



## Organization Profile 2012



## Introduction

According to the World Health Organization (2009), Orbis International and the National Statistical Yearbook (2008), China has 20% of the world's blind population. There are nine million blind and visually impaired people in China. 70-80% of these people live in rural areas, but 70-80% of the eye doctors in China live in major cities. Statistics show that cataracts are the cause of blindness in 42% of this population.

The least fortunate among the blind are the blind orphans. Very few blind orphans get an education; the fortunate ones become masseuses, working 12 hours a day in a little street shop for a very small wage.

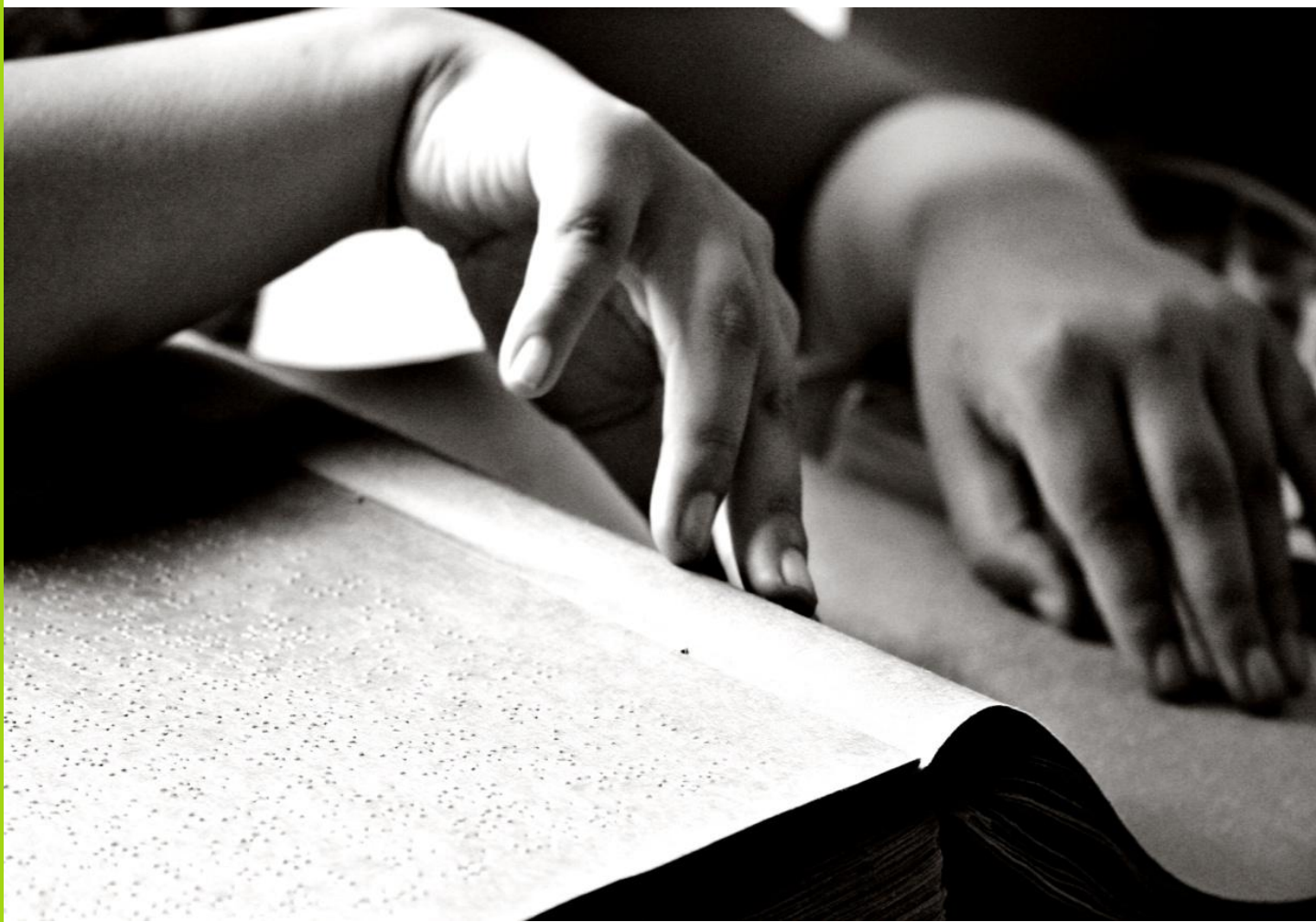
Bethel has been established in China: to care for the blind orphans, to give them hope, and train them for a better future and an independent life.

