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# Philanthropy in China

CHINA  
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PRESS



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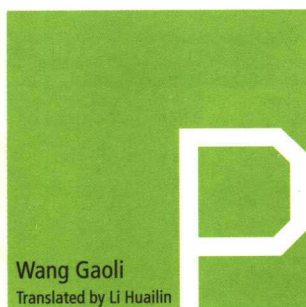
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Translated by Li Huailin

Philanthropy  
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# Contents

## 007 Sketches of Volunteers

- 008 Community Volunteers Take Care of Helpless People
- 011 Volunteer: Presenting Roses to Others, with Fragrance Left on Hand
- 015 Young Volunteers: Cheer for Bloom with Love

## 023 Schooling-Aid Action, Holding up Tomorrow's Sun

- 024 Ordinary People's Almsdeed
- 028 Obligation of Corporate Citizens
- 030 Lightening Hope Star
- 036 Spending Hundred Years to Cultivate People and Taking Education as Foundation

## 039 Declare Fight Against Poverty

- 040 Action Changes Destiny
- 046 Relief to Special Groups of Poor People
- 049 Glistening Relay Baton in Poverty Alleviation
- 052 Hand-in-Hand Healthcare Poverty Alleviation

## 055 Standing Together to Overcome Disasters

- 056 Loving Care for Rebuilding Hometown
- 060 Regular Social Donation Mechanism for Disaster Relief





**065 Be Intimate to Nature,  
Close at Hand**

- 066 Environmental Protection in Life,  
Starting from Myself
- 070 Rejecting Pollution and Defending  
Hometown
- 072 Greening Campaign

**079 Special Love for the Special**

- 080 Red Ribbon on Flying
- 084 Enjoying Same Sky
- 087 Love Shining Everywhere
- 091 Heart and Soul Flying over Swamp
- 094 For a Life to Continue
- 098 Warm House for Homeless

**101 Taking Pleasure in Charity,  
Doing Charity in Pleasure**

- 102 The Conception and Reality of Charity
- 105 Charity Organizations
- 108 Government and Civil Organizations  
Joining Hands in Charity

**111 Love Knows No Border**

- 112 International Volunteers: Speaking  
the Same Language of Love
- 115 Multinationals: Endeavoring to Be  
Model Corporate Citizens
- 118 International Charity Organization  
Operating in China
- 122 Chinese Care Moves the World



# Preface



“Today I am a beneficiary from others’ help, tomorrow I will help others like ‘Shunqiziran’.” In Ningbo, China, 100 poor university students are expressing their will on a “Shunqiziran Scholarship” awarding ceremony. The term “Shunqiziran” (meaning “let it be” in English) they mentioned is a touching charity donor. In the past seven years, “Shunqiziran” donated 1.17 million yuan for the program of “One Day Donation for Charity”. He is well known for his mystery, but no one knows who he is, where he is from and what his donation motive is. He became the topics among the folks, and several major media even held a dialogue program titled “calling for Shuqiziran”, However he remained in silence. Thus, more and more citizens started to imitate “Shunqiziran”: A 68-year-old retired female teacher donated more than 10,000 yuan and then signed “Shunqiziran”; a middle-aged man donated 1.08 million yuan and also signed “Shunqiziran”; there were more people who donated like “Shunqiziran”. When they were to help the blind, they signed “Ren Guangming” (greeting the bright), and when they were to help poor students, they would sign “Zhu Xue” (helping study)... In 2005, “Shunqiziran” was selected to be the winner of “the special award of China’s top 100 most influential charity figures”. “Shunqiziran” also becomes a popular term for the Chinese people who have the zeal to help others and care for the people in difficulties. “Shunqiziran” is just like a mirror, reflecting the growing sense of charity among the Chinese citizens and the effects of the integration of modern charity concept with traditional virtue on contemporary Chinese people, their thinking, acts and living habits. Chinese people’s charity life is deeply affected by modern charity concept, pursuing a kind of public value and maintaining public morality and justice: Care for others and help the weak, equally treat everyone with benevolence. In the meantime, the charity life embodies the spirit of self love and





independence and stresses citizens' individual obligation. The charity aims to improve public environment and to realize a civil society with obligation and social affection from everyone.

