



认助中国乡村教育项目系列  
Support Education In Rural China Program Series

# 2014 Annual Report



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MCLEAN, VA  
PERMIT 7092

Education and Science Society  
P.O. Box 9525, McLean  
Virginia 22102-0525 USA  
web: [www.esscare.org](http://www.esscare.org)

Education and Science Society, Inc. (ESS) is a non-profit, non-political educational organization, registered as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization in the State of New York. Its missions are to promote understanding between the peoples of the United States and China, and to promote human and social development in rural China by raising literacy levels and improving the quality of education.



## Education and Science Society, Inc. (ESS)

### Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	Dr. Mu-Ming Poo
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr. Lungching Chiao
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Wu-Teh Hsiang
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dr. Keh-Chun Leu
<b>Members</b>	Dr. Hua-Tung Nieh Mrs. Molly Kao Yen Mrs. Minwen Chia

### Support Education in Rural China (SERC) Executive Committee

**Chairperson** Dr. Lungching Chiao

### SERC Project Team Leaders & Members

#### Provide Reading & Informational Resources

##### Rural School Libraries

Minwen Chia, An Xiao

##### Rural Public Libraries

Changchuan Wu

##### Rural Multimedia Information Centers

Jiangeng Song

##### Read Classics Program

Rui Zhang Lungching Chiao

#### Improve Teaching and Learning in Rural Schools

##### Rural School Teacher Workshops

Fang Wu Ruimin Hu Lungching Chiao

Sen Qi Bei Zhang Yixin Zuo

##### Rural School Teacher Exchange Program

Yichen Sun

##### Vocational Training Workshop for Rural Girls

Lungching Chiao

##### Summer Camps - Science

Zhida Song-James Fang Gao Dansui Pan

Rui Ding Ming Liang Yan Gu

Bei Zhang Hong Liao

##### Summer Camps - General

Rui Ding

##### Rural Schools Sports Projects

Gongwei Jiang

##### Rural Schools Music Projects

Lingling He Gongwei Jiang

#### Provide Financial Assistance to Rural Students

Molly Kao Yen, Wei-Lei Hubbard, Yang Qi

Y.T. Lau, Zhubing Ren, Ming Liang

<b>Website</b>	Longlai Wang, Dansui Pan
<b>Video Production</b>	Changfu Chang, Ruimin Hu
<b>Technical Support</b>	Y. T. Lau
<b>Legal Consultant</b>	Elisabeth Yap, J.D.
<b>Accountants</b>	Yorke, Burke & Lee, CPA/PA
<b>Annual Report Editors</b>	Fang Wu, Gongwei Jiang An Xiao, Dansui Pan, Mingwen Chia Ming Liang Sen Qi

# Support Education in Rural China (SERC) Program Series

## 2014 Annual Report

### Table of Contents

#### ESS Support Education in Rural China Program Series:

Major Results and Activities at a Glance (1988-2014) . . . . . E-3

#### From the Chairperson of SERC:

Investment In Children Brings Infinite Dividends . . . . . E-4

#### Series I: Providing Reading Material and Information Resources

ESS Adopt Rural School Library (ARSL) . . . . . E-4

ESS Rural Public Library . . . . . E-4

ESS Children Reading Chinese Classics . . . . . E-4

ESS Rural Multimedia Information Center –  
Teaching Equipment . . . . . E-5

#### Series II: Improve Teaching and Learning

##### Elementary School Teachers Workshops

◆ Workshop for Art and Music Teachers in Anhui Province . . . . . E-5

◆ Workshop for Rural Elementary School Science Teachers  
in Chongqing . . . . . E-5

