

A Letter from the Guanlan Scholarship Founder, Dr. Vilma Seeberg

Dear Friends of the Guanlan Sisters,

This 18th year of the Guanlan Scholarship, we were able to participate in the actual scholarship distribution in Shangluo, Shaanxi.



Our partner organization, Shaanxi Children's Welfare Service Center, had called together the nearby Guanlan sisters and their parents for the annual scholarship distribution this year at the offices of the local All-China Women's Federation. Dr. Seeberg gave a presentation reviewing the changes in the village since the first celebration in 2000 with photos from then and now showing the dramatic improvement in the school for the Guanlan sisters. Many former recipients shared their stories of what school had meant to them, the opportunities they were now it presented to them, and even how it changed their own children's lives.

Continuing Guanlan Sisters brought us their hand-written letters telling us about their studies and lives this past school year.

Dear Guanlan Mama,

Hello! I'm Guanlan Sister Jing Pei-pei. How are you doing recently? Does your work go well?

I am now in primary school, third grade. There are many things to learn. Although I get good grades, the pressure is increasing. Chinese is my favorite subject and I am good at it and I always rank first in class, but I have a lot of difficulties in science. I hope that Guanlan Mama can give me some suggestion how to improve my science.



Guanlan Mama, I'm eight and a half years old. Grandma, dad, mom, brother and I live together. Grandma is old, not in good health, takes medicine all day, and medical expenses are very large. My mother takes care of me. The cost of my school is increasing. The whole family relies on my father's part-time job to make a living. I hope Guanlan Mama can continue to give me financial support so that I can get a better education and realize my dream.

Guanlan Mama, my dream is to become a teacher. I will certainly study hard to reach my goals and work tirelessly to give back to my parents and society.

Guanlan Mama, thank you for your financial help. It is said that the grace of receiving a little help like dripping water should be reciprocated by a waterfall in return. I will repay you with excellent scores. I know that this thank you is insignificant, but I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.



Educate a girl today and she will create lasting change for the next generