

MIGRANT  
CHILDREN'S  
FOUNDATION

SUMMER  
2018  
VOL 1//  
SEMESTERLY  
NEWSLETTER

JOURNALS

*journeys*

INSPIRE AND BE INSPIRED

NEWS

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# journeys

INSPIRE AND BE INSPIRED



**Helen Boyle**  
Director and Founder

## FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

### A very big thank you!

The Semester has been amazing! Thank you to the volunteers and teachers who have contributed their valuable time to work with us this last semester. In the past year, we at MCF were able to take on more projects as well as give more than 480 children full health checks. As a way to establish the new edition of our semesterly newsletter, the theme is none other than journeys.

We, as the Migrant Children's Foundation, are on a journey towards providing and inspiring children who come from migrant families currently in Beijing.

With love, Helen Boyle



# SEMESTER STORIES

*“Working with Fan Fan was an amazing privilege. It’s rare to meet someone who is consistently joyful, especially considering his situation.”*

*- Thor Hartwick*



## THE STORY OF FAN FAN

**BY HANS HARTWICK, INTERN**

Through the Migrant Children's Foundation, a young child named Fan Fan, diagnosed with cerebral palsy, has had the opportunity to take part in a variety of therapy methods aimed at helping him become independent. Working with the Horses Offering People Enrichment (HOPE) foundation, MCF has enabled Fan Fan to progress in his path to independence by improving upon his muscle development and coordination. Tasks such as reining a horse, which require planning and coordination, are things that Fan Fan tackles every time he rides. His hard work and determination has been reflected in the results.

Since the start of the HOPE summer camp, Fan Fan’s ability to complete physical tasks, listen and follow directions, as well as control his movements have improved tremendously. However, his progress goes beyond these achievements. The HOPE summer camp also allows Fan Fan to collaborate with his fellow peers, most of whom with the same diagnosis as him, and have fun. More importantly, it is encouraging to see Fan Fan take responsibility in caring for his companions and also work with the volunteers. Learning how to interact is a valuable skill which he will utilize as he begins school this coming year. Fellow intern, Thor Hartwick, says “Working with Fan Fan was an amazing privilege. It’s rare to meet someone who is consistently joyful, especially considering his situation. Not to mention he has this infectious laughter! I only spent a week with him but it was a week full of smiles and laughs. Meeting this boy was truly remarkable and unforgettable.”

Furthermore Fan Fan began swimming therapy in June. These lessons allow him to develop his muscles and coordination. This water-based therapy provides resistance training to aid his muscle development and coordination under the supervision of his therapists. His development has improved dramatically, and his motor skills are improving every day. Fan Fan’s journey towards independence is an adverse one, but along with the help of MCF and HOPE, it is one that he does not have to do on his own.



## LI XIAOQING'S JOURNEY

BY EVA MCNABNEY, INTERN

MCF first met Li Xiaoqing in December of 2017 and she has been capturing our hearts ever since. At only fourteen years old, Xiaoqing has been battling liver cancer, an extremely rare condition to be found in children. Due to the severity and rarity of the condition, her parents have struggled financially to cope with treatments needed for Xiaoqing. However, MCF has been working alongside the doctors and family members to ensure that financial barriers will not limit her ability to receive care. In addition, Helen has been visiting Xiaoqing in the hospital so as to personally monitor her progress as well as interact with her.

Li Xiaoqing is a remarkable child in so many respects. Despite her diagnosis, Xiaoqing's attitude has been mature and optimistic. From the very beginning of her radiation treatments, Helen noted that her attitude is one of 'accepting what she appreciates as necessary.' Three sessions of chemotherapy later, and this has not changed. On July 7th, Helen was able to visit Xiaoqing in her house rather than the hospital room where she had been based for weeks. Her condition was described as 'much improved' and it could confidently be said that 'there was an optimistic air about the future.' Her doctors are confident that the chemotherapy is working, she is now able to eat, is less fatigued, and is embarking on a three month course of medicine. There is hope that her recovery will be sufficient enough to return to school in the fall.

Thanks to the support of many generous donors, especially the Lions Club in Stuttgart, Germany and BSB Sanlitun Parents Association, Li Xiaoqing's road towards recovery has greatly expanded. We look forward to seeing Xiaoqing make the most of her bright future.



