

"RCEF has brought me not only an unforgettable experience, but also provided a platform to meet many like-minded, socially active, outstanding young people, so that we can interact with and learn from each other. We are from all corners of the globe, but we are connected in our passion."

– Volunteer in 2006

## What do our students say?



"In just two weeks, the volunteers gave me feelings I never had before: confidence, courage, and approval. I may not have learned much knowledge but I gained a lot of study strategies and principles I can use for a lifetime. I was very

happy and enjoyed these eight days. I really wish time could stay still."

"All of my classmates love your lively and intriguing strategies of teaching which involved everyone. We usually are too serious in class and lack participation. If all classes could be like yours, that would be good."



"I think the teaching strategies that you used were very good. Your way of teaching is lively and interesting. These classes taught us things we had never come in contact with before. I really don't want you to leave. The days we spent together were very happy. You taught English songs and made me realize the importance of learning English. I hope you will come back and teach us again."

*All quotes above are from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders who attended our Summer Camps in 2005 and 2006.*

## How can you help?

- By offering **your ideas and feedback**: [feedback@ruralchina.org](mailto:feedback@ruralchina.org)
- By participating in our **online Study Group** and discussion forum. See [www.ruralchina.org](http://www.ruralchina.org).
- By becoming a **committee volunteer** in research, fundraising, public relations and education, curriculum development, or translation. See [www.ruralchina.org](http://www.ruralchina.org)
- By being a **volunteer teacher in rural China** next summer. See [www.ruralchina.org](http://www.ruralchina.org)

Get involved! Email:

[recruiting@ruralchina.org](mailto:recruiting@ruralchina.org)

Donations can be made online (Paypal) or checks mailed to the address at [www.ruralchina.org](http://www.ruralchina.org).

Please direct inquiries to: [donations@ruralchina.org](mailto:donations@ruralchina.org).

Donations are tax-deductible under U.S. law.



**You can help ...  
even if you don't have 1 million!**

## Rural China Education Foundation

## 乡村教育促进会



**Quality education for rural children  
and rural communities**

We see the hope in their eyes ...



[www.ruralchina.org](http://www.ruralchina.org)

## What is RCEF?

The **Rural China Education Foundation (RCEF)** is an international, 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education to enrich children's lives and strengthen communities in rural China. We are made up of professionals and students in China, Europe, North America, and Singapore.



The foundational pillar of RCEF is the strong belief that improving the relevancy and “software” of education — providing a motivating learning environment linked to community needs — is crucial to the larger effort to educate and develop rural China.

In the last two decades, government and NGO resources have focused on the basic hardware of education, such as building schools or donating education materials. Thanks to these efforts, access to basic schooling is no longer the critical problem in rural education.

However, the vast majority of rural children still drop out during or immediately after junior middle school, in stark contrast to urban areas where most children finish high school. This is due to a combination of factors, such as lack of relevance schoolwork has to daily life, discouraging teaching methods, financial obstacles and insufficiently trained teachers. The current exam-centered education system is biased towards funneling the best test-takers to urban areas, leaving the vast majority of rural students with few life-relevant skills.



and thinking skills in all children.

RCEF believes that education should not merely serve as a narrow escape route for the best talents, but develop life

## How is RCEF different?

- We believe that education should improve the lives of all rural children, not just the ones who do well on tests.
- We focus on what goes on *inside* the classroom, on the quality of teaching and what students learn.
- We want to help rural children to enjoy learning and develop life skills, self-esteem, and social responsibility through their education.
- We see rural education in the context of rural development. We want to understand and strengthen local communities.

We bring together volunteers from inside and outside of China to exchange ideas about education and work to adapt them to the local needs of rural Chinese education.



## What does RCEF do?

### Volunteer Teaching Program

Every summer, RCEF volunteers run summer camps for rural children. Classes taught include Speaking Skills, Theater Games, Arts & Handcrafts, Philosophy, Health, Oral English, Science Experiments, and Community Research. They are designed to foster creativity, self-confidence, teamwork, and students' understanding of the world.

### Supporting Volunteerism in China

RCEF identifies college students and grassroots groups in China that have innovative ideas about improving rural education. We subsidize them to do research and implement quality education projects in villages.



### Public Education

RCEF shares teaching materials with other organizations in our annual guidebook. We also have an online Study Group and discussion forum for people to learn more about rural China.

### Curriculum Development

RCEF researches and develops effective teaching curriculum for children in rural China. We produce a handbook for short-term volunteers which includes lesson ideas, teaching advice, information on educational psychology and suggestions for planning a short-term volunteer program.



## What do our volunteers say?

“It’s extremely eye-opening to see the “other half” of China away from the bustling, developing, dazzling cities and urban population. Very few outsiders really get to spend time in the countryside. Getting to know village children, and feel like you are bringing them some hope or encouragement by your presence and stories, is very rewarding.” – *Volunteer in 2005 & 2006*

“What I learned and discovered about myself after joining RCEF was totally new. I thought of things which I had never thought of before. I realized that helping rural education in China is far more than a romantic dream.” – *Volunteer in 2005*

