



Rural China Education Foundation

乡村教育促进会

Who We Are

The Rural China Education Foundation (RCEF) was formed in 2005 by young Chinese scholars from both China and abroad. Our work is to promote education in rural China that empowers students to improve their lives and that of their communities. The Rural China Education Foundation is a registered non-profit organization that relies on the generosity of donors and volunteers.

Motivation:



There is a global significance to rural China when you consider that about one in every seven humans is from a rural village in China. In fact, the majority of children in China still go to school in rural areas. They have a vast potential to develop their hometowns and improve quality of rural life. However, whether they fulfill their potential to themselves and society depends on the goals and teaching methods of the education provided.

Educational methods in many rural schools are heavily based on rote memorization for tests and leave most students without crucial real world skills. This is a serious problem because about 80% of all rural students never step foot in high school. Most become teenage farmers and migrant workers, finding themselves at the bottom of society. At the same time, education does little to improve the conditions in rural areas. Rather than teaching students how to apply their learning directly to improving their lives and communities, schooling often breeds in students the desire to escape from their local problems and look down upon their rural roots.



Our Work:

RCEF develops teaching methods and curriculum that link schooling to life and prepare students to make positive changes in their environment. To do this, RCEF works with principals and rural teachers who share our student-centered educational philosophy, have a strong desire for reform, but need expertise and support to transform their motivation into a feasible action. RCEF staff work year-round in the schools to help principals and teachers plan and implement changes in school management, ranging from articulating school missions through to hardware improvements and teacher professional development.



One local third grade homeroom teacher said:

“After RCEF came to our school, I felt happier and more confident to try new things in my teaching. Before, whenever I had ideas, I would just stay quiet because I felt nobody would understand. Now I have RCEF teachers to talk to and discuss things with and it feels really good.”

In addition, RCEF establishes rural libraries, creates online tools, and organizes trainings and conferences so that motivated principals and teachers from around rural China can network and share experiences with each other.

A rural primary school principal from Henan Province said in a remark about RCEF:

“Before participating in your program, I didn’t know there are so many people out there who care about rural schools. I am very happy that I got in contact with your organization. You gave me new motivation and ideas to improve the quality of rural education.”

Site Profile:

Guan Ai Primary School is a privately managed non-profit boarding school located in Shanxi Province in the central western part of China. Its name means “Loving Care” and it serves approximately 200 children in grades one through six. Many students’ parents have migrated away to work leaving their children to be raised in the school.



RCEF partners with the school because of the strong motivation, vision, and track record of its local leadership. RCEF staff members live and work at the school, assisting it in improving its management and establishing school-based professional development. RCEF has also catalyzed enriching curricular innovations like a student vegetable garden, a library and reading program, and a student-run newspaper. RCEF aims to disseminate the best practices and lessons learned from this typical rural school to inspire and reach out to more schools and teachers throughout rural China.

Funding & Awards:

RCEF has been the beneficiary of funding and recognition from the Global Fund for Children, Echoing Green, Tiger Woods Foundation, Proliteracy Worldwide, Do Something, Susan Sarandon, Goldman Sachs, and individual donors. RCEF has also received coverage on CCTV (China's major news channel) as well as newspapers, magazines, TV, and radio stations in North America and Europe.



To Support Us:

RCEF relies on donations for the continuation of these worthwhile programs. RCEF is a 501(c) (3) public charity registered in the U.S.A. **Donations in the U.S. are 100% tax-deductible.** If you would like to assist RCEF by donating online or volunteering, visit our website www.ruralchina.org and follow the links. Checks made payable to “Rural China Education Foundation” can also be sent to:

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