### **Bethel's vision**

A fulfilling life for every visually impaired orphan

### **Bethel's mission**

To provide care, education, life skills and livelihood opportunities to blind and visually impaired orphans in China in order for them to live independently as dignified members in their society, and to train anyone with the same vision.





## Presentation

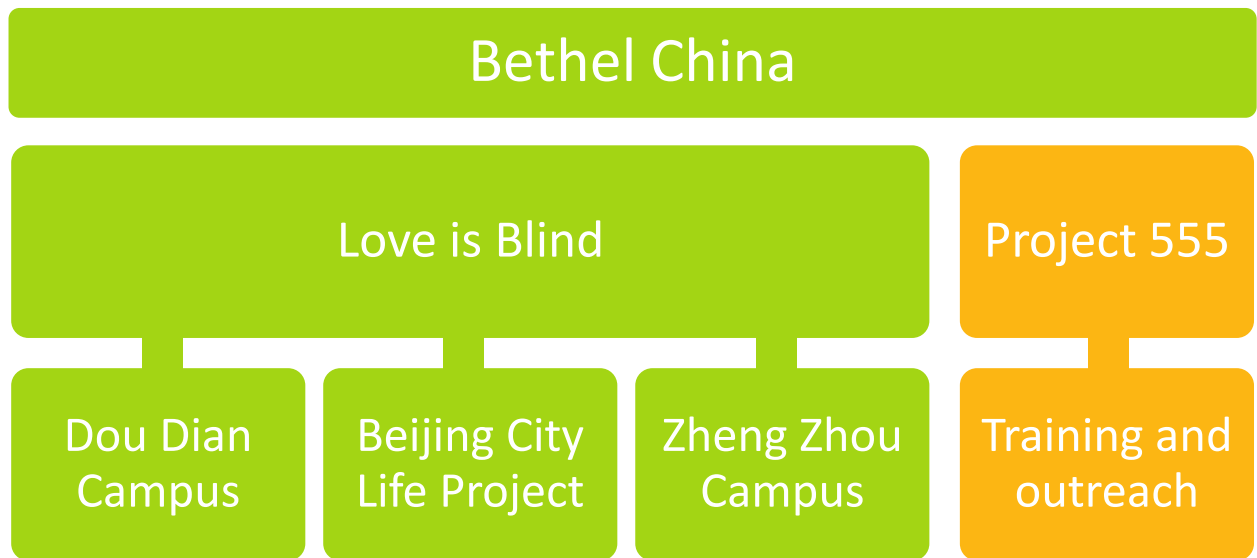
Bethel is a not-for-profit organization that provides foster care, education and professional training for Chinese orphans who are blind or visually impaired. The Project's training center, named the 'Love is Blind' campus, is located on a 17-acre property, in a small town just outside of Beijing. The organization was founded in 2002 by the French couple, Guillaume and Delphine Gauvain. The project has been approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs which provides sustainability for its operations in China. Bethel is also registered as a foundation in Hong Kong, the USA, France, Holland, Belgium, and Switzerland.

In addition to providing quality care and education for blind orphans, the project envisions the development of a community that is self-sustaining and respectful of the environment. We are currently producing our own eggs, fruit and vegetables, as well as raising chickens, and goats. And our use of the raised-bed gardening method, allows our visually impaired students to work independently in the garden. The Love is Blind campus also features a school for education, a gym for physical therapy, a swimming pool for aqua therapy and hippodrome for horse therapy.

On a national level, Bethel launched 'Project 5-5-5'. This Project, targets blind orphans on a large platform, providing professional training, supervision, and mobility tools to orphanages throughout China. The Project's 5-year timeline is designed to reach and assist 5,000 visually handicapped orphans. It is our vision to reproduce this model in other parts of China and the greater Asian community.