Chinese people's charity life is also sustaining the traditional virtue of the Chinese nation. Over 2,000 years ago, Confucius, Chinese greatest thinker, began to advocate "benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and fidelity". Through thousands of years, the Confucian ethics centered on "benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and fidelity" have taken root in the thinking and acts of Chinese people. Helping the poor and others with benevolence and righteousness is the basic principle of Chinese people's moral behavior as well as the core content of their charity concept.

In China today, charity is gradually pervading in everyone's daily life. A child can donate his pocket money for disaster victims far away; a poor old man or woman might adopt an orphan found on the street side. A woman might use vegetable washing water to clean the floor for environmental protection; a handicapped person might open up psychological hotline to help others; a tourist will carry one more kg goods to donate for poor children. No matter how much and what people have donated, they have shown a sincere love and true action.  Changes are not just limited to those things. In China, charity organizations are on the increase and become riper. Charity acts are increasingly organizational and effective. The policies and measures of the Chinese government for promoting development of charity service are on the improvement.  All these make us believe that in the new century, with the further popularization of charity concept and spreading of charity activities, the life of Chinese people will be much happier.







# Sketches of Volunteers





# Community Volunteers Take Care of Helpless People

**“**After the Spring Festival I am alone again,” said old man Jin Guifang who on the fourth day of the festival saw off his sons and daughters working in other cities. Looking around in his cheerless house, he had tears in his eyes. In China, there are more and more lonely elders like Jin.

But a series of voluntary programs to serve the lonely elders are carrying on across the country. The Laoshan Community Voluntary Service Association in Beijing set up elders' house for lonely families; in Gulou District of Nanjing City a heart-to-heart community service center was established; Shuguanli Community in Nanjing formed a day nursery for lonely elders.

Hua Yingxue, a young doctor and also a community volunteer in Shanghai's Pudong District, has been taking care of old man Song Renyi for seven years since they met in a party held by volunteers for lonely elders.

Hua and Song are not relatives, but in the past seven years, Hua called on Song by phone once every week and went to visit Song and offer a health check once two weeks. When Song felt unwell, Hua would rush to the old man's house right after he received the phone call from Song, no matter whether in good weather or bad one and whether on day or at night. Sometimes he has been busy in taking care of Song for a whole night.

“My life has been saved by him,” said Song who once suffered a stroke. He clearly repeated the words again and again.

China's community voluntary service started in 1989 when the building of political democracy was accelerated at grass-root level with the promotion of resident autonomy in community, featuring self management, self service and self supervision. The introduced concept of “community service” originated from developed countries, but there were Chinese characteristics – community volunteers.

Besides rendering services to lonely elders, community volunteers are engaged themselves in all public welfare and charity programs: Relief and aid to poverty-stricken residents, lonely elders and the disabled, the employment of youngsters, hygiene environment protection and public security work.

Ge Zhifang is an ordinary Chinese woman as well as a community volunteer.

With a pot of elegant and fragrant flower on her hands, Granny Meng presented it to Ge Zhifang and said, "The flower is for you and it shows my congratulation on you, for I am glad to know you have been selected a national community volunteer star."

Granny Meng and Ge are living in Tuanjie Community in Zhanbei Street, Dalian City. Granny Meng is living with her 10-year-old grandson after her son and daughter died. She almost has no earnings. When Ge Zhifang became a volunteer in the community, Granny Meng became the first beneficiary of her. Ge sent clothes and stationeries to Granny Meng and her grandson. Doing housework for Granny Meng becomes part of Ge's life.

Ge Zhifang also helps others besides Granny Meng. In the past few years, she organized eight volunteer teams in the community and set up an "affection fund". She and her volunteer fellows helped 3,600 people to find jobs.



