



# ChangAi Children's Project Newsletter

November 2008—April 2009

## ChangAi celebrates its first year of operations

The 14th of March 2009 marked the anniversary of the signing of ChangAi's project agreement with its provincial-level partner, the Yunnan Women's and Children's Development Centre (YWCDC) and the completion of Year 1 of project operations in ChangAi's four project villages.

On the 30th of March, the ChangAi Beijing Management Team (BMT) received annual reports from its partners at the township-level, local Women's Federations, recounting the project

activities for the year in summary and in detail for the prior six-months.

At the end of April, the BMT flew to Kunming to meet with the YWDC and then spent one week with both township Women's Federations, planning activities for Year 2. The BMT was joined by Brooke Avory, ChangAi's Partnership and Liaison Officer, who arrived in Beijing at the beginning of March to work with ChangAi for one year as part of the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development Program.



New loan recipients plan how they are going to use funds for pig-raising or sugarcane growing in Year 2 of ChangAi's micro-credit loan scheme.

## Project activities up close:

### November & December 2008

- A **child mental health and awareness training** session was attended by 36 villagers. Villagers were provided with information on the *Child Protection Treaty* and children's rights.
- 46 villagers from Village 2\* attended the 2nd round of **sugarcane training**. Topics included how to increase per unit yield, growing techniques and selection of sugarcane varieties.
- 47 villagers from Village 1\* attended the 2nd round of **pig-raising training**. Topics included building a sty and common methods of disease prevention.
- **In-home consultations** by local veterinaries and representatives from the Sugarcane Centre were made to 12 loan recipients from Village 1\* and 11 from Village 2\*

### March & April 2009

- A **needs assessment for Year 2** was carried out to determine the next recipients of ChangAi's **education grants** and **micro-credit loans**.
- Year 2 micro-credit loans extended to 23 new families.

## Ongoing support from ChangAi:

- **Education grants** assist primary, lower-middle school and University-age children attend and board at school.
- A **health fund** provides for medical expenses for sick villagers and their families.
- **Micro-credit loans** assist villagers engage in pig-raising or crop-growing.

## Some upcoming activities:

Sugar-cane training	<b>May</b>
Pig-raising training	<b>May</b>
Child health and nutrition training	<b>Jul</b>
Child communication workshop	<b>Jul</b>
Life-skills training for teens	<b>Aug</b>
Training for heads of families	<b>Aug</b>

## Sponsorship, donations & kind support

ChangAi acknowledges the following people or organisations for their support:

- \* German ARD Radio station  
- Apple computer, keyboard
- \* The Wood Family 1,400RMB
- \* Lea and Teemu Vouri 866RMB
- \* Father Rom Murphy 874RMB

\* Village names have been changed for privacy reasons



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## Mission Statement:

*Our aim is to bring hope and opportunity to China's poorest and most vulnerable children by working with their communities to improve children's health, education, environment and life skills.*

## Contact ChangAi:

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## Project Overview

Founded in 2007, the ChangAi Children's Project operates in four villages in south-western Yunnan province which are deeply affected by disease, drug use and poverty.

The Project works holistically on four levels to:

- Directly support vulnerable children
- Enhance children's household environment
- Improve the local community's situation as conducive to child development and
- Develop a model relevant for supporting children in poor villages across China

From the Project's commencement in March 2008, ChangAi has a five year plan in which to work with local communities to enhance health and education opportunities for children.

## How you can help:

How you help is up to you! A few suggestions are to provide:

Your time or expertise

Toys or games

Art supplies

Computer equipment

\*\*Email [admin@chang-ai.org](mailto:admin@chang-ai.org) for more information.

ChangAi can make little funds go a long way:

**510 RMB** covers the education and health related costs of a junior middle school child for six months, **310 RMB** covers the same costs for a primary school child.

## Project village 3\* opens Child Activity Room



In February 2009, the ChangAi-sponsored Child Activity Room was completed in Village 3\*. The first official activity, an art workshop, was held in the Activity room in April during a visit by ChangAi Beijing staff.

In the top left picture, project partners and ChangAi staff work with children to bead sarongs and decorate hats and T-shirts. The two large book-cases in this picture are filling with toys and books sourced through a combination of purchases by the local Women's Federation and donations from ChangAi supporters.



The bottom left picture shows members of the local Women's Federation, ChangAi staff and the children holding their designs outside the Child Activity Room.

\* Village names have been omitted for privacy reasons