



ChangAi Children's Project Newsletter

November 2010 - April 2011

ChangAi supports toilet project in Ruili and Wanding

Yunnan Ministry of Health recently launched a policy to improve hygiene and sanitation in the countryside. As the improvement of toilet conditions has been on the agenda of ChangAi and is a key part of this policy, we decided to provide financial support in the construction of toilets in three project villages in Ruili and Wanding. A standard toilet designed by Yunnan MOH costs 3,000 RMB – each household contributes 1,850 RMB, the local government provides 550 RMB, and ChangAi provides 600 RMB. Contribution by households themselves is

essential to ensure the understanding of benefits from improved hygiene standards. In total, ChangAi gave support to 50 households, providing 600 RMB for each. Construction is already under way ahead of the rainy season.

We expect improved hygiene at home to have a positive impact on children's health, leading to better concentration at school and thus benefiting their education and living environment. Healthier parents are also in a better position to care for their children.



Toilet upgrade under construction

Project activities up close:

April 2011

- ChangAi Beijing team visited the project area to follow up on progress of the past year and plan activities for Year 4. New projects in Year 4 include:
 - New round of microcredit loans in Guangpa village for cattle raising as requested by villagers and previously assessed by ChangAi and Ruili WF.
 - Start microcredit loans in Suoyang village, where ChangAi has been supporting children's education through grants, skills-building workshops and setting up the Children's Activity Centre.
 - Expansion of the microcredit program to two new villages, Nongshuang and Nongmudong. The loans will be used for pig breeding, as well as sugar cane and corn planting.
 - Capacity building workshop for Ruili Women's Federation staff.
 - Folk dance training for students in the villages of Suoyang and Guangdong.
- Joe Horn, co-founder of ChangAi, met with Secretary Liu of Dehong Youth League Committee in Kunming to discuss the help needed after the recent quake in Yingjiang, as well as a traditional handicrafts project to preserve minority culture.

January – March 2011

- During two sessions in March 2011, loan beneficiaries participated in experience-sharing activities to discuss use of loans, project outcome and how the loans made an impact on their lives.
- Two sessions of loan management training were held in January where experts taught farmers how to budget and use the loans in an efficient way.
- On 2nd January 60 children from Nongdao and Huyu towns attended training on traffic safety and drugs and AIDS awareness, organized by Ruili Women's Federation and the local police.

December 2010

- ChangAi raised over 3,000 RMB from participating in Christmas gift fairs in Beijing, selling souvenirs and ChangAi greeting cards, and promoted our project among local and international communities.

Sponsorship, donations & kind support

ChangAi acknowledges the following people for their support:

- Joe Horn
7,094 RMB for trip expenses
- Elizabeth Horn-Phathanothai
Books and games for children



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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.
- 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 for more information.

ChangAi can make little funds go a long way:

800 RMB covers the cost of microcredit training session for 10 persons.

560 RMB covers the education and accommodation expenses of a high school student for 5 months.

200 RMB covers the cost of weekend folk dance classes for 20 children.

Activities and training



Experts trained ChangAi beneficiaries in Ruili on efficient use of loans, management of income and expenses, and household accounting.



In March 2011 Ruili Women's Federation organised experience-sharing activities for 60 farmers. Discussions were held on how to improve production, manage funds, and the outcome of the projects sponsored by ChangAi loans.



ChangAi team and Wanding Women's Federation carried out interview with Suoyang villagers to assess their income situation and the need for microcredit.