*"Her doctors are confident that the chemotherapy is working, she is now able to eat, is less fatigued, and is embarking on a three month course of medicine. There is hope that her recovery will be sufficient enough to return to school in the fall."*



# MURDER MYSTERY 2018

BY FRANCESCA PHILIPS, INTERN

Our annual Murder Mystery event, aimed at raising money for migrant children's health checks, is always one of the highlights of our year. This year's "Beijing's Got Talent" themed event was no different - the entertainment, games and prizes made for a night of mystery, intrigue and some very happy winners!

The talented students of Beijing World Youth Academy put on a brilliant and captivating performance with singing both good and (purposefully) bad. After rehearsing for weeks and working so hard to make it an amazing show, it was wonderful to see their dedication and enthusiasm pay off. Guests enjoyed delicious food, drinks, and entertainment, all the while trying to deduce who the murderer was from the clues in the performance and those scattered on the tables.

Aside from the performance, there was also a raffle with fantastic prizes from our sponsors including a romantic stay at the Hilton, Global Care healthcare vouchers, and a wide variety of restaurant and bar vouchers! Prize baskets were themed according to interest and included Tech, Foodie, Date Night and Debauchery baskets, but we'll leave it up to your imagination as to what they contained! St. James Wealth Management also hosted a free draw for an Ipad while there were hidden prizes revealed throughout the evening. And the table that correctly guessed the murderer? They went home with specially made chocolate microphones to celebrate their skills of deductive reasoning.



*"The Murder Mystery was a fine chance to relax with the MCF family, share some drinks, and many laughs."*  
- Marc Vanderjack

The evening wouldn't have run so smoothly however, without our expert team of event volunteers, from Caroline, MCF event coordinator, to raffle expert, Paula. Special mention goes to our in-house host, Chad, who compered the evening with charm and good humour as well as also being our marketing man extraordinaire, responsible for many of the prizes on offer that night!

We collected an incredible 37,000 RMB from the event, all of which went towards the health checks for migrant children in conjunction with GlobalCare Hospital. Marc, an attendee of the event, recounts his experience at the MCF Murder Mystery as enjoyable. He recalls, "The Murder Mystery was a fine chance to relax with the MCF family, share some drinks, and many laughs. At my table alone there were people from six different countries represented. It was inspiring to be in the company of a diverse crowd focused on a single goal: making kids healthy and educated." It was amazing to see such an enjoyable event able to make such an impact and we would like to thank our sponsors, partners and volunteers for helping us have fun and helping us fundraise.



## ADVENTURES OF AN MCF KIDS' CLUB

BY THOR HARTWICK, INTERN

MCF created the Kids' Club program in 2010. The Kids Club program partners high school students who are studying at international schools around Beijing with young migrant school students. The international high school students are acting as teachers and go to the migrant schools on a weekly basis to teach classes. The migrant school students normally only have a limited curriculum, however, these young teachers are now helping offer a more well-rounded education.

One of the newest additions to our MCF Kids' Clubs from Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) seized the rewarding opportunity and became the latest international school to partake in the Kids Club program. When this club started, BWYA was only teaching one subject at one school. Since then, the club has expanded to teaching six different courses! BWYA has gone above and beyond with creating course material and now regularly teaches courses in English, Photography, Science, Music, Chinese & Calligraphy, and Visual Art.

*"The BWYA MCF kids club is especially exciting as it helps us branch out to a new migrant school. On top of that, the BWYA Kids Club has really impressed me with how they run the club."*

*- Lorna Snuggs*

This program isn't just about teaching the migrant school students, however. MCF Education & Volunteer Coordinator Lorna Snuggs quotes, "The BWYA MCF Kids' Club is especially exciting as it helps us branch out to a new migrant school. On top of that, the BWYA Kids' Club has really impressed me with how they run the club. Angela and Gordon, who are in charge of the club, do a fantastic job of organising their teachers, improving their lessons week in and week out, as well as being passionate teachers themselves."

Kids' Club currently offers an opportunity for international school students to enrich their education through teaching younger students. There are now seven international schools with Kids' Clubs who partner with MCF. This number is consistently growing because this is a unique opportunity for students to develop leadership skills while educating migrant children. We are thrilled with the growth of this program in the recent past and are optimistic about the expansion we will see in coming years.



