



2021 STEPPING STONES ANNUAL REPORT

IMPROVING THE EDUCATION AND GENERAL WELFARE OF
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN CHINA



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Director's Words

2021 continued to be dominated by the on-going epidemic, with regular school closures and event cancellations, and volunteers and staff still unable to return from overseas. In spite of these challenges, programs supported by Stepping Stones China Ltd all grew quite considerably compared with 2020, and efforts were made to do offline events whenever possible, while maintaining the flexibility to move programs back online when necessary.

During this special period, we know that every individual, company and organisation has faced their own unique set of challenges, and that is why we are especially grateful to all of our volunteers, program partners and donors, who have stuck with us through thick and thin. I would like to extend a big thank you to you all on behalf of thousands of children, who have been able to count on their volunteer teacher showing up on a weekly basis, online or offline, to give them some learning fun away from their regular school work and provide them with much needed support and encouragement during this crazy period. We are honoured to have your on-going support.

Corinne Richeux Hua
Executive Director

About Us

Our Mission

To improve the education and general welfare of disadvantaged children in China.

Our Vision

Equal access to a quality education and general welfare for all children in China.

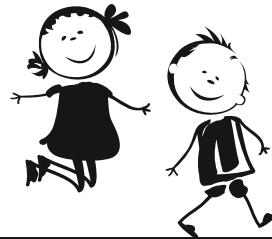
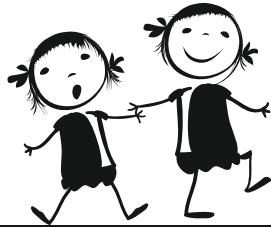
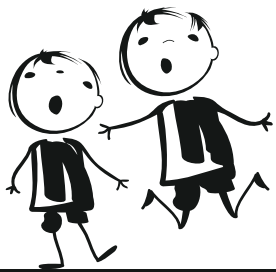
Our Purpose

Stepping Stones China Ltd (SSCL) was established to raise funds and recruit and train volunteers to support registered charitable organisations to run programs focused on improving the education and general welfare of disadvantaged children and youth in China.

Legal Status

On 2 September 2011, Stepping Stones China Ltd was incorporated in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 32 of the laws of Hong Kong). The Association's official Chinese name is 铺路石中国有限公司. SSCL was confirmed to be a charitable institution or trust of a public character on 30 March 2012, and is exempt from tax under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance. Stepping Stones China Ltd established a representative office in Shanghai in 2019.

Core Values



S

STAMINA
锲而不舍

We are hard-working and resilient.

我们坚持不懈、努力奋进。

T

TEAMWORK
团结合作

We work together with trust and respect to bring about change.

我们赤诚相待、稳步前行。

E

EMPATHY
同感共情

We are open-minded and inclusive, and embrace diverse opinions.

我们开放包容、兼容并济。

P

PASSION
热忱砥砺

We are proactive and courageous, and put our beneficiaries' needs at the heart of all we do.

我们锐意进取、坚守初心。



Volunteers

SSCL's greatest asset is its large community of volunteers, who are eager for high-impact volunteering opportunities in China.

Our task is to recruit and train volunteers to provide the services needed by our beneficiaries.

We take volunteers aged 16+ from all over the world to teach English and digital literacy to disadvantaged children and youth in China, online as well as offline. Volunteers also take a myriad of other roles, including fundraising, communications, design, photography, curriculum development, volunteer coordination, translation, etc.



Beneficiaries

Our main beneficiaries are children and youth, whose education has been negatively impacted by rural-urban migration in China. Some of these young people have moved with their parents to cities where they do not have access to regular public schools due to residence issues, and are enrolled in schools for the children of migrant workers, whose educational standards fall behind the urban public schools. Others are enrolled in public schools, but need extra help with their schoolwork, which their parents are often unable to provide.

Other migrant workers' children are unable to go with their parents to the cities, and are left behind in rural boarding schools or living with other family members. The educational standards in rural schools lag significantly behind urban schools, and in addition to the disadvantages faced by rural children, these "left-behind" children also lack parental support.

In addition, we assist organisations who are serving the children of low-income households in the cities, and children with special educational needs. Most of our students are primary-school age, but we also have middle-school, high school and vocational school students.

We support registered organisations in China who provide educational support, enrichment activities and vocational training to these beneficiaries, in particular in the areas of English and digital literacy, but also in other subjects which tend to be neglected in disadvantaged communities.



Our Board



Wang Lin
Chair

BSR Advisory Services Ltd.
- Director



Joy Chen
Director

Oscar Winson Ltd.
- Office Manager



Whooper Huang
Director

PAAT (Shanghai) IT Co., Ltd.
- Partner



Leo Jia
Director

Save the Children in China
- Area Manager



Ellen Loasby
Director

British International School Shanghai
- Chinese Teacher



Laura Mitchelson
Director

Leadership Consultant



Simon Harrold
Director

EF Kids & Teens Franchise
- Academic Operations Manager

Digital Literacy



Students



Volunteers



Lessons



Teaching Sites



Teachers

Sponsored by the Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation through Transparent Fish Fund, and inspired by Orphan Impact's pioneering program in Vietnam, our Chinese partner organisation (上海闵行区华漕铺路石青少年发展中心) has been running an innovative digital literacy program for disadvantaged children in China since 2016.