## Bethel at a glance



- 2002** Guillaume & Delphine research the work of NGOs in China and try to find a people group that is not being reached
- 2003** First Bethel house is opened in Lang Fang, Hebei province and houses 3 blind orphans from Tianjin orphanage (8 staff)
- 2004** Second home is opened, caring for 12 children (18 staff) - Board of Directors is established
- 2005** Opening of the third home, caring for 24 children (40 staff) - Start of Bethel school (2 staff) – Partnership with Children’s Hope International Social Work Committee
- 2006** Opening of the fourth home, caring for 31 children (60 staff) - Expansion of Bethel school (6 staff)
- 2007** Move to new facility in Dou Dian – Set up of farm – Renovation of the premises – Registration of Bethel China Ltd. in HK – Registration of Bethel China Ltd. Rep Office
- 2008** Construction of seven foster homes – Addition of second floor to adjacent building (renovations on-going) – Operations size (80 staff) – Purchase agreement with landlord
- 2009** Global training for Bethel staff – 4 houses built: children move in – Main building become a “real” school – hired a full time nurse
- 2010** Construction of the swimming pool – Project 555: start training for staff from others orphanages at Bethel – Training in 2 orphanages in Henan Province – Building partnership with an orphanage to open 2 classes in 2011
- 2011** Further diversification of farm activities – Opening of the Beijing Bethel Shop – Start the Beijing City Life Project with teenagers – partnership with Hilton Double Tree hotel for an internship – 11 children start classic school at the Beijing school for Blind – Open 2 classes for blind children in Henan Province

## Children under care





Foster care and Education encompasses three projects. The Love is Blind project, located just outside of Beijing, the Zhengzhou orphanage project and the Beijing City Life project.

## The Love is Blind project

The project in its current location offers services for up to 70 children at a time, and includes the following aspects:

1. **Foster Care:** seven separate houses where we strive to create a family atmosphere, providing 24-hour care for our children
2. **Education:** our school offers classes in English and Chinese Braille, Conversational English, Chinese, Mathematics, Science, Orientation and mobility, Daily living skills, Physical education, Social studies, Computer communication, and Hippo therapy, etc.
3. **Professional training:** in farming, gardening, office administration, language translation and piano tuning.
4. **Farming:** In regard to food, LIB is near self-sustainable as we grow our own vegetables and fruits. We have several gardens and raise goats, chickens, bees and rabbits.

The Love is Blind campus is designed to stimulate all their senses. Great importance is placed on providing a variety of exciting activities for all children, including sports, arts and crafts, field trips, music and entertainment, all of which are specially designed for the blind and visually impaired.

Bethel's school for the visually impaired was set up in September 2004. It started humbly in one room with 10 students and one teacher. With no access to adaptive technology or resources for the blind in the Chinese language, the teachers had to create their own educational structure. In the beginning, the children would count grains of rice so that their fingertips would get acquainted to the small texture (which would also help them with Braille). In time, Bethel was able to buy Braille paper and the equipment to manually write Braille.

Today there are 6 full-time teachers, 4 assistant teachers and 30 students. The size of the Bethel school went from 20 m<sup>2</sup> to 1000 m<sup>2</sup>. As the school grows, the standard remains for it to stay as competitive and technologically advanced as any of the top schools dealing with the same disability. A sponsorship program has been established to help cover the costs of the school. Our main goal is to help our visually impaired become independent citizens.

## Beijing City Life Project

The most important challenge to answer is "what will happen to these students once they grow up and are out of school?" Even though the LIB village is the best setting to serve as a training center and showcase best practice in care and education for blind orphans, its remote location makes it difficult for older students to practice and live out the independence skills they have learned on site, which would eventually allow them to get a job and live a regular life.

Bethel Foundation has opened 2 apartments in Beijing City so that the older students who are ready for independent living can really live an independent life, under the supervision of an Assistant teacher or Social worker. The student will have to adapt to "real life" in taking the subway to and back from school. Come home, do their homework and develop a social life like any teenager. The

Beijing School for the Blind is also eager to partner with us and enroll some of our students. Living in Beijing City will give them access to all the facilities like swimming pool, entertainment, etc. Also, since Bethel is advocating for integration, it will be an amazing opportunity for Bethel's student to enroll in an international school. Unlike LIB this is a project that is light on man power as the role of assistant teacher is mainly to assist and not care for the children who would already have acquired self care skills in previous Bethel's program (such as taking showers, preparing a simple meal, orientation & Mobility, etc.).

The Beijing project takes on a real life size with challenges and opportunities that are common to anyone.

LIB's site it is the best environment for babies and children Once self-care and basic education is acquired, LIB's strengths become these students' biggest limitation, such as the remoteness, lack of public transportation, social activities, schools, churches and job opportunities. Contact with "the outside world" is paramount if we want to have a successful integration of Bethel's students into society.