# SUMMER ACTIVITIES WITH MCF

BY LETTE BATTEN-TURNER, INTERN

While the summer and the end of the semester normally entails things quietening down in the MCF office, this year we have been busily expanding our summer programme. A number of interns and volunteers are here with us over the summer break and have been providing fresh ideas for our summer sessions in infant schools. After the success of our weekly Summer Beans programme last year, we have been able to increase both the number of schools we work with and the frequency of the sessions. We kicked the summer off with a week of drama workshops at the MCF Infants South School led by our volunteer Clare, a trained drama teacher from the USA, which was a great opportunity for the children to build their confidence and social skills, as well as improve their English language speaking. This culminated in a performance of 'Wheels on the Bus: the musical!' at the end of the week in front of the whole school, which gave children the chance to show off their new acting skills! Volunteers with CRCC Asia came to a craft session at the MCF Infants West School one Saturday and everyone enjoyed getting arty with clay modelling, colouring and games.



We have since started a four week programme of craft activities at two of the infant schools MCF work with around Beijing, and designed and coordinated by our interns Fana, Paola and Maja. This has involved making paper flowers, writing our names in chenille pipe cleaners, and making cup-and-string phones; with a lot of fun and a lot of singing! Paola (featured above) shares, "Particularly, I enjoyed the session of the telephone cups, the children had to make the phones in groups of two and we were a bit worried about how to manage the class groups. However, the children were more than capable in team working and in sharing the materials and colours!" These sessions are important to the children who do not always have access to creative resources or activities; hence it gives them a chance to express their creativity in a fun environment and develop important skills.

We are extremely grateful to the schools and teachers that have hosted us and made us so welcome, as well as being on hand to help with scissors and glue. Our thanks equally goes out to our hard-working interns and volunteers for making the programmes possible.

# EVENTS VOLUNTEER OF THE SEMESTER

*Volunteer of the Semester is our section where we celebrate our tireless and committed volunteers who take their passion to a different level. We welcome everyone to nominate a volunteer by emailing Lorna at [lorna@mcchina.org](mailto:lorna@mcchina.org).*

## MEET OUR MARKET COORDINATOR, JULIE LEVERT CUI

BY ANDY PENAFUERTE

Julie Levert Cui has left Beijing to continue her studies in Canada. But in her eventful stint with MCF as a coordinator for markets and fairs in Beijing, Cui has gained memories with other people and developed a better understanding of the needs of migrant communities in the city.

"Volunteering is a great way to do something meaningful with your life, whether it be for an extra hour a week or several days a week. Beyond that, I've grown to appreciate the selfless work of all the volunteers at MCF and even other charities."

### What/who inspired you to join the Migrant Children's Foundation? And what's your volunteering task?

I study international development in Canada and through that I've done a lot of research on the migrant children crisis in China. When I found out I had the opportunity to be in Beijing, I knew I wanted to get involved with an organisation that helps these children and their parents, so the Migrant Children Foundation was perfect! During my time with MCF, I was the coordinator for markets and fairs. It was a great way to inform people about the hardships that many face in China, use my skills in event planning and coordinating, and help people get involved with MCF.

### How does volunteering complement your life in Beijing? What did your friends say after knowing you were volunteering with MCF?

Volunteering was a great addition to school and work life. It has allowed me to meet many people, discover new venues around the city, and know that I was positively impacting those in need. In fact, many classmates have already expressed interest in volunteering!



*Julie working the stalls at Rumble in the Jungle, a monthly market held at Modernista*



# EVENTS VOLUNTEER OF THE SEMESTER (CONT.)

**So how did you manage your time? And how did volunteering at MCF change your view of Beijing/China?**

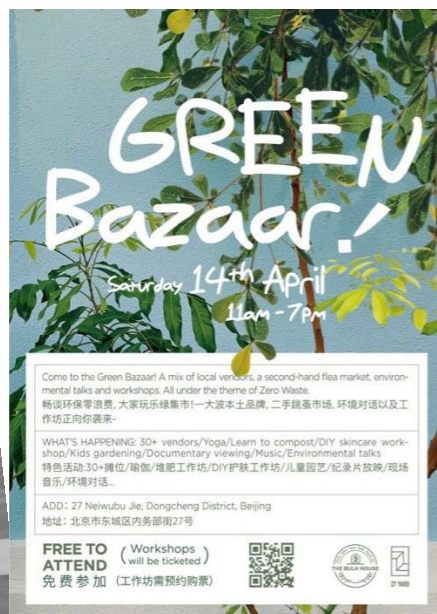
Throughout my experience, I have always made sure to keep a calendar of events and a to-do list in preparation for each event. Luckily, all of them were at the weekends, so I was free to attend most of them. But sometimes when you're caught up in your routine, you tend to hang around the same places and talk to the same people all the time. MCF changed this pattern for me and created a great opportunity for me to socialise and engage in meaningful work.

