

Project Shine 2013

Glad to be back!



Since 2008, Project Shine organized by Culture Regeneration Research Society (CRRS) has led over 100 North American youths and adults to China to teach English to underprivileged students in rural areas such as Guangxi. Over the years, Project Shine has given English lessons to over 1,200 senior high students and has provided them with a once-in-a-life time cross-cultural experience.

陽光計劃

Esther: This year, Project Shine revisited one of our beloved places - "Rongshui County"; to teach their grade 11 students. Our 25 team members consisted of mostly young people and adults from Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and San Francisco. I was really glad that my brother, Emanuel, was able to join us this year.

When we reached the school, joyful tears began to well up as soon as I saw students waiting for us at the gate. I said to myself, "I am glad to be back" since there was a long absence due to my maternity leave. There was a joyous feeling of 'returning' to building relationships with the students and teachers and to the humid, but beautiful scenery.



Home Visit: Mandy was one of the CRRS sponsored students in her senior high school years. She is now in college studying nursing so she can take care of her blind mother. Her dream is that one day her mother's blindness could be healed so that she would see Mandy's face.

As our Project Shine team members visited her home, we realized how loving and hardworking Mandy is despite all the hardships that she has to face. Her story inspires us all and helps us to realize how blessed we are living in North America.

Father and son team
Charles and Justin



Brother and sister team
Carol and Chauncey

Carol: On the last day, many students and team members cried and said their sad 'Good Byes'. During this touching moment, I felt that all our hard work had paid off. Although we had to leave each other, we did not leave the students with nothing - we gave them inspiration and a happy memory of two busy weeks.

Shirley: I went to China as a mother of one child and came home to Canada as a mother of 20+ high school youths after gaining both their affection and respect.



Mother and daughter team
Allison and Shirley



Sunny: My students taught me to appreciate my life in Canada and to take advantage of the unique opportunities. I am thankful for the opportunity Project Shine offers the “teachers.” As a CBC (Chinese-Born-Canadian), it is an amazing cultural-exchange experience that provides deeper insight into our heritage!

Siaw Yee (Left 2nd in photo) : I was one of the teachers who was blessed with an opportunity to learn and grow as a person. My first world perspective was shaken by the positive attitudes of the students. The simple way of life in this rural town and in the home villages reminded me of how differently we (North Americans) live our daily lives and how fortunate we are having such rich and abundant lifestyles.

Deanne (Left 1st in photo) : One moment that I will never forget was during the ‘one-on-one’ session where we asked our students to express themselves in Mandarin. My students told me about all the hardship they faced, including poverty, male sibling bias and parents who are ill. Some students explained to me that they would probably never be able to finish high school while others would never be able to go to university because they have to work to support their families. It was heart-breaking to hear all their troubles. I remember holding one of my students and telling her that she will be okay. The feelings I shared with my students were so strong. I love them so much.



Canadian teachers dressed in Miao tribe clothing!



Guangxi Student’s Sharing – Gwen: “The Project Shine English teachers are very friendly and very patient. They not only bring us a lot of help, they also bring us a lot of joy. I like them very much; I also like the Project Shine activities. I will try my best to learn and improve my English. I will study hard, because I believe that “failure is the mother of success” and “success is no accident”.”



One of the students, **Zack** has dwarf syndrome (the boy on the left), despite his condition, he has brought so much joy to everyone around him. At the tender age of 15, he lives on his own because his mother left the family when he was young. His father (with some mental problems) has to work in another city. Undeterred by these difficult life circumstances, Zack from Rongshui does not give up hope but tries to live life to its fullest and tries his best in all aspects of life including learning English. He has become an inspiration for many!

Emanuel Leung (in orange shirt) :I have taught in China before, so I had some idea of what to expect. This time, as a veteran English teacher of the team it was refreshing to act as a mentor to the younger teachers, giving some teaching tips and providing Mandarin translations for the others. I enjoyed this experience very much and would like to join the team again!