



600 guests attended our 2011 Annual Seng Girls Vocational School Charity event in Shenzhen (read more on page 4)



Project Eden is growing, helping foster families and advanced schooling for Qinghai girls. (read more on page 3).



Several families in Project 200 are benefiting from our trial mushroom program (read more on page 5).

Happy New Year...

Welcome to our 2011 end of year edition of Simply Captivating. We hope this update finds you well and enjoying Christmas and New Year celebrations with family and friends. Thank you again for your support throughout 2011. We've had a busy but wonderful six months – a period of growth in some areas, consolidation in others as well as due diligence of some exciting new project opportunities we will start in the new year. All of this has only been possible thanks to generous support from our growing global family of donors, volunteers, dedicated staff and on-the-ground Chinese partners and their cooperative governments. Thank you everyone.

In this issue you will see updates on our work in Qinghai, Guangdong, Heilongjiang, Gansu and Sichuan Provinces. You'll read about our fund-raising activities as well as an exciting new major project about to commence in Guizhou Province.

This issue comes fresh off the back of our largest fund-raising event of the year – our Shenzhen Annual Charity Auction in support of the Seng Girls' Vocational Training School. We still can't wipe the smile off our faces at all that has happened thanks to tireless work by auction committees, volunteers and our staff here in China. But, first things first, we need to get this update to you all. We hope you enjoy it and pass it to your friends. As always, please drop us an email from time to time. We'd love to hear from you.

Best wishes for a fantastic 2012.

Andrew & Julie Colquhoun and the team from CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL



An annual midnight 10km race in Shenzhen raised money for Project Eden. (More on this and other thank-you's to donors on page 2).



Check out our latest NEW project. Captivating joins forces with Heifer International (China) to end poverty for 450 families (more on page 2).



Our AMAZING Charity auction committee in Shenzhen were responsible for organising our most successful event ever. Thank you so much. (read more on page 4)



Families starting to see first fruit from our Sapling Program (read more on page 5)

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Captivating and Heifer International (China) join forces

This month marks the beginning of a new six year village development initiative that will see 450 impoverished families step up and out of poverty. Captivating is thrilled to be partnering with Heifer International (China) and will be working directly with two of the poorest villages we can find in the challenging mountainous province of Guizhou.

Alicia Zheng from Captivating's Shenzhen office has spearheaded this initiative with due diligence over the past 5 months and we are thrilled to be moving ahead with it. This project is focused on helping families to at least double their income earning potential and, in the process, ensure they can afford to keep their kids in school and, importantly, progressing through to high-school.



A key part of this initiative is a family's responsibility to "pass-on-the-gift". This will see other families benefiting from this program every two to three years.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We will be using family sponsorship as the key financing vehicle for this project. Our work will initially commence with 150 families. You can sponsor one of these families for US\$40 a month/\$480 a year and we will keep you updated on their progress. Not only that, if you continue your support from year to year, you will also start to see other recipient families who start to benefit from your support thanks to the passing-on-of-the-gift program. Please contact us directly on sponsorship@captivating.org if you would like to sponsor a family. Family details will be available soon on our website www.captivating.org



We will have many stories to tell about home businesses being established, animal husbandry, water treatment solutions, environmental improvement, and vegetation/crop developments.

Introducing our latest initiative - Guizhou Province Village Development



Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You!



Greg and his volunteer team are amazing. For the third year running they have organized an amazing charity race at midnight in Shenzhen, this year raising US\$17k for Project Eden. Check out our www.captivating.org/blog/ for a review and 4 minute dvd on this awesome event. Thank-you to the 125 runners who ran on the night and the many corporate sponsors.

Whalen Furniture Manufacturing Inc have underwritten the Seng Girls Project since we started 4 years ago. This is made possible because of generous executives (Ken, Gus & Lynn, and Chad) as well as ongoing charity events in their US office. We love you guys (as do 120 girls).



Project Eden – Guangdong Province

Project Eden has really grown this year. In August more children needing our support joined Eden and in September, as part of our plan to expand the support for the Qinghai girls' vocational development, another 4 girls came down to attend the local school and to learn intensive Chinese. In total, we now have 17 children being cared for in a safe and caring environment. The children have adjusted really well to life in a new and very different province. The environment at Eden has helped a lot with this adjustment, living in a family and country setting. They are all doing very well at school, getting good reports from the teachers and taking part in sports activities. The girls from Qinghai need help with their homework, as all subjects are taught through Chinese.