◆ Workshop for Female Rural Elementary Teachers in Lanzhou . . . . . E-6

◆ Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools (CRTAS) . . . . . E-6

◆ Country Girl Vocational Training Project . . . . . E-6

##### Summer Camps and Activities for Students

◆ Science Summer Camps and the Volunteer Teams . . . . . E-7

◆ Music and Physical Education Projects . . . . . E-7

◆ Music Equipment Program . . . . . E-7

◆ Physical Education Equipment Program . . . . . E-7

◆ ESS-ACC-NCCU Summer Camps . . . . . E-7

#### Series III: Financial Aid for Rural Students . . . . . E-8

Diagram of the SERC Program Series . . . . . B-1

Table 1: Number of ESS Rural School Libraries by Year . . . . . B-2

Chart 1: Growth of ESS Rural School Libraries . . . . . B-2

Table 2: Number of Rural School Libraries by Province/Region . . . . . B-2

Table 3: ESS FARS Awards by Year and Student Groups . . . . . B-3

Chart 2: ESS FARS Awards by Year and Student Groups . . . . . B-3

Table 4: ESS FARS Awards by Province/Region . . . . . B-3

Table 5: Location of ESS Rural Multimedia Information Centers . . . . . B-4

Table 6: ESS Music Program – Number of Schools by Region . . . . . B-4

Table 7: Location of ESS Rural Public Libraries . . . . . B-4

Table 8: ESS Summer Camps by Province, Year and Theme . . . . . B-5

Table 9: ESS Summer Camps in 2013 – Campsites & Partners . . . . . B-5

Table 10: ESS Conferences & Co-Sponsor Institutions . . . . . B-6

Table 11: ESS Rural Elementary School Teacher Workshops . . . . . B-6

List of Sponsors of the ESS SERC Program Series 2012-2013 . . . . . B-7

# ESS Support Education in Rural China Program Series

## Major Results and Activities at a Glance (1988-2014 )

### SERC Series I: Providing Reading Material and Information Resources

	Adopt a Rural School Library (ARSL)	(since 1989)	5,720 ARSLs
	Adopt a Rural Public Library (ARPL)	(since 1988)	47 ARPLs
	Adopt a Rural Multi-media Information Center (RMICS)	(since 2007)	24 RMICs
	Read Chinese Classics Program	(since 2000)	313 Schools

### SERC Series II: Improving Teaching and Learning

#### Professional Development for Rural Teachers

◆	Nationwide Conferences on Basic Conference	(since 1993)	49 Conferences
◆	Workshops for Rural Elementary School Teachers	(since 2013)	4 Workshops
◆	Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools	(since 2014)	23 Teachers
◆	Training Workshop for Rural Science Teachers	(since 2014)	105 Teachers
◆	Training for Rural Female Teenagers—Early Childhood Ed	(since 2014)	16 Minority Teenagers

#### Summer Camps for Rural Children

◆	Summer Science Camps	(since 2009)	54 Camps
◆	Summer General Activities Camps	(since 2007)	26 Camps
◆	Summer Music Camps	(since 2009)	5 Camps
◆	Summer Reading and Writing Camp	(since 2012)	1 Camp
□	Rural School Classroom Book Club	(since 2012)	97 Classroom Book Clubs

#### Nationwide Essay Contests and Publications

◆	Read to Discover (Students)	(1996-2012)	17 years
◆	Teach to Inspire (Teachers)	(1996-2012)	13 years
◆	Publication of Selected Awarded Essays	(in 2011)	

#### Providing School Equipment and Facilities

◆	Musical Instruments	(since 2003)	401 Schools in 20 Provinces
◆	Physical Education Equipment/materials	(since 2003)	69 Schools in 4 Provinces
◆	Instructional and Science Laboratory Equipment	(since 2002)	38 Schools
◆	Computer Equipment	(since 2007)	657 Sets (21 Multimedia Centers)
◆	Audiovisual Equipment for Schools in Destitute Counties (SDCs)	(2002-2010)	40 Schools
◆	Other Needed Equipment and Facilities for SDCs	(2002-2010)	60 Schools (Several Thousand Sets)
◆	Classroom and Office Furniture for SDCs	(2002-2010)	63 Schools in 3 Provinces
◆	Equipment for Rural Teacher Training Centers in SDCs	(2004-2010)	10 Counties in 8 Provinces
◆	Students Beds for Boarding Facility in SDCs	(2002)	One School
◆	School Broadcasting Systems	(2005)	2 Schools in 2 Provinces

### SERC Series III: Financial Aid for Rural Students

◆	Primary School	(since 1997)	<b>Total Assistanships: 22,091</b>
◆	Middle School		2,415
◆	High School & Vocational School		10,365
◆	College and Graduate School		7,282
◆	Special Education (in Special Education Schools)		1,045
			984

#### Special Projects

◆	Tree planting project in Inner Mongolia & Gansu	(2003)	70,000 trees
◆	Soya bean workshop & pig farm in Fuping County, Hebei	(2003)	One School
◆	Arts/skills training for girls in Destitute counties, Gansu	(2003)	2 Schools
◆	Multi-media Equipment in Earthquake Disaster Area	(2008)	10 Schools in Sichuan



# ESS 2014 Annual Report Summary

**From the Chairperson of SERC, Dr. Lungching Chiao**

## **INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN BRINGS INFINITE DIVIDENDS**

The missions of the Science of Education Foundation (ESS) are to promote understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and China and to promote human and social development of economically underserved communities in rural China. ESS supports Chinese rural schools by providing reading material, improving teaching and learning, and providing financial aid to rural students.

