

Scholarship Distribution Ceremony in October, 2017, to the Guanlan Sisters and Their Families by our Partner NGO, Shaanxi Benevolence Children's Service Center (SBC-SC) staff. A Letter from the Guanlan Scholarship Founder, Dr. Vilma Seeberg

Dear Friends of the Guanlan Sisters,

In this beautiful autumn season, Guanlan Scholarship enters its 17th year of helping some very special girls in western rural China with their education and dreams. We are sincerely



Jian, has established a formidable Chinese non-governmental, non-profit agency and carries out the work of the Guanlan Scholarship meticulously. We are fortunate to have a committed, principled local administrator to oversee selecting scholarship candidates, distributing funds, and keeping track of the well-being of the recipients. In addition to the Scholarship work, he has built a child development center for the Anjinggou families who have migrated to Xi'an, which includes an after-school cultural program and a week-end orphan-home.

Educate a girl today and she will create lasting change for the next generation

grateful for your continued support of the Guanlan Sisters scholarships. Thank you for supporting us in jointly creating the legacy of the Foundation and enhancing the life pathways of those special girls, the Guanlan Sisters as they call themselves. Your generous financial contributions have helped more than 115 young Chinese girls from Anjinggou Village (pseudonym) in the Qinling Mountains of Shaanxi Province in Northwest China. With your help, 20 are continuing in primary school, 95 completed primary middle school. An ever-increasing number of them have passed the rigorous secondary school entrance exam, 14 entered vocational upper secondary school, 32 upper secondary school; 28 already graduated with a high school diploma, the goal of the Scholarship. We are proud to announce that 17 Guanlan Sisters went on to college. All who persisted through lower secondary school and further have transformed their current and future families' lives. Moreover, the Sisters have demonstrated that valuing daughters' changes communities for the better. This year, we accepted 11 new applicants whose parents are physically or mentally disabled and are facing serious economic difficulties. The girls' continue the tradition of the Guanlan Scholarship showing their eagerness to get an education despite the terrible odds.

Our continuing mission is to offer Guanlan Sister an opportunity to continue their studies, to foster their aspirations, to enhance their capabilities, to live a life of dignity and respect. This means that we must continue our efforts for fundraising. Our long-term local agent, Pang



Our local agent Pang Jian (blue jacket) visits Guanlan Sisters' families in their remote home village Anjinggou in the Qinling mountains of Shaanxi to select qualified applicants for the Guanlan Scholarship.

We have been able to involve a small number of Chinese philanthropists in the Scholarship, but still rely mostly on American friends. We are now gearing up to raise funds for the next academic year. The Guanlan Scholarship Foundation seeks to raise \$ 6,000 for the 2018-19 school year. All but 10% of the funds go directly to the Guanlan Sisters to spend on schooling expenses.

We hope you will find it in your hearts to continue to help our girls. Every contribution helps so much and your donations are tax deductible. We will send you the acknowledgement of receipt of donation that you can use in your tax filing for 2017.

The generosity of friends like you who support this fund through your donations, extends the promise of the Guanlan Scholarship experience to many daughters of Anjinggou village. Please see the stories of three of them below.

On behalf of all of the teachers, staff, Guanlan Sisters and their parents, I want to take this opportunity to extend our many, many thanks for what you are doing to support these girls in their schooling through the Guanlan Scholarship Fund. Your investment in the future of those girls is making a tremendous difference, and we want you to know how much it is appreciated. This comes with our highest regards and warmest wishes.

Sincerely yours,
Vilma Seeberg
Founder, Guanlan Scholarship Foundation

Guanlan Sisters News Scholarship Distribution Ceremony in October 2017



The Guanlan Scholarship is being awarded to Guanlan Sisters ranging from primary school to high school. Guanlan Sisters are reading their Scholarship pledge to study hard and stay in school through high school graduation.



The Guanlan Scholarship is being distributed to the grandfathers of the youngest Scholarship recipients in their home village. Our local agent Pang Jian encourages the Guanlan Sisters to stay in school and reminds their parents of the Scholarship pledge they signed.



A young Guanlan Sister signs the scholarship pledge under the watchful eye of her grandmother. A young Guanlan Sister at the new desks in the village primary school, talking with a Children's Service Center (SBCSC) staff member.



Pang Jian and staff on a home visit in Guanlan Sisters' home village, gathered around an electric heater with the parents on a Scholarship application research visit. Guanlan Sisters are proud of their art projects made in the SBCSC after school care.



Three Guanlan Sisters and their Stories



sentenced to prison for 15 years and her mother could not suffer the extreme poverty and ran away from home and never returned back. The 9-year-old girl is living in her aunt's village house for two years now. She was made fun of by her classmates for the imprisonment of her father and broken family and she dropped out of school. Her aunt is poor too and can only help her with some salt and oil. She has to farm to feed herself.

ShanDangdang (pseudonym) was given away as a young girl to a man with a mental illness to take care of him and his father, to do

Yu Yan (pseudonym) lives in a remote mountain top of the Guanlan Sisters' home village far away from school. The family is extremely poor. She, her mother and grandmother are mentally disabled. Ten years ago, her father took her disabled mother with him to the city to work, but hasn't been heard from since, leaving his young daughter with her disabled grandparents to fend for themselves in the mountains. The grandparents have never been beyond the village. Yu Yan dropped out of school in grade two and now helps her grandma to do housework, to take the sheep to graze up the hill every day and evening accompanied only by the sun, moon and her sheep. She wants to go back to school, but the burden on her family makes it impossible.

Honghong (pseudonym), her father was



the household and farm work for them. Her birth grandmother had died very early, her Grandfather had been old, frail and sick, and her parents had abandoned them. She began to receive the Guanlan Scholarship in 2013, and every year Pang Jian must persuade the men to let her continue her studies. The Children's Service Center continues to counsel Shandangdang to give her needed guidance and encouragement. In 2015, she graduated from junior high school and tested into a local vocational-technical high school majoring in preschool education. In March this year, she started her internship in a kindergarten. She has changed her destiny.



Guanlan Scholarship Foundation
Newsletter, Winter 2017