The group was also thrilled to receive a second-hand van at Eden these past few months. It seats seven people and can also be used to carry goods. Previous to this, they depended on public transport for getting around and had no means to deal with an emergency if it arose. A big thank you to our two very generous sponsors from Australia, who donated funds to purchase the van (see photo!).

We had our first opportunity to sell bracelets made by the girls, at the Treasures of Hope shop birthday celebration in September. The bracelets generated great interest and we plan to continue to develop this as potential for income in the future.

Finally, we want to give special thanks to two new China based project sponsors who have embraced Project Eden. Greg and his team of volunteers who organised the annual midnight charity race in Shenzhen (see our other story on this – pg 5). Greg's work covers 50% of the total budget for our foster family program. AWESOME!!! Also Aaron and his team from Treasures of Hope in Dongguan who will be giving part of the monthly profits from his business to Eden every quarter. This is truly wonderful.



OTHER THANK YOU'S

The rest of Eden's budget is made up of sponsors and donors from around the world who simply have a desire to help kids. The girls from Qinghai are supported through sponsors and supporters as part of the Seng Girls' Vocational budget. If you are one of those who support either Project Eden or these girls, then we thank you for your generosity. Eden is moving from strength to strength and bringing hope to all these kids in incredible ways. They are indeed lucky but, more importantly, are making incredible progress in their confidence and education. It is so encouraging and heartwarming to see the impact your continued support has on the lives of these children. Thank you.

Find out more stories about Project Eden by visiting our blog at <http://www.captivating.org/blog/category/project-eden/>

Qinghai Province – The Seng Girls Vocational Training School

This project continues to expand and shine – year on year. It is hard to keep pace with it's growth and impact. So many girls are making such amazing progress. There is also, however, so much more we can do for girls from this province. The work of our partner, LOVEQTRA, is simply amazing as they continue to help this province with both this project as well as continuing development work in the earthquake devastated region of Yushu.

The Girls Vocational School is still operating at capacity with 100 girls calling it their home and place of safety, love and nurture. At time of writing, 16 girls are supported in advanced learning and vocational development in Guangdong Province. We are excited to have two of these girls in our Captivating Shenzhen office doing an internship with the plan to go back to the Girls Vocational School and coordinate child sponsorship reports and correspondence. Three girls are studying in Beijing and more girls are in Sichuan. Our efforts are now focused on trying to see girls through as many school grades as possible. One of the challenges we face is that the level of Chinese spoken by many is very poor, and without Chinese they will find it difficult finding employment. So, our efforts are doubling in this area these next few years.

Again, we have been so well supported by the Shenzhen community through the 3rd Annual Charity Auction and our key project sponsor, Whalen Furniture Manufacturing Inc. These two events combined with over 100 child sponsors from around the world make this project possible and give these girls the chance they could otherwise only dream of. Thank you all for your wonderful support as we continue to grow and expand this wonderful work. We are working with LOVEQTRA to see more girls helped and look for ways to move this project towards self-sustainability in the years to come.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT

We still require child sponsors. Each girl in this project requires 2 sponsors @ US\$40 a month each. Alternatively, you can be the full/only sponsor of a girl for US\$80 a month. Go to the child sponsorship section of our website for full details www.captivating.org



FINAL THANKS:

This project would struggle to exist if it wasn't for the wonderful work and dedication of LOVEQTRA (on-the-ground partners in Qinghai) and our volunteer Project Manager, Lynn Velez and her wonderful auction planning committee. Thank you all so much.



WANT MORE INFO ON THIS PROJECT?

"LIKE" our Facebook Page (Search "Captivating International" on Facebook) or follow our Seng Girls Vocational School BLOG on our website. www.captivating.org. You will find on our blog video uploaded covering our charity auction which is amazing (also on youtube at CaptivatingStories).



Heilongjiang Project 200 – mushrooms anyone



Project 200 is about bringing hope to the poorest children we can find in this Northern China community. We are partnered with government schools to support these kids so they can remain in school and progress through their education.

This past six months we have also been busy experimenting with some poverty reduction programs. This has been a difficult challenge for us as many of the children we support live with aging grandparents having been abandoned by parents or who have lost their parents through mining accidents or divorce. Poverty reduction strategies are therefore limited.