Now Ge Zhifang has a community volunteer certificate issued by the Volunteer Committee of the China Social Work Association, a non-governmental organization to guide voluntary programs in the country. There are about 75,000 such community volunteer organizations with more than 16 million volunteers. The China Social Work Association will select social work staffs from the volunteers to promote community voluntary services.





# Volunteer: Presenting Roses to Others, with Fragrance Left on Hand

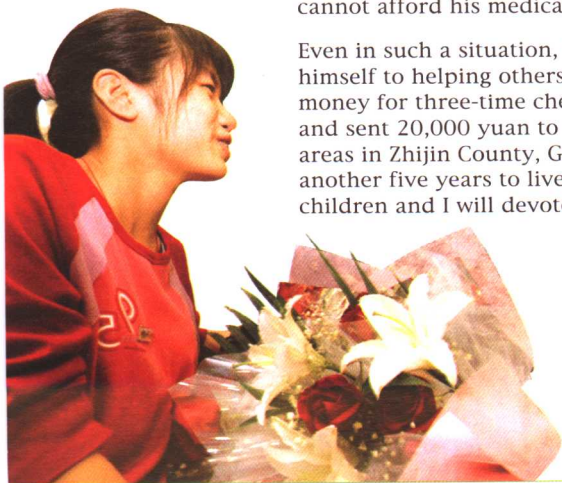
“Although there are many people in need for help, and an individual’s effort is weak like a drop of water in a desert, I still believe as long as all people devote their efforts, a desert can be turned into an oasis.”

—Volunteer Cong Fei

“My name is Cong Fei, an artist staff in Shenzhen and also a common volunteer. I am happy to devote my efforts to the society and to help others,” said Cong Fei. The remarks became Cong’s opening speech when he was standing on a performing stage.

In the past decade, he participated in over 300 voluntary performance programs and he spent more than 3,600 hours in voluntary work. He helped and donated for 178 dropouts and handicapped persons. He adopted 32 orphans. His donation exceeded 3 million yuan, but he fell into a debt of 170,000 yuan. He suffered advanced stomach cancer, but he even cannot afford his medical treatment.

Even in such a situation, Cong Fei continued to dedicate himself to helping others. He left himself only a small sum of money for three-time chemotherapies from others’ donation and sent 20,000 yuan to the poverty-stricken mountainous areas in Zhiyin County, Guizhou Province. He said, “If I have another five years to live, I will complete my promise to the children and I will devote more love to society.”





On April 20, 2006, Cong Fei passed away at age of 37. But his affection baton is passing on: When you are in difficulties, turn to volunteers. If you have time, do some voluntary jobs. Let love reach every people's heart and soul, and spread affection to everyone that needs help.

Volunteers, or voluntary staffs, are a kind of voluntary service which was introduced from Hong Kong to Chinese inland cities at the beginning of the 21st century. The first volunteer association was established in Shenzhen City. Cong was one of 60,000 registered volunteers of Shenzhen Volunteers Association. The association follows Hong Kong's voluntary service as example and advocates the concepts: "helping others is helping oneself" and "presenting other roses, with fragrance left on hand".

In just a few years, the form of "volunteers" is spreading all over the country.





On May 7, 2003, a passenger plane crashed into the sea near Dalian City and killed all the passengers and crew members. With the family members of the dead arriving in Dalian, one of major jobs of the rescuing operation is to comfort those people. Thus, some departments called on the Dalian Volunteer Service Team which was just formed two months ago. For the team, it was a major challenge to deal with the problems arising from the tragedy.

The volunteers immediately set on to the work. They said, "We volunteers are charity staffs. So long as we present a sincere heart, take those elders as our parents and those youngsters as our sisters and brothers, the heart of family members of the victims will link with ours."

A couple just married were killed in the mishap. Their parents wished the soul of the two could rest in peace in the sea. They applied for a sea burial for their son and daughter. It was about 10 o'clock in the evening. The volunteers went to one florist's shop and then to another, hoping to buy lots of chrysanthemum for the parents on the sea burial. The volunteers' sincerity moved a florist named Jiang Shuju, who drove to her flower farm 35 km away and fetched the flower. She picked the flowers with four gardeners till the dawn.