



## CHRISTMAS 2015

Dear Bo Ai Friends,

We are especially exhilarated this year. For myself, I draw inspiration from the many exciting developments happening at Bo Ai campus and from the excitement and the impressive experiences being undertaken by our students, teachers and parents. Our hope is that the Bo Ai stories draw you in and connect you with life and achievements that enlighten us, shape us and make us proud Bo Ai-ers.

### 2005



and indeed by some in the province as a model, progressive school. We thank you with all our hearts for your magnanimous support and prayers.

A momentous, memorable day occurred on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005. On that bright morning 130 students with happy, expectant hearts walked single file from their old dilapidated school from a mile away through the gate to the then brand new Bo Ai Elementary School. Since then, you and I have traveled together these last ten years and have come to where we are today, come to be recognized in the county



### 2015



And so, in 2015, Bo Ai celebrates its **Tenth Anniversary**. Many came to help celebrate this happy anniversary year. Throughout the year, **675 Chinese nationals and 112 foreign nationals and many parents** came.

Space does not permit us to name all. Amongst the visitors were education ministers and government

officials from the **Xinyuan County, Changzhi Shi and Shanxi Province**, principals from many schools, educators from **Changzhi, Beijing and Hong Kong**, 40 from the **Changzhi Cuen Yu Commercial Association and Changzhi Ladies Executives Association**, 40 persons from the **Hobei Commercial Association**, the 45 person **Hong Kong Mission Team** led by Dr. Eilly Lau and Benjamin Chang, a 40 person **Mission Team from Texas Fort Bend Community Church** under the leadership of Kenneth Woo and Dr. Kin Lock. Our devoted friends, Michael Tse and his spouse, Janet Fan have year after year brought along their friends and introduced our students to **different cuisines**: dim sum, spaghetti, hamburgers, lo-mi zhi, shrimp chips, icecream etc.. Attorneys Leonard Girard and Pamela Jacklin from Portland donated a month's time teaching English at Bo Ai and introduced us to Pickle Ball. The **HK Island ECC** led by Minnie Ho and Wai Duen Lee conducted a summer camp for our high schoolers. Thanks to Frances Lee and Clement Lam, **the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the CEO Global Education Foundation** held the Second Summer Camp, guided by 80 Chinese and US university volunteers for 203 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Bo Ai and from the regional high schools. At the Summer Camp, **Mr. Lam Yuk Fei** directed and had the students construct a **City Model** using recycled materials and also paint a **Wall Mural** with the theme the students envision for what they would do for their China Dream. **Touching Lives Overseas of Canada** held a very successful Fund Raising Concert in May. Our kudos to all.



### CONTINUING EDUCATION

Bo Ai invites notable educators to hold seminars for our teachers and for the regional principals. Led by

Principal Liao Ya Zuan, Dr. Louise Tang, Frances Lee and Clement Lam, an educational seminar was held for our teachers and county principals. This will be an ongoing seminal event for the foreseeable future. . Director Wu Xiao Li, Principal Bao Zhen Ze and others from Beijing held another Advanced Educational Seminar for our teachers. Three other educational seminars were also held. We are also thankful to Simon Yeung who for the seventh year contacted the Annie Krau Memorial Foundation to sponsor three of our teachers to visit the Hong Kong Holmgla Primary and High Schools to learn about education outside the confines of Xinyuan or Shanxi. The teachers came back and shared their poignant experiences and knowledge with the Bo Ai staff. During the summer Bo Ai also sent three of our English teachers for a 10 day English Seminar organized by Principal Benedict Ng of Hong Kong in faraway GuiZhou to enrich our teachers’ English knowledge. In November Yun Tao of Portland and Ivan Tang of Hong Kong came again separately to impart their valuable knowledge and experience to our teachers.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES



not up to our expectations and need further analysis and direction.

This June we graduated our first ever group of **Ninth Grade middle school students**. We are especially proud that **our Bo Ai Middle School ranks number two on average scores** out of eight Xinyuan County Middle Schools even though our 30 middle school students who remained when we opened our Middle School three years ago were mediocre students. We are extremely happy that every one of the graduates continues onto senior high schools in Xinyuan or in Changzhi whereas previously when they graduate some might be tired of schooling and might drop out. I ascribe this that Bo Ai ingrains into their young minds that continuing their education at this stage in life is the most important duty in their life journey. Our **Elementary School** test results this fall quarter is

## THANKS TO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Recognized & sanctioned by the Education Ministry as a private, progressive school, beginning this year, the Government **provides funding** for about 75 percent of our teachers’ salaries. We are more than extremely grateful. In addition, the government equips our **Elementary School students** with **new computers** and classrooms with **white boards**. Our sports field remains to be built. The government comes in and is paying for the **basketball courts** and **tennis court** that are being built right now. However, we still **need to raise funds** for the **track and field, soccer field and volleyball court**. Two weeks ago, Bo Ai School was chosen as **one of six** Xinyuan schools to demonstrate to the **Shanxi Education Ministry** and to 90 Shanxi principals the present state of education in Xinyuan County. Each school was chosen for a special field of excellence. Bo Ai was chosen for its pioneering, innovative **three level teaching** in each class according to the learning ability of its students: above average. average and below average and for its **Remedial Educational Seminars** held monthly **for the Parents**. We are delighted that our Bo Ai was commended with an award for its demonstration.



## FIRST BO AI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



While we share with you prominently in this missive our current campus events, we would also like to take time to recognize the **454** Bo Ai students who went through our gates. Bo Ai is a young school, only 10 years young. **In July 2015**, we formed our **First Bo Ai Alumni Association**. **120** former Bo Ai Elementary School graduates attended. Many would have liked to have come but because of distance, work or university attendance, many sent their regrets. All had a great time including raffles and many shared their reminisce. What makes us proud is that they mentioned time and again the **character building education, habits they formed, willingness to serve and cooperative spirit** they gained at Bo Ai serve them well in their daily lives, in work and in society. Two are in medical school, one had attended broadcasting school. Close to forty are attending universities. Quite a few are married and two are mothers with a baby each. The Alumni Association will meet every three to five years at this time. We hope that in ten, fifteen, twenty years, the alumni will come back and help Bo Ai.



## GIVING THANKSGIVING

**Thanksgiving** is approaching soon. At Bo Ai for Thanksgiving, one of our signature event is not just giving thanks for our families or Bo Ai, but **also to give aid to a needy person or persons**. We have given instructions to our students to go home to find out if there is a neighbor, friend or relative who needs help or comfort. It may just be as simple as clipping their finger nails, toe nails or singing a happy song. Our school has identified a person who needs financial aid. Director Susan Zhang's husband is a vice principal at another school. The school cook, **Han Jian- Hung, a man in his 40's, is afflicted with degenerative osteoarthritis of both hip joints** with constant pain, sitting or walking, and he needs **bilateral hip replacement surgeries** in a Beijing hospital. Without surgeries soon, he will be wheelchair ridden and he will not be able to work. Bo Ai has looked into his case and our Bo Ai School will raise funds for his **150,000 yuan** bilateral hip surgeries. This sum is a very large sum especially for a village man. If you would like to help this unfortunate man, please let us know.



## PRAYERFULLY

As the **Three Level Teaching** is still quite new to our teaching staff, Bo Ai needs to solidify its delivery. We will do even more for the teachers' **continuing education** and set it at an even higher level, **send our teachers out** of the province for advanced courses, **invite more educators** to address our school. Bo Ai has a great and urgent need for **a counselor** for our students, staff and parents especially now we have teenage middle school students. Our four story **Elementary School Boy's Dormitory** for elementary and middle school boys is **ten year's old**. The **cement floor surfaces** have peeled off, the flimsy ten year old **doors** need replacement, **the restrooms, wash basins** need to be redone. The **remaining Sport's Field** needs to be built. The **low voltage wires** running from building to building out in the open exposed to the elements for years need to be put into conduits as often times the internet & telephone do not work. . Many **students remain to be sponsored**. All these needs remain to be taken cared off.

