



Guanlan Scholarship Foundation

Educate a girl today and she will create lasting change.

One girl, One village, Many generations.

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Winter 2023-24 Newsletter



Thanks to your generous support for the past 22 years, we have been able to help indigent village girls transform themselves into educated young women with a bright future. We appeal to you to **donate** and make it possible for another 35 girls to succeed in school this year.

In 2023, we awarded scholarship grants to 35 Guanlan Sisters (GS), some of whom we'll introduce below. Our local partner, Shaanxi Renai Children's Aid Ctr. (Renai Ctr.), again added milk powder, dry goods, school supplies. Now 9 GS are attending primary school, 17 junior secondary school and 9 senior secondary schools.

We are proud of the progress the GS have made since we started the Scholarship in 2000. In the first five years no GS advanced beyond compulsory 9-year schooling, but by the years 2015-20, 92% of GS did so. Of those entering senior secondary school (grades 10-12), 94% graduated, and 59% of them went on to tertiary institutions. With time they began to believe in a possible better future and succeeded in schools that were not designed for them.

From deep poverty, heavy family burdens, illness, and absent parents, from a remote mountain village, the GS have transformed themselves and made breathtaking progress

toward achieving substantive freedoms they can enjoy.

Meet Kou Jinzhen

She graduated from academic high school and was admitted to the Xi'an medical school, a highly competitive baccalaureate program.

Her history is quite inspiring. She was adopted when as a toddler by an older man to take care of his household in his old age. He was a kind man and paid for her school fees until he died when she was in private-pay high school. She was a brilliant student as you can see from the many award certificates plastered on the walls over her bed. We put her on a high need grant through her second year in college.



Please [contribute](#) toward keeping 1 Guanlan Sister in school for 2023-24, US \$75 for their primary & junior secondary fees, and US \$150-300 toward private tuition for senior secondary school. 100% of the donations goes to scholarships.

Happy Lunar New Year and Chinese Spring Festival! We at Guanlan Scholarship Foundation wish you happiness and prosperity, health and well-being, and good fortune in the Year of the Dragon.

春节快乐 龙年幸福快乐、健康长寿、万事如意-升官发财-万事如意

What's New in the Foundation this Year?

Looking back over this past year, here at home we've accomplished a lot.

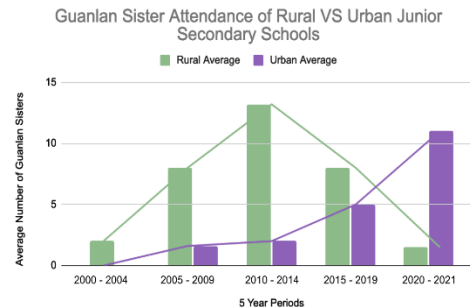
We formed and worked with 4 teams of accomplished volunteers, handling all our activities on social media, website development team, data analysis team, and the translation team. In addition, Yu and Naya are helping as my assistants.

Please check us out on **Facebook & Instagram**, like our posts, follow us, review our page, and invite your friends to follow us too! Every week we post updates which the team of dedicated volunteers, Cecileah, Chiayi, Yan, and Yu create.

Look at our new [website](#) redesigned by our team of skilled volunteers, Anne, Annika, Austin, Emily, Tianyi, Zhen, and I. We are proud of how engaging it is and hope we can be found that way!

The **data analysis team**, spearheaded by Weihang, Xiaocheng, Jianing, Kan, and Yixuan, along with Jessica, Ruiqi, Ruoan and Siying, formerly Junle, Jianing, Yaxin, who are all advanced students of data analysis in U.S. universities. We have been "crunching" the data on the 22 years of GS schooling.

For example, we **found** that where the GS attended junior secondary school made a 3 to 1 difference in their educational attainment. All the GS grew up in the same village, but those who migrated to urban junior secondary schools graduated from senior secondary, whereas their cousins who stayed in local rural junior secondary schools did not. No surprise then, that with time, significantly more of the GS found ways to migrate and attend urban schools as you can see on the graph (next column), where the purple marks show that trend clearly.



Urban schooling costs more as do the living expenses. Families have to raise more money by living away from their ancestral homes, gardens and fields.

A **team of translators** have turned the annual letters of the Guanlan Sisters into English letters (see the letter from Dang Jh next page) to better understand the thoughts and concerns of our girls.

This past year, I've been **interviewed** a few times by online media and Naya and I went on our local morning show here in Cleveland – which resulted in a new donor! [Click here to read and see more](#) under Features.

Our partner NGO in Xian has been expanding their activities for the children from the village who migrated with their parents to “urban villages” in the city. They have invited university students to hold activities to bring joy, broaden horizons, create [artworks](#) (available to order on our website), celebrate holidays, and offer workshops on topics like female health, communication skills, and safety.

Recently they took the village kids to the city science museum where their curiosity was sparked as they participated in hands-on experiments! Photos next page.

Together, we're empowering these young minds to dream big and embrace the incredible possibilities that their new lives offer.



College students from Xi'an university came to volunteer and teach a calligraphy class,



and "Dancing Leaves" Picture Book lesson



October 2nd, 2022

Hello! I am Dang Jh, a 13-year-old eighth grader studying at Qiyu Middle School. My hometown is in Shangluo City. Thank you for your support over the past few years. Though I have nothing much to repay your kindness, I am sincerely thankful!

When I was 10, you came to visit us, Guanlan Mama. You are our great benefactor, and I will forever remember your kindness. When you handed the funding to me personally 3 years ago, my heart surged. At that moment, I felt your earnestness and warmth, like relishing the warmth from a cozy fireplace on a chilly winter day. Thank you, Guanlan Mama, for nourishing my withered soul with your love!

'Uncle Pang, with your and Guanlan Mama' s loving help, I see hope. I am determined to study hard and will not let you down. I will definitely work hard, be diligent, and be frugal. I will use my achievements to contribute to society and repay your kindness. When I' m older, I will pass down this baton of love and help those in greater need. It was you who gave me hope and comfort. I am so grateful to you! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dang Jh

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