**What are the best memories you've had with MCF so far?**

I really enjoyed the Murder Mystery Gala at the Hilton Hotel this year. It was a fun experience setting up prizes, helping guests, and participating in the event at times.

**If you have something to tell an aspiring volunteer, what would it be?**

Don't be afraid to take a few hours of your day to get out in the community and give a helping hand. There are tons of ways to help out, and it's a great alternative to sitting at home and watching TV!



*Some of the events that Julie has helped us coordinate at MCF*

# EDUCATION VOLUNTEER OF THE SEMESTER

## MEET OUR SESSION COORDINATOR, LIZZIE MOYO

BY ANDY PENAFUERTE

Lizzie Moyo started volunteering with MCF in 2017 as part of her master's program requirements to do 350 hours of fieldwork. After finishing her internship, Lizzie has since continued her stint and is now a full-time Session Coordinator and Project Manager. She says her volunteering work has enabled her to find a direction in her career path and that MCF helped her find her footing in the city. "Many of the projects that I have worked on have given me a feeling of fulfillment and accomplishment," Lizzie adds.

### **What/who inspired you to join the Migrant Children's Foundation? What's your volunteering task?**

I was a student and my major was in Social Work. I started off as an intern and mostly enjoyed events support as it gave me the opportunity to network with others while giving me broad exposure in Beijing.

### **Volunteering is definitely on top of your student life hours so how did you manage your time?**

Before joining MCF, I'd spent my time in school or in my room watching television. I was still new to China and didn't know much and was still a little afraid to explore. Joining MCF tilted my routine a little in that my days were much busier with school and work. But because my degree program was very flexible, it all balanced well.



*Lizzie (in red) says she has met other people, like these students and professionals who became more interested in volunteering after trying out regular Saturday English teaching sessions at migrant schools.*

# EDUCATION VOLUNTEER OF THE SEMESTER (CONT.)

**We always see you as the smiley and go-to volunteer at various events sponsored/joined by MCF. What have you achieved so far in your volunteering life?**

I have learned to be responsible, accountable, and proactive from my role as a session coordinator. Overseeing a group of volunteers and making sure that things run smoothly pose a challenge on one's patience and ability to make informed decisions on their own. But this role taught me to be resilient and to make quick decisions, as well as to improve my organizational skills. I have also gotten an opportunity to lead a health-related project and improve my research and creativity abilities!

**How did volunteering in MCF change your view of living in Beijing/China?**

MCF works in various parts of Beijing, which you would never go to on a normal day for anything, really. Volunteering gives you a different perspective on China, which just goes to show just how diverse this country is. It's a rich and mind-blowing experience.

**How does volunteering complement your life in Beijing? What did your friends say after knowing you were volunteering with MCF?**

Volunteering has given me a sense of purpose. However, I've observed that not everyone has the same understanding of what volunteering is. For some, they see it as a waste of time or something that you could be paid for the work you do; others admire you that you take time out of your life to help others. I have met a number of people who have expressed interest in volunteering with MCF or other NGOs because they feel they would be able to give back to the community but don't know just how yet.



*Aside from the regular teaching sessions and booth, Lizzie (left) is also active in other MCF charity events, like organizing the annual MCF Murder Mystery fundraiser gala*

# SPONSOR OF THE SEMESTER

## THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF BEIJING SANLITUN

BY AMY CHAN, INTERN

MCF is proud to announce that British School Beijing Sanlitun is our sponsor of the semester.