## Zhengzhou Orphanage Project

Love Is Blind (LIB) Zhen Zhou is a project that cares for 5 visually impaired and for the most part multi-disable orphans. The project is located within the Zhengzhou social welfare state run institution that generously provides the space for Bethel. Bethel provides education, specialized schooling and cares for the children between 8am and 5pm. At the end of 2012 we aim to have 30 children in care at the Zhengzhou orphanage.

The shared goal between the Love is Blind, Beijing City Life and Zhengzhou project is to foster independent living skills. To achieve this, the following independence model is applied.



## Bethel Independence Cycle

Programs	Bethel foster care & education programs	Bethel Independent Living Center	Beijing City Life Project	Mainstream society
<b>Independence</b>	<b>0 – 50%</b>	<b>50 – 70%</b>	<b>70 – 90%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Skill set</b>	Basic self care General Education Orientation & mobility Social skills	Daily living skills Initiation to work life Self organization skills	Professional life City life initiation Self reliance Advanced education	Independence Productivity
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 20 years (life time for low functioning)	6 months to 2 years	6 months to 2 years	Life time
<b>Group</b>	Low functioning blind orphans Middle functioning blind orphans High functioning blind orphans	Middle functioning blind orphans High functioning blind orphans	Middle functioning blind orphans High functioning blind orphans	High Functioning
<b>Brief Description</b>	The 'Love is Blind' campus is located on a 17 acre property with a school building, 7 homes, and a therapy center where children can grow in a safe, fun and stimulating environment	The Independent Living facility is a place on the Love is Blind campus where students are taught day to day self organization skills in a semi-assisted environment	The Beijing City Life Project consists of a pair of apartments. Bethel students that live there attend the Beijing School for the Blind and are taught community based life skills in a real life environment.	At this stage students have learned a trade with which they can financial support themselves and they can live independently without additional instruction and monitoring.



## Farming and the Environment

The 'Love is Blind' Project has been established on 17 acres of land. Some of this land is dedicated for the production of crops with the view to becoming self-sufficient. We grow a wide variety of summer and winter crops ranging from tomatoes till mint, cucumbers till strawberries and corn till pumpkins. 5 locally hired farmers maintain our gardens, greenhouses and fields in a "near organic" fashion, free from the use of chemicals and unnecessary additives and antibiotics.

Wheat and corn are grown on rotation each year. We also raise chickens, the eggs of which we sell to local schools and customers in Beijing. In addition, bees are kept for their honey and gift to bring about ecological diversity, and the goats, ducks, cats, rabbits and dogs top it off by completing our picturesque farming picture. The most recent addition to the property has been the planting of 600 walnut trees with the view to future production.

Bethel places a high value on the environment. Solar panels have been installed on the main building, along with the seven children's houses. The panels provide hot water, which is used for washing, cooking, and cleaning. To provide heat, a biomass boiler is used. The boiler, a greener alternative, reduces exhaust fumes, which translates into less pollution and better air quality. Bethel's independent water source comes from two water on-site water wells.