Bo Ai is still **without a principal**. As you know, due to the peculiar situations in China , the principal and vice principal had to return to their old posts. It has not been easy to hire a suitable principal to come to a village school. However Bo Ai has successfully instituted a **Committee of Twelve Directors** to help run the various departments of the School. We are also grateful that principals in Beijing have given us advice when we needed help

I am pleased to have shared with you through this Christmas Letter a snapshot of who we are, where we have been and where we are going. God has watched over and blessed Bo Ai School many folds during the last ten years. **May the Lord bless you with a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Season and May 2016 and continuing on in February, the Year of the Monkey, be a healthy, fruitful year for you and your love ones.**

Christine Chan  
Executive Director  
Bo Ai School

## Overseas Helping Hands

P. O. Box 91004  
Portland, OR 97291  
[www.overseasHH.org](http://www.overseasHH.org)

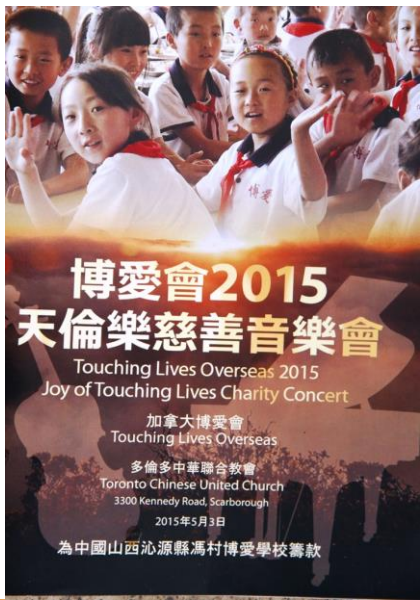
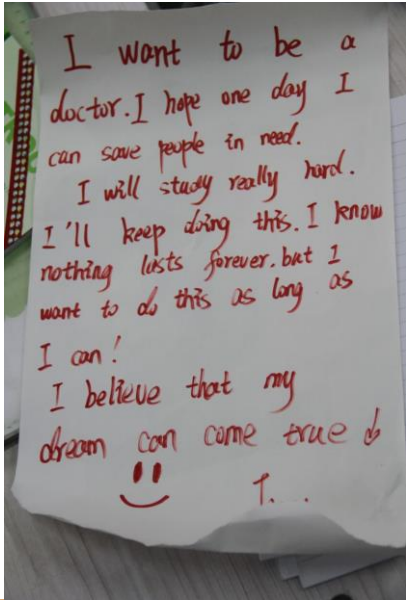
Overseas Helping Hands is a 501 C 3 tax deductible organization in the United States and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Our sister organizations, Bo Ai Foundation Limited Hong Kong and Touching Lives Overseas Canada are tax deductible non-profit organizations in their respective countries. All three organizations are conducted for the benefit of Bo Ai School. Donations to Bo Ai School or Student Sponsorships through the respective organizations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please see their respectively web sites for donations.

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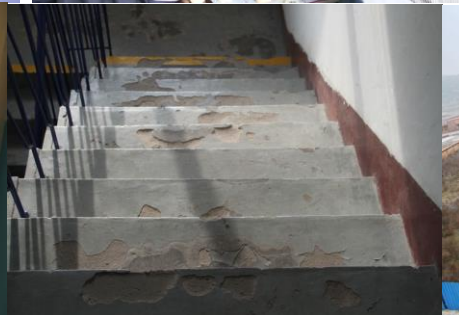
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## BUILDING FUND & STUDENT EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP FORM

**YES** I would like to donate to the Bo Ai School Building Fund or  
Sponsor a Child's Education through Overseas Helping Hands

First Name	
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Street Address	
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### I would like to donate to Overseas Helping Hands

**\$420** – Full-year sponsorship for one child's tuition plus room and board

**\$210** – Half-year sponsorship for a child

**\$35/month** for \_\_\_\_\_ months (please specify)

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month OR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year (please specify)

**BUILDING FUND** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to:

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