In 1988, ESS started its “Support Education in Rural China” Program series (SERC). Since then, SERC aims for visionary, efficient and implementable projects. ESS has managed to use its limited resources to meet the need of rural children. ESS is always exploring new approaches to best support these schools so that benefits are maximized.

ESS is very appreciative to the support, encouragement and donations of hundreds of people within and outside China who have involved in the SERC programs over the past 26 years. As Mr. Quan Au, a supporter of ESS programs said, “Money in a bank earns little interest; investment in children brings infinite dividends.” Indeed, education is a long-term and greatest investment. Only with everyone’s concern and support can we hope to make a difference in the quality of education for the rural children.

## **SERC SERIES I: PROVIDING READING MATERIAL AND INFORMATION RESOURCES**

### **ESS Adopt Rural School Library (ARSL)**

Ms. Minwen Chia and Ms. An Xiao took the lead for the Adopt a Rural School Library (ARSL) project in 2014. During this year, in addition to the long-time donors (K. P. Tin Foundation, The Tan Family Education Foundation, and Mr. Siu Kuen Au), we received world-wide donation from 13 donors, including San Wei Book Company’s donation from China. A total of 119 schools in 14 provinces and autonomous regions benefited from donated libraries, most of which are elementary schools.

In 2014, ARSL application forms were streamlined, administrative tasks were accomplished through e-mails and phone calls. ESS volunteers experienced tremendous growth through learning from each other in the process, and enjoyed the teamwork spirit.

The Rural School Library working group thanks all ESS regional agents in China for their volunteering, dedication and cooperation. Without them, our work would not be successful!

### **ESS Rural Public Library**

ESS Adopt Rural Public Library is a long-term project. The goal has been to supplement and maintain the existing libraries rather than opening new ones. A total of 46 Ai Hua Libraries have been established in the past two decades, among which 32 remain open today. In 2014, this project received \$1000 donations. The funds have been distributed to 7 Ai Hua Libraries to reward their outstanding services. As of today there are no public library in counties and towns in China. It needs more governmental involvement to build the township public library system.

### **ESS Children Reading Chinese Classics**

The Chinese Ministry of Education is designing “Study of Chinese Classics” textbooks for elementary and middle schools, and planning to adopt the unified textbooks throughout the country starting in 2015 academic year. These textbooks will be published in 25 provinces and will include contents about culture as well as history of those provinces. This is indeed good news for the next generations of Chinese children.

ESS has been promoting “Children Reading Classics” project since 2001. Up to this date, there are 313 rural elementary schools in 18 provinces that have received books of Chinese classics. Mr. Siu Kuen Au, a Chinese American, donated nearly 10 thousands volumes of these books every year for numerous years. In addition, he also funded ESS reading activities and teacher education projects. Contents with his modest living style, Mr. Au donated every spare penny he earns to support ESS projects. His generosity and vision inspired many ESS volunteers to continue working to improve education in rural China.

## **SERC SERIES I: PROVIDING READING MATERIAL AND INFORMATION RESOURCES (continued)**

### **ESS Rural Multimedia Information Center – Teaching Equipment**

The new name of “ESS Rural Multimedia Information Center Project – Teaching Equipment” project reflects its shifted focus on purchasing/upgrading teaching equipment for elementary and middle schools in rural areas. In 2014, this project cooperated with “ESS Summer Camp” project for the first time, and purchased computers and other equipment for two summer camps in Shaanxi province with \$6000 donation from Lui and Wan Foundation. Using another donation of \$4000 from Lui and Wan, ESS worked in collaboration with Hunan Chunlei Foundation to furnish computers and other teaching equipment for one elementary school in Hunan province.

