

COOL MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FUND

凉山教育促进会

Newsletter, Autumn 2007



Annual Report

In 2007, the Cool Mountain Education Fund (CMEF) gave an extraordinary number of scholarships to the 6th grade graduates of Yangjuan Primary School. Scholarships were awarded to students attending middle school in the prefectural capital of Xichang, to students attending middle school in the county town of Yanyuan and to students attending other nearby middle schools. New this year, we also awarded scholarships to students planning to attend the county vocational middle school. In total, scholarships were awarded to sixty-four students! This includes renewable scholarships for students continuing on to the 8th grade.

We are proud to announce that Yangjuan students once again did extremely well on their middle school entrance exams. Sixteen of thirty-one Yangjuan 6th graders tested into the county middle school. This is by far the best record of any school in the mountainous areas of Yanyuan County. We are very proud of our students, teachers and their scholastic achievements.

CMEF continues to make tuition more affordable for the families of Yangjuan village, by supporting operations of the school through faculty salary support. Successful calendar sales and generous gifts allowed us to raise teachers' monthly salaries by 200 RMB (approx. 25 USD), and offer a semester-end bonus for exceptional performance. Additionally, we were also able to supplement wages for extracurricular instruction, such as middle school entrance exam preparation classes. We continue to support teacher enrichment through curriculum development workshops. At the request of Yangjuan faculty, University of Washington graduate student Eddie Schmitt will provide a week-long workshop on English language instruction before the spring semester. We hope to

develop co-curricular programs in music and art for the future. With your support, we can sustain and expand these successes for Yangjuan Primary School students, faculty and staff.

Please join us in wishing our students good luck in the coming academic year.

Parents of Yangjuan School graduates attend a meeting where CMEF present scholarships for the 2007-08 school year



EVENTS & GIVING



COOL MOUNTAIN EDUCATION FUND SILENT AUCTION — SPRING 2008

Planning for the first annual CMEF Silent Auction is underway. Local arts and crafts, as well as student art from Liangshan will be represented at this event. Proceeds will fund primary school tuition, student scholarships, continuing teacher education, and new projects under development. *We need your help!* Join us in preparing for this event by donating an auction item, making a cash contribution, becoming a sponsor or volunteering your time. You can volunteer for the day of the event or lead a committee. Web page development skills are highly desired. Contact Lauren Brown (lebrown@u.washington.edu) to find out how you can get involved.

HOW TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

With your support, the Cool Mountain Education Fund can continue its mission of improving education in southwest China. Here's how you can make a tax-deductible donation:

- **Buy or reserve one or more calendars.** Our 2008 Yangjuan Primary School calendar, featuring UW and SU student photography are now available, just in time for holiday gifts. Calendars can be purchased online at amazon.com, by searching for “yangjuan” or “cool mountain education fund.” Order yours today!
- **Make an in-kind donation.** We would appreciate donations of the following items: digital cameras, digital voice recorders, memory cards, external hard drives, laptop computers, and donated brochure printing.

To discuss a possible in-kind donation, please contact Tami Blumenfied, CMEF Secretary, at tamiblu@u.washington.edu or by phone (206-200-8157).

- **Make an unrestricted contribution.** A one-time gift in any amount will be very useful to this year's graduates.
- **The gold standard!** Endow a three-year scholarship for a graduate of Yangjuan Primary School to attend the Prefectural Middle School in Xichang, or for two graduates to attend good middle schools in Yanyuan County. Pledge \$150 per year for the next three years, and receive a beautiful landscape or nature painting by artist Li JinYuan.

**All orders and contributions should be sent to
Cool Mountain Education Fund, 5038 16th Avenue N.E., Seattle, WA 98105**

Dedicated to the education of the Nuosu people and their neighbors,
Working for the preservation and improvement of Liangshan's environment.