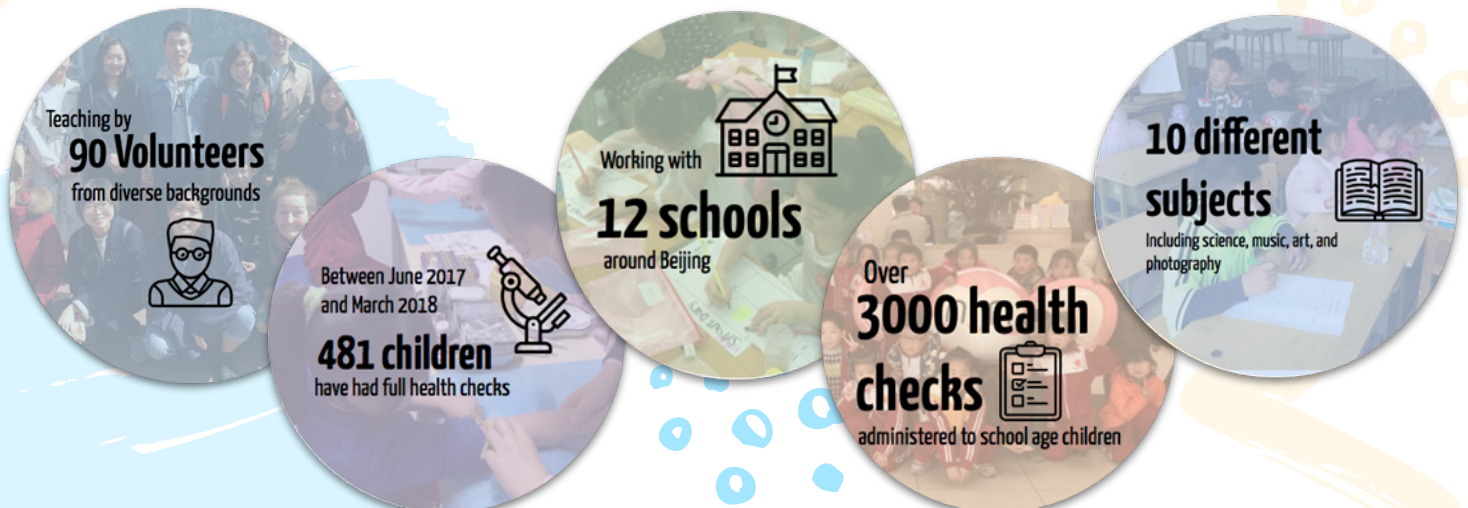


THE BRITISH SCHOOL  
OF BEIJING, SANLITUN  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

BSB Sanlitun is one of MCF's long-term partners, having been with us since MCF's early days. Apart from fundraising for MCF's projects, BSB Sanlitun actively participates in our sessions at MCF through a peer-to-peer kids program. This program has seen them build furniture for classrooms, prepare and deliver sanitary packs for migrant students, run activity sessions and raise money through a variety of fairs, dances, and projects.

Majella O Doherty, Admissions and Marketing manager at BSB Sanlitun was kind enough to share how BSB has been able to integrate MCF activities over the years. "The BSB Sanlitun and the BSB Sanlitun Parents Association have worked with MCF for a number of years. At BSB, most of our fundraising have gone to MCF such as the 2017-2018 year proceeds from our annual Christmas Cracker event. The Parents Association have also fundraised for multiple MCF projects throughout the years. Apart from fundraising, it is also encouraging to see many of our dedicated parents volunteer at MCF partnered schools as well as help organise activities for the children."

We would also like to highlight BSB Sanlitun's increasing dedication to creativity through unique child-friendly activities such as cupcake decorating and even giving migrant children the chance to see a performance by a visiting bagpiper.



# PARTNERS OF MCF



Beijing City International School • Beijing World Youth Academy  
 Canadian International School Beijing • Dulwich College Beijing  
 Hyde Academy • Korean International School in Beijing •  
 The British School of Beijing Sanlitun • The British School of Beijing Shunyi •  
 Yew Chung International School

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We at MCF would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors and partners for their contributions during the Spring/Summer Semester 2018. Your generous financial contributions as well as volunteer partnerships have allowed MCF to continue educating the migrant children of Beijing and providing for them. We hope that through working with MCF, you have also gained a deeper understanding about disadvantaged communities in China and how we can continue to give back to the city in which we live.

Interested in partnering with MCF? Drop us an email at [admin@mcfcchina.org](mailto:admin@mcfcchina.org)

# VOLUNTEER WITH US AT MCF

As we look back on the semester at MCF, we are grateful for the volunteers who have been with us through countless events and have helped us along the way. As we bid a repeated heartfelt goodbye to those who are leaving Beijing, we would like to take the time to invite new friends to join us on this journey.

At MCF we are always looking for fresh faces with a passion for helping others and inspiring others along the way through internships, volunteering at events, and participating in weekend sessions.

With the departure of our current Session Coordinator, Lizzie, and Market Coordinator, Julie, MCF is also currently looking for volunteers who would like to step into these roles for the upcoming Autumn/Winter 2018 Semester.

Feel free to drop us an email at: [volunteer@mcfcchina.org](mailto:volunteer@mcfcchina.org)



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## ABOUT MCF

Founded in 2009, MCF is a non-profit organisation that works with migrant communities in Beijing, China. The organisation is staffed by a dedicated team of long-term volunteers who organise events, manage MCF's education and health programs and maintain relationships with migrant schools.