## **SERC SERIES II: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING**

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER WORKSHOPS**

In 2014, the design of ESS teacher training projects went through a major transformation. The previous annual large-scale International Basic Education Seminar was replaced by several small-scale regional Elementary Teacher Workshops. The training workshops have the following new features: (1) fewer trainees in each workshop (no more than 100 teachers participating) to enhance individualized learning; (2) locations are distributed in several provinces to reduce travel cost for participants; (3) longer training sessions (6-10 days) to better consolidate learning outcomes; (4) limited to the classroom teachers in rural areas who had no training opportunities previously; and (5) targeted specific teacher populations (i.e. art and music teachers, female teachers, science teachers, etc.).

#### **2014 ESS Workshop for Art and Music Teachers in Huainan, Anhui Province**

In 2014, ESS and Anhui Department of Education jointly sponsored a workshop to provide in-service training for 76 teachers of arts and music. The workshop was conducted by Huainan Normal College on its campus between July 16 and July 21. The teachers were from Anhui and Sichuan provinces, none of whom participated in any formal state training previously.

Topics discussed in the workshop were determined based on pre-training survey and research. The workshop included lectures in special topics, teaching observation, experience-sharing, and seminars. Instructors included faculty members from Huainan Normal College and Shanghai Normal University, as well as master teachers from the local elementary schools. Prof. Daisy L. Hung from Taiwan and Prof. Fang Wu from the United States were among the instructors in the workshop; their lectures were well received by the participants. The administrative team at Huainan Normal College managed the training workshop very effectively through providing handbooks and guides to the teachers; establishing teachers’ archives (including registration forms, attendance records, evaluation forms and survey forms); and providing social media platform for participant interaction, participant-instructor interaction, and after-training follow-up. The workshop concluded with an art exhibit and a concert that showcased the works by the participating teachers. This successful training model may be adopted in similar cross-provincial workshops in future.

#### **2014 ESS Workshop for Rural Elementary School Science Teachers in Chongqing**

From Oct. 23 to 27 in 2014, a total of 67 teachers participated in a science education workshop at Chongqing Normal University. Among them, 51 were from impoverished counties in Chongqing, the other 16 were from impoverished counties of Henan Province. This workshop was sponsored by ESS with funding from K. P. Tin Foundation. Chongqing Normal University’s School of Elementary Education organized this event.

The working team at Chongqing Normal University used social media to reach out to the participating teachers prior to their arrival, in order to clarify the goal of this workshop and gather specific requests from the teachers. As a result, this workshop had the following special features: (1) including the topics that specifically target the needs of the teachers; (2) providing diverse contents that focus on application of theory in practice; (3) case study through diagnostic analyses; (4) establishing a field base in Chongqing for elementary teacher training, through which the participating teachers will be followed and monitored afterwards. Survey results indicate that the participating teachers considered this training model as highly effective.

## **SERC SERIES II: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING (continued)**

### **2014 ESS Lanzhou Workshop for 100 Female Rural Elementary Teachers in the Northwest Region**

From July 13 to 22, 2014, ESS and Northwest Normal University's School of Teacher Training jointly sponsored a workshop in Lanzhou, Gansu province. One hundred female teachers participated in this workshop. They were from rural elementary schools in two provinces (Gansu and Qinghai) and three autonomous regions (Ningxia, Xinjiang, and Inner Mongolia). About 10% of the teachers were ethnic minorities (Hui, Man, and Uighur nationalities).

A group of internationally known scholars lectured in the workshop and shared their experience and new ideas with the participants. They include Prof. Daizy L. Hung from Taiwan; Prof. Fang Wu, Prof. Honggang Jin, and Prof. Debao Xu from the U.S.; and Prof. Li Jinyu, Prof. Zhou Ye, Prof. Shi Yitang, and Prof. Gao Xiaoqiang from the faculty in the School of Teacher Training at the Northwest Normal University. Three graduate students at Northwest Normal provided excellent administrative support in daily operations of the workshop.

The participating teachers were seated around several round tables in the classroom. This arrangement facilitated group discussions and interactions between lecturers and participants. The participants were not only actively engaged in the workshop, they also wrote diaries at the end of each day to be posted next morning. In the diaries, the teachers summarized what they learned during the day. They also expressed their appreciation to this training opportunity, which opened new windows for them to see the world as well as their future career.

ESS and Northwest Normal University intend to sponsor the Lanzhou workshop for a term of three years. The planning for the 2015 Lanzhou Workshop is currently underway.

### **2014 Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools (CRTAS) Program**

In 2014 the Education and Science Society (ESS) initiated a new series "Coaching Rural Teachers Across Schools" (CRTAS). This is an inter-provincial teacher exchange effort to further address critical shortages of qualified teachers and institutional capacity in Chinese rural area.