As introduced in the last update, we have now successfully completed our trial of mushroom growing. The final result for our pilot study was an estimated 73% return on investment. This solution will now be rolled-out to other families who have the land and physical capability to make this a success. Over time these families can expand their capacity through reinvesting some of the profits.

Thanks again to a family in Australia who has funded this mushroom program and also to all those who sponsor these children from around the world. Your support not only keeps your child in school, but has enabled several other children to do the same also.

One of the grandmas proudly harvesting her mushrooms. These are then dried and taken to market.



Our Captivating Field representative, Phoenix, visiting one of the families to inspect progress of a sponsored child and the project.

Our Sapling Project – Sichuan & Gansu Provinces

Since 2008 we have been planting Plum and Walnut Saplings in rural mountainous locations of Sichuan and Gansu Provinces. Participant families receive up to 100 high yielding, specially grafted saplings, along with several years of technical training and support to see these trees mature over a period of up to 5 years. To date in excess of 50,000 trees have been planted. With the exception of one group of trees that were planted at altitude's too high for good growth, results have been mostly positive. Some saplings planted in 2008 died through an unfortunate combination of planting too high in altitude followed by an extremely harsh winter. Otherwise, success rates are above 85% which is above our planned expectations. We will continue to monitor the impact that this solution has on the families who are relying on this project to bring them out of poverty over the years to come.



A villager planting a new sapling in Gansu province where 50 families took part in a pilot planting program.



Mr Lai providing technical training to village recipients in Sichuan Province.



A boy looking forward to a secure and safe future education.



The village leader showing off his saplings after one year of growth. These are on target to produce their first marketable yield in 2014.

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You!

Teachers and students from Shekou International School really went into fund-raising overdrive this past 6 months. They ran 25 separate fund-raising events and raised RMB46k (US\$7k) to supply an individually prepared backpack for all 120 girls at the SGVTS. Pictured are the amazing girls who spearheaded this great initiative. Thank you so much SIS.



When 24 Seng Girls came to Shenzhen to perform at the charity auction in October, both local schools (QSI & SIS) helped host them. Check out this video and several others at CaptivatingStories on youtube.

Visit <http://youtu.be/kg576mNERao> or alternatively, go to the Captivating BLOG on our website

Finally, all of us here at Captivating Shenzhen wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year. Thank you always for your incredible support.



We wish each one of you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful new year.

Tired of waiting 6 months for the next update?

You can do several things to keep up to date with the work of Captivating. Here's the best options:

1. LIKE our Facebook page (search for "Captivating International" on Facebook);
2. Follow our Captivating Blog (go to our website, select our BLOG page, then choose a project);
3. COMING SOON – you can become a member of our website and have your own sign-in option. Our system will then automatically email you whenever we have an update to your chosen project area.
4. TWITTER – oh...er... we're getting there but not quite as disciplined as we need to be. You can push us along by following our "CaptivatingKids" twitter account and you have full permission to harass us.



Can you help us help others?

"the habit of giving only enhances the desire to give"

– Walt Whitman, poet, 1819-1892



About Captivating International

Captivating International is a registered charity of Hong Kong (No. 91/9723) and an Incorporated Association of Australia. In Australia, we operate in partnership with International Children's Care (Australia) Inc, a registered Australian charity (Reg# A0034270A). In the US we operate in partnership with Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc (FOHKC), a 501(c)(3) registered charity (ID No: 30-0136665).

We can provide tax deductible receipts if you donate from:
AUSTRALIA, HONG KONG & UNITED STATES

We can accept donations from: ANYWHERE

To donate

Make everyone's life easier, **Donate on-line:**

www.captivating.org (Select your country and follow the directions)

By Phone: +61 2 8003 3100, + 86 755 2667 4830.

Email: info@captivating.org for any further instructions or questions.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: Search 'Captivating International'



CAPTIVATING INTERNATIONAL

CHINA: HaiHuiGe 1804, HaiBin Garden, XinHua Rd, Shekou, Nanshan District, Shenzhen, 518067, China.
Phone +86 755 2667 4830, Fax +86 755 2669 1450

AUSTRALIA: 2/14 Folkestone Place, Dural, NSW, 2158, Australia.
Phone +61 2 8003 3100, Fax +86 755 2669 1450

Get involved by emailing info@captivating.org www.captivating.org

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