Digital literacy is basic for survival in the modern world. Unfortunately, many rural and migrant Chinese children have no computers at home or school, and no computer lessons, so their digital literacy skills are very poor. This contributes to a low rate of high school or vocational school enrollment, and the risk of exploitation, abuse and disadvantage when they enter the workplace from junior middle school.

By providing the schools with the necessary hardware, along with a carefully planned curriculum and properly trained teachers and volunteers, the "Stepping Up" program helps children develop the life skills and digital literacy skills they need to meet the challenges of a tech-focused future.

In 2021, our teachers and volunteers taught 780 lessons to 1,081 students at 18 online or offline teaching sites in Shanghai, Zhejiang, Beijing and Henan, as well as at hundreds of students' homes through the internet.



Training & Resources for English Teaching

Ten years' experience of working with volunteers has proven the critical importance of a good training program. We are extremely grateful to Target Foundation for sponsoring our training for English teaching volunteers since 2012, and to Children's Helpers Worldwide for providing teaching resources.

English is the third most important subject in the Chinese school curriculum after Chinese and maths, and the one that poses the most challenges to rural and other disadvantaged children, due to lack of access to adequate English language learning resources. Lack of attainment in English skills restricts educational and employment opportunities for these children. We are proud to train volunteers from all over the world to help Chinese children to improve their foreign language skills, as well as to give them a window onto the outside world.

Our English Teaching Volunteer Training consists of several different components, which are tailored to the needs of each specific English teaching program:

1. Online orientation:
 - a. Organisational introduction, background & objectives;
 - b. Introduction to beneficiaries;
 - c. Introduction to Stepping Stones' English teaching programs.
2. Program introduction & logistics for specific English teaching program selected by volunteer.
3. Introduction to relevant teaching resources; teaching techniques; teaching demos.
4. Trainers observe volunteer demo class and provide feedback.
5. Real-time lesson observations and formative feedback after volunteers start teaching.

With schools and community centres re-opening in 2021, we were able to conduct 10 offline training sessions, 3 online briefings and one workshop for 196 volunteers teaching in the SET program, as well as 86 site visits throughout the year. We also ran 4 trainings for 7 Rural Individual Volunteering (RIV) Program volunteers in 2021.

We conducted 150 demo classes for 380 volunteers teaching in our online programs. In addition, 19 online volunteer observation and feedback sessions were conducted to further support volunteers to improve their teaching skills. Training videos were updated to include information on how to use our new teaching platform ClassIn and new lesson PPTs.

Our training and curriculum development team members also helped to cover online and offline classes throughout the year.

Children's Helpers Worldwide have been raising funds each year since 2016 to provide teaching resources for our volunteers to use in the classrooms.

Volunteers trained and resourced through this program delivered 6,661 English lessons to 5,172 disadvantaged children and youth at 22 project sites in Shanghai and 23 sites in other provinces (some sites with both online and onsite programs), as well as at thousands of students' homes through the internet.



576

Volunteers Trained



18

Training Sessions



150

Individual Demo Classes



5,172

Students Receiving English Lessons





Finance

In 2021, SSCL's revenue was HKD484,758, and expenses were HKD714,910, making a net loss of HKD230,152.

The opening balance was HKD877,526 and the closing balance was HKD647,374. This includes all foreign currency revenue and expenses at the exchange rate at the year end.

SSCL's accounts are audited annually by an independent accountant.

Revenue

Revenue (HKD)	
Donations and Grants	437,386
Bank Interest	182
Sundry Income	35,860
Exchange Gain	11,330
TOTAL	484,758

Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated to SSCL in 2021. Every donation of whatever size is always appreciated.

Donor (HKD)	
The Columbus Foundation Fund	195,240
Ping and Amy Chao Family Foundation through Transparent Fish Fund	157,502
Ms Lau Kit Ling & Mr Wan Yun Bor	60,230
Children's Helpers Worldwide	24,414
DONATIONS SUB-TOTAL	437,386

Thank you to the following program partner for their financial support.

Corporate Partner (HKD)	
PricewaterhouseCoopers Foundation	35,287
SERVICE CHARGES SUB-TOTAL	35,287

Expenses

Expenses (HKD)	
Accountancy Fee	1,800
Auditors' Remuneration	3,800
Bank Charge	5,677
Legal and Professional Fees	73,127
Project Costs	424,796
Salaries	205,710
TOTAL	714,910
Net Loss	230,152

Pro Bono Supporters

A special thank you to the following companies, who generously contributed high quality professional services for free, thus helping to significantly reduce our operational costs and improve the quality of our program.



O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
美国美迈斯律师事务所

O'Melveny & Myers for professional legal advice.

Rödl & Partner

Rödl & Partner for financial accounting and secretarial services.



Guofeng Charitable Foundation for providing our Shanghai office space.





www.steppingstoneschina.org