## Project 555

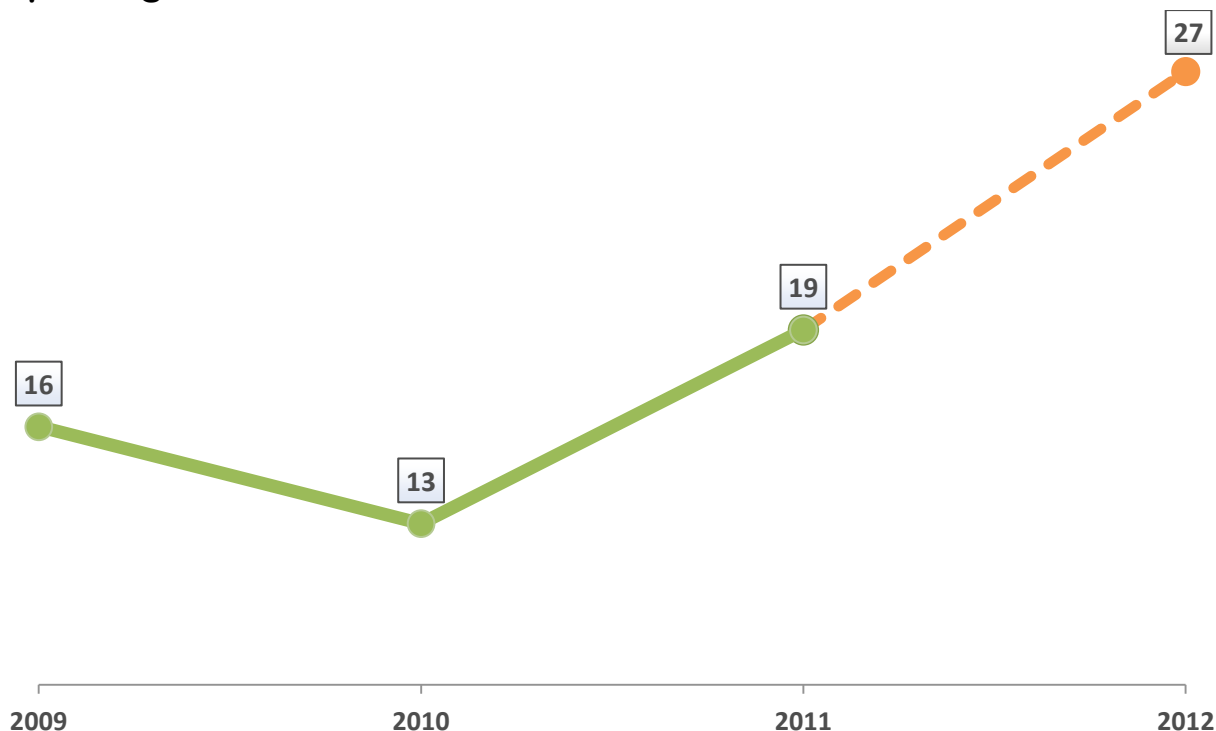
Bethel is currently implementing its national initiative: 'Project 555.' This new venture offers medical screenings, training, and resources for the blind and visually impaired, to orphanages throughout the provinces of China. 'Project 555' aims to widen the scope of operation of the Bethel Foundation in China. With the implementation of 'The Love is Blind' Project as a successful model for localized care of blind orphans, Bethel needed a platform to spread its methods to a national level.

Over the last six years, the 'Love is Blind' Project has worked with various orphanages across China. 'Project 555' will continue to build on this network to develop its programs. Already, orphanages representing thousands of children have received training in foster care, daily living skills, orientation and mobility.

Orphanages are trained in a wide range of topics related to blindness, mobility and general care. Topics include but are not limited to:

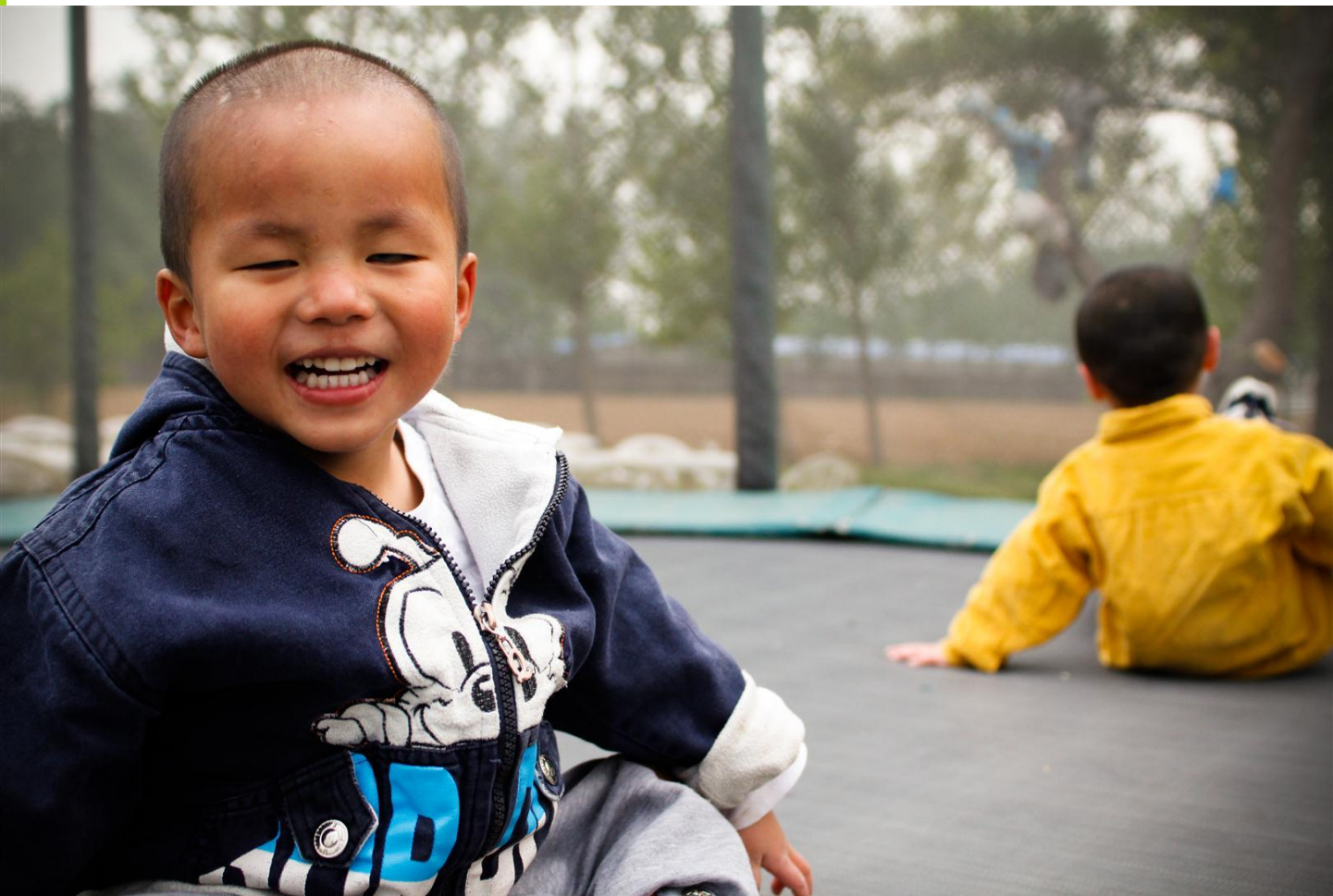
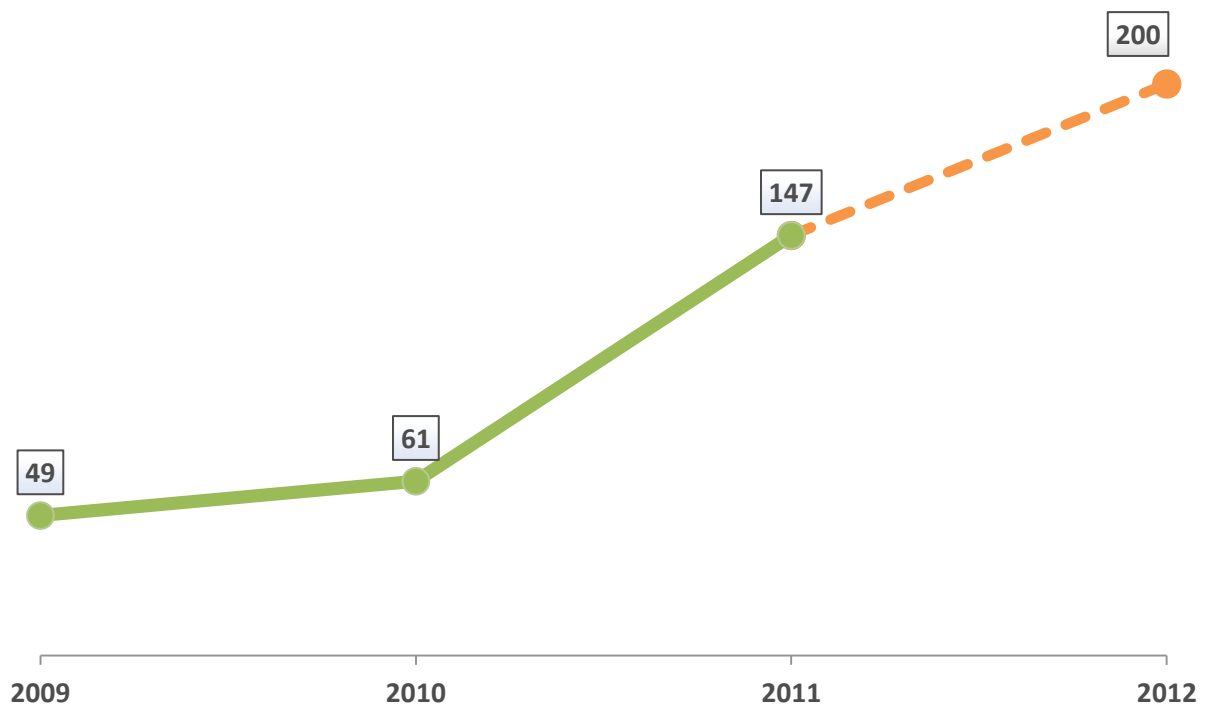
- Blind baby care
- Care for blind children with multiple disabilities
- Mobility training (how to walk with a cane, how to guide the blind)
- How to teaching Braille
- How to structure classes and curriculum for VI kids
- Physical therapy

## Orphanages trained



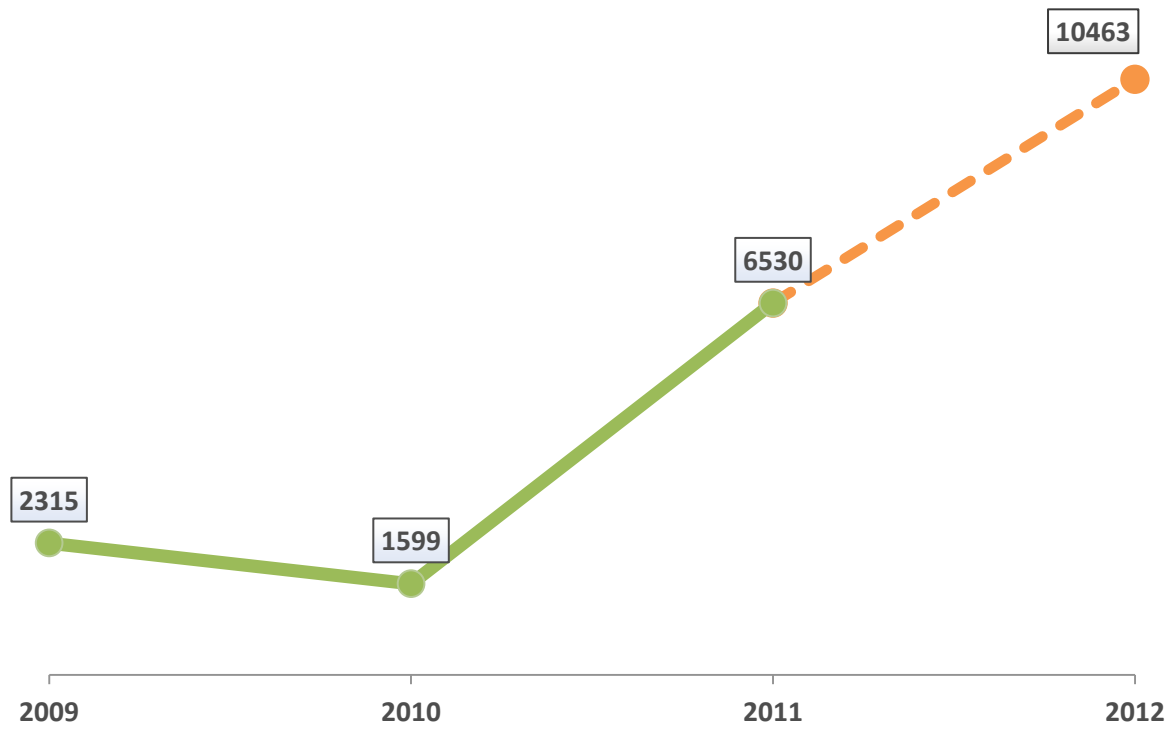


## Blind children represented by trained orphanages





## Impacted lives (both blind and non-blind orphans)



## Finances

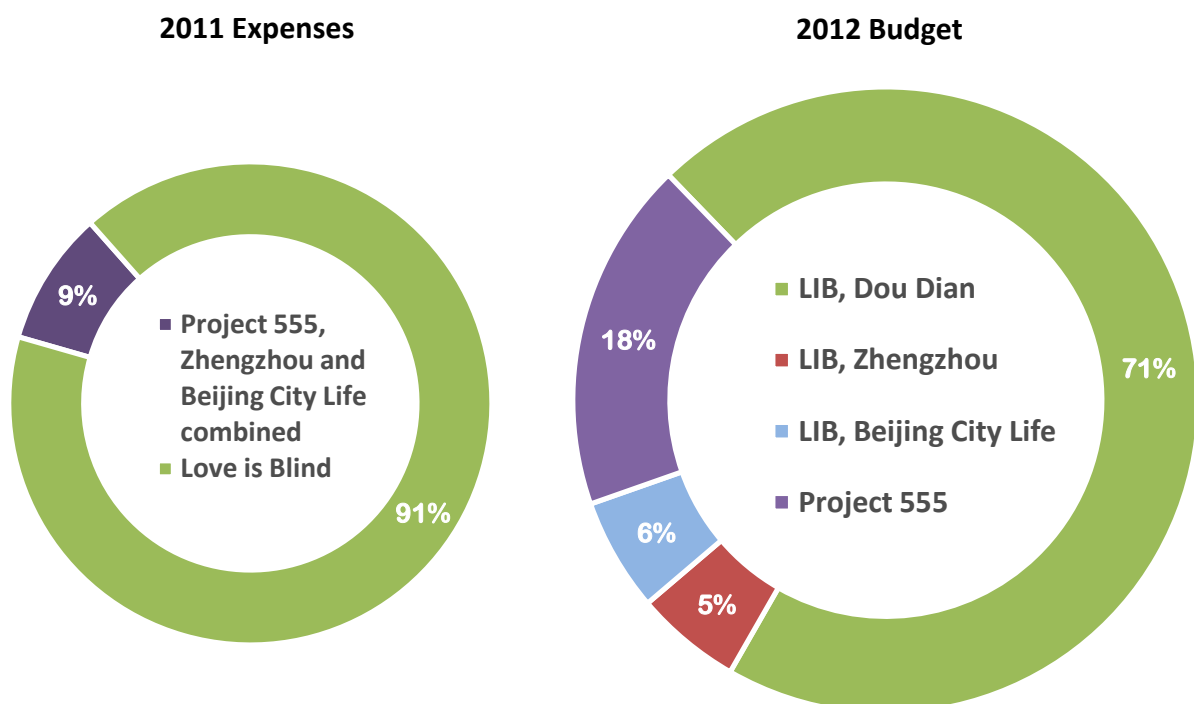
### Overhead

By keeping the administration side of Bethel in China, overheads are kept to a minimum. Teams of volunteers conduct all overseas fundraising. Projects are funded through the Beijing China office; department and project budgets are managed by their respective directors and monitored by the Beijing China financial managers.

### Financial Policies

Bethel employs a full-time accountant and bookkeeper to insure good financial reporting standards. One member of Bethel's Board of Directors leads the Financial Committee, which reviews monthly and yearly financial reports. On top of clear financial guidelines and cost control, Bethel saves 5% of all income, which is retained as an emergency fund. This fund is prepared for situations such as the global economic crisis or a downturn in donations.

### Budget



Total budget for 2012 is **1,240,410 USD**

### Fundraising

A development department has been set up to be proactive for meeting Bethel's needs. On top of our sponsorship programs, which are tailored to bring in regular monthly income for operational needs, the fundraising teams focus on key fundraisers throughout the year. Because it is a unique organization, Bethel receives good media coverage both from national and international TV, as well as radio and the written media.

Origin of donation is divided as follows: domestic 28%, overseas 72%.

## Needs and Priorities

The foundation's priority is financial sustainability. Our main need is to raise funds to cover running costs. What makes Bethel unique are not the cozy classrooms, the picturesque farm or the homey houses, but it is our dedicated and trained staff who are committed to see the kids flourish and grow. We would like to see the existing operations on solid grounds financially before continuing our expansion.

A child living in the "love is blind" village cost about USD545/month. Our project is very comprehensive in nature as it offers foster care, medical care, education, specialized education and professional training. We believe that the best way to care for a child is a comprehensive way. Our philosophy is to give the maximum amount of care and resources to each child. One of our core values is to ensure that each child is prepared and capable to one day live a fulfilling independent life. In every aspect, be it foster care, education or medical we continually strive to benchmark excellence and quality care as Bethel's standard.

Our National training program's best tool is the model we have established in "the Love is Blind" village. Its financial health will provide a platform for the long term to give countless caregivers an opportunity to see and experience what a healthy environment looks like for visually impaired orphans.

## Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility is a means by which an organization can positively affect Bethel, their own organization, and the local community, all at the same time. The Employee Enrichment Program gives organization employees the chance to impact Bethel's physical aspects, by taking part in activities such as harvesting corn or planting grass, etc.

Organizations have taken part in our Career Outing Program, which consists of taking our older students to a professional environment in order to broaden their horizons and help them gain new perspectives. Bethel's main goal is for our students to become "employable." On top of the Corporate Social Responsibility Programs, a more traditional Financial Sponsoring Program is available for ventures such as sponsoring the children's housing, the Braille teacher's salaries, etc.





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