In order to improve the quality and efficiency of rural education and to enhance teacher skills by real-life experiences, every year, ESS will contract with local Education Bureau from a less developed area to select 2-4 primary school teachers. The selected teacher trainees will receive 2 weeks of practical training in an exemplary school from a different province. During the training period each trainee will be assigned a mentor from the model school. According to the contract, ESS will be responsible for the accommodation expenses during the training period, and the trainees' home Education Bureau will reimburse transportation costs. Before the trip, the trainees will draft personal development plans; during the training, the trainees will complete training dairies, attend classes and take notes, draft teaching plans, lead lectures, design tests, provide class progress reports, and draft a new personal development plan; after the training, the trainees will submit training summaries, lead reporting seminars at their home schools to demonstrate and share learnt experiences.

Upon completion of the program, all teacher trainees have raised their awareness of advanced teaching methods, curriculum design, learning concepts, and up-to-date child development theories. Wu Shengren, a math teacher from Tianzhu Xian wrote after the training: "A teacher cannot blindly carry out teaching plans; one has to reflect upon his classroom practices. The class planning session at Shushan Xiyuan Xincun Elementary School taught me it was not easy to be a good teacher - one has to truly understand math, understand our students, and understand the art of teaching... I now realized that I practiced too much, but reflected too little."

In 2014, 23 teacher trainees from Gansu Province have joined the program. They travelled to Chongqing, Sichuan, Anhui, and Beijing in a total of 6 trips. Looking forward, the ESS will contract with selected model schools to establish a long-term partnership. We will explore the possibilities of inter-program collaborations so as to share resources and enhance training outcome.

### **2014 ESS Country Girl Vocational Training Project**

After seeing a report on TV about the internationally known Beijing Changping Country Girl Vocational School for Practical Skills, ESS official and volunteers made a special trip to its campus in summer 2014. During the visit, they were very much impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the principal and teachers, as well as the discipline and hard work of the students. A new collaboration was formed after the visit. In September, 16 girls (16 to 20 years old) of Hui nationality from poor villages enrolled in the school with support from ESS. According to the school report, this class of students took full advantage of this opportunity by actively engaging in study and other school activities. The students graduated after the 3-month training program in early childhood education. They learned basic knowledge and skills required for a preschool teacher, including music, dance and arts. They also gained confidence in their future career. Now the students become teachers in the country preschools of their hometown. They joined the force to tackle the most challenging task of rural education in China – raising and teaching the “home alone” children, whose parents left for the cities to find employment.

## **SERC SERIES II: IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING (continued)**

### **2014 ESS Science Summer Camp and the Volunteer Teams**

In 2014, ESS worked with 12 volunteer teams in 11 provinces/autonomous regions to sponsor 15 science summer camps. A total of 1659 rural school students participated in the camp activities. These camps were funded generous donations from K. P. Tin Foundation, The Tan Family Education Foundation, and Washington Zhiqing Association. Books were provided by the Siyuan Renhui Foundation.

By 2014, ESS Science Summer Camp program had been in place for six years. Nearly one thousand of volunteers have participated in the activities, many signed up for more than once. Most of these volunteers were undergraduate and graduate students in China. Through carefully planned activities and interaction, our volunteers inspired the rural school students to actively pursue their dreams.

The summer camp experience also became a learning opportunity for the volunteers. For example, the Loving Angel Association for Education Assistance at the Northwest Normal University had organized the summer camps for three times in the past. They became more efficient organizers for the camp. More importantly, in the process they gained first-hand knowledge about the harsh reality of Chinese rural education, which further confirmed their commitment to this noble cause.

### **2014 ESS Music and Physical Education Projects**

In 2014, ESS continued to emphasize the importance of art and physical education in children's "all-round" development, which has often been overlooked in many test-driven school systems in China. With generous supports from donors and local organizers, ESS sponsored three summer camps for music and physical education, and provided music instrument and physical education equipment to many rural schools.

#### **◆ 2014 ESS Sishui Music Summer Camp**

In summer 2014, ESS and The Tan Family Education Foundation jointly sponsored the Music Summer Camp for Rural Students. One hundred students spent joyful 5 days at their own school – Sishui Elementary School of Longsheng County, Guangxi Province, to experience the magic of music. The Lark Public Service Group in the Music School of Guangxi Normal University organized the activities for this camp.

#### **◆ 2014 ESS Helong Music and Physical Education Summer Camp**

From July 14 to 18, ESS and K. P. Tin Foundation sponsored the Music, Arts, and Physical Education Summer Camp for rural youth in Helong Elementary School of Sangzhi County, Hunan Province. In addition to the faculty from the home school campus, some teachers in the camp were selected from the class that participated in last year's Changsha Teacher Training Workshop. Ms. He Lingling (professional soprano from the U.S.) and Ms. He Juan (art teacher from Changsha) not only gave lectures to the students, but also provided training for the local music and art teachers. The camp activities were very well received by the students.

### **2014 ESS Music Equipment Program**

In 2014, ESS provided musical instruments to 6 schools in Shaanxi, Hunan, Gansu provinces, and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. In coordination with the music summer camp program, the instruments used in the summer camp were donated to the local schools after the camp concluded.

Music instrument donated to Lidian Elementary School of Tongwei County, Gansu Province, helped to maintain a music band in school that plays the local "Tongwei Melody", which has been classified as a national intangible heritage. The donations also helped the students in the school to pass national music instrument performance proficiency exams.

### **2014 ESS Physical Education Equipment Program**

In 2014, ESS provided physical education equipment to 9 schools in Chongqing, Shaanxi, Heilongjiang, and Gansu provinces. Working in collaboration with the ESS summer camp projects, the equipment were donated directly to the hosting schools after the summer camps ended.

### **ESS-ACC-NCCU Summer Camps**

In 2014, ESS works with Associated Colleges in China (ACC) and National University of Governance (NCCU) from Taiwan to organize 4 summer camps in Heishan County, Liaoning Province and Feixi County, Anhui Province. The missions of these camps were to promote cultural exchanges and share new ideas in education. Each camp lasted for 5 days. A total of 484 students participated in the camp activities.



### SERC SERIES III: FINANCIAL AID FOR RURAL STUDENTS

In 2014, the Financial Aid for Rural Students (FARS) program of Education and Science Society, Inc (abbreviated as ESS) supported over one thousand students to complete their education in rural China. Recently Chinese government has extended its compulsory education up to junior high school level, which means that students in China will receive 9 years of education free of charge. Consequently, ESS redirected its focus toward high school students with financial needs. The fund distributions for this year are:

- Elementary and Junior high school students: 28%
- High school students: 48%
- College and graduate school students: 14%
- Students with special needs: 10%

This year, the applications for financial support from students exceeded the amount of donation that ESS received during the year. Below are the guidelines ESS used to select candidates for financial aid:

- Orphan or single parent
- Stay behind (parents left home to the city for employment and children stay with grandparents or relatives)
- Boarding in school (student's home was too far for the student to commute daily)
- Extremely low family income or the family experienced catastrophic situations
- Native residents living in remote regions

The FARS program started in 1997 to support 33 students. As of today, there have been over twenty thousands students received the financial support from ESS. This accomplishment was primarily a result of the individuals and charitable organizations' generous donations. Most of our contributors are those who are middle-class or living by their wages. They have wisdom, vision and belief to support those children living in the rural and mountain regions so that every person will have the equal opportunity pursuing basic education. These children will now have the opportunity to learn and to join the workforce of the society in future.

Our financial aid program matches donors' choices and the availability of students from various provinces. There are many heart warming stories throughout the years. An old soldier from Taiwan lived under a frugal life in order to save pennies to support 50 junior female students boarding in the school from mountain region of YuNan province three years ago. All 47 of 50 students passed their entrance examination to be admitted in high school last fall. Now, the question is: where will their support come from since the old soldier passed away? When the words got out, many people reached out to us voluntarily and carried out the soldier's dream for the children's advanced level education. Many contributors track the same students from elementary to college; many parents passed away and their children continue the parent's generosity; many children donate money in memory of their parent's love and passion.

FARS is entering into its 18th years. The key to our successful program is largely due to the fact that we have many hard-working coordinators in each province. All of them are volunteers. Every one of them devoted his/her own time and energy to carry out the tedious tasks seamlessly, from contacting the school to identify the students in need for the financial assistance, to collecting the required personal and school documents to send to the donors. Because of the cooperation among three partners—the donors, the provincial coordinators, and the ESS volunteers, we are able to foster a new generation of productive citizens.

