## 學生資助 Student Sponsorship

本年度資助小學生24人、初中生777人、高中生 4,980人、大學生230人

Sponsored 24 primary school students, 777 junior school students, 4,980 high school students and 230 university students this year

目前,很多山區學生仍然因貧窮而無法上學, 當中以高中和大學教育最為嚴重。我們每年以 助學金形式鼓勵高中生發奮求學,資助大學生 四年的學習及生活費用,務求減少因貧窮而無 法繼續學業的品學兼優生。 Nowadays, many students in the rural areas still cannot pursue further education due to poverty, and the situation is particular severe for high school and tertiary education. Therefore, we encourage high school students to work hard by providing sponsorship for the daily expense and school fee for their four-year university studies, so that more and more of them can finish tertiary education.

## 學校裡別人家的媳婦 A Little Wife in School

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在四川涼山彝族自治州布拖縣,高中生小玉(化 名)像其他同學一樣,埋頭做著總也做不完的習 作。不同的是,對著那漫天漫海的習作,她沒 有像其他城市學生那樣充滿怨言,因為對於小 玉來説,能夠坐在教室,做著習作,和同學一 起上課,已經比村子裏的其他女孩子幸運很多。

在彝族中,一直有訂「娃娃親」的習俗,小小的 女孩在還沒有懂事時就被賦予了不可抗拒的命 運。很多家人都不願負擔女孩兒的學費,不止 因為受重男輕女的思想左右,還有在這些女孩 家人的心中,已把她們當成了「別人家的媳 婦」。在這個縣城唯一的一所中學中,每個班只 有寥寥幾個女孩能順利讀完初中,而讀到高中 的女生更是零落無幾。 Xiaoyu (pseudonym), a high school girl in Butuo County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, is a hard-working student like others. But unlike other city students, Xiaoyu never complained about the heavy workload. She clearly understood that she is very lucky comparing with other girls in her village as she had a chance to receive education in a proper classroom.

There is an ethnic custom there called "Wa Wa Qin" (meaning child marriage). Girls are raised for marriage and to give birth to babies. Many of these families cannot afford to provide education for their daughters. Besides gender discrimination, their parents have already treated them as "married women" even at an early age. In this county, very few girls can complete secondary school education and close to none can graduate from high school.





所以小玉一直覺得她是幸運的。雖然曾一度因 為學費的問題,家人也想過不再支持她讀書, 幸好這時她得到苗圃一年一千元人民幣的學生 資助,使得她可以繼續讀書而不用為生活費不 足而憂心。

在這物價較高的縣城裏,這筆助學款的金額實 在算不上多。但是小玉能夠從中感受到社會對 她的關心,也得以説服家人讓她繼續讀書。這 給了她莫大的鼓勵和信心。

我們的資助不能幫助小玉解決所有問題:她的 學習,她的命運都掌握在自己手裏。但這份關 心使小玉找到了堅持下去的動力和勇氣。當我 們問她會否堅持讀完高中以至大學時,小姑娘 笑著點頭,眼神流露一股不可動搖的堅毅。 That is why Xiaoyu found herself lucky. At the time when Xiaoyu's family faced financial problems and thought of terminating her education, we took the initiative and supported her with an annual subsidy of RMB1,000, so that she could continue her education without worrying about her daily expenses.

It is not a large amount of subsidy in terms of the relatively high living standard of this county. But Xiaoyu could feel that the society was giving her a helping hand and she succeed in persuading her parents to let her to continue studying. This gave her some much-needed confidence and encouragement.

Our aid cannot solve all her problems; she has to rely on her own to achieve a better life. But our care is an important reason for her to keep going. When we asked whether she would strive to complete high school or even university, she smiled and nodded, looking strong and determined.

