship programme on a regular basis to review and report on the success of the programme

* Board members travel at their own expense.....



Dear Members and Friends,

I am deeply honoured to be selected as the President of the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada (SCLCFC).

After serving as Vice President and as a Board member for a number of years, I come into the position with a great sense of pride at the accomplishments and dedication, put forward by the tireless and devoted group of individuals, who serve as the Board of Directors for the Foundation. Undoubtedly, the work of the Foundation is strengthened by the wisdom and grace of our Founder Member and Honorary Chair, Mrs. Eileen Lin whose contribution and insight into our endeavours is both precious and an inspiration to us all.

I can find no words to express the depth of my appreciation and admiration for my fellow Board members. I feel Vice President, Tommy Tam, and I are both privileged and fortunate to take our positions, at a time when the Foundation has successfully accomplished so much under the leadership of my predecessor, Barbara Tong.

As you read through this current newsletter and catch up on our current projects and future ambitions, I'm sure you will feel our sense of excitement at the work in hand and share with us in our feelings of success. A number of our important projects in China and Canada continue, such as the Special Endowment Fund, established with the generous financial support of Paul and Eileen Lin, and further enhanced by pledged donations to the Scholarship Fund. All of which, continue to provide students living in the poor and rural areas in China with the opportunity to go to senior high school.

We shall also continue our efforts to support Hastings Community School here in Vancouver. We were successful in fulfilling our commitment to introduce the School to other benevolent partners, who will also provide financial assistance and support to this challenged inner city school.

Financially, the Foundation is sound, but we must continuously seek creative new ways to stretch our limited funds to provide the most help to children in need in China and Canada. The ongoing success of our work is reliant upon the kindness and generosity of our members and supporters. It's people like you, who understand that we can all make a difference in a child's life, by encouraging their education, by providing support and assistance to their family or supporting them in activities that keep them safe and will help the child develop, positive life skills and a healthy social attitude. And, as current research demonstrates, from our collective contributions, we all benefit as a Society.

In closing, I would like to again acknowledge the hard work and generosity of every member of the Board, and to thank each of you on behalf of every child whose life your generosity, kindness and compassion has touched. I look forward to working with all of you in the future as we accomplish our goals.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for your past and continuing support of the Foundation



For the Children,
Eve Adams, President

Retreat Session of the Board

On May 2006, the newly elected Board of the Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation got together in a retreat session to discuss the present and future direction of the Foundation. Many issues were discussed and the following is a summary of some of the conclusions reached at the meeting:

- The Foundation is quite active and is involved in a number of the projects and programs for children. The Foundation is aware that there are limited resources and the Foundation does not feel the need to expand its scope of activities.
- The Foundation will amend its Mission Statement to reflect more accurately the work that is undertaken. The Board members agreed that there is no specific allocation of funds for projects in China or in Canada, and that projects in Canada need to have a cross cultural aspect, but not necessarily Chinese.
- Succession planning is a key issue as it is important to bring in new Board members that could contribute to the work of the Foundation.
- It may be cost efficient or even revenue neutral to hire a part-time administrative assistant who could assist in promoting publicity and fundraising.

Contact us:

Soong Ching Ling Children's Foundation of Canada
3933 S.W. Marine Drive, V6N 4A2 Telephone: 604-604-868-1233

SCL Advisory Board 2006-2007

- Dr. Chak Kwong Au
- Mr. Dan Chan
- Mr. John Chen
- Mr. Ben Choi
- Dr. Gill Fitzell
- Dr. George Ng

Directors 2006-2007

- Eve Adams — President
- William Chang—Secretary/Treasurer
- Howard Chu
- Bill Gooderham
- Nina Halpern
- Helena Ho
- Cynthia Lam
- Tony Lau
- Marian Leung
- Eileen Lin — Honorary Chairperson
- Theresa Odishaw
- Tommy Tam—Vice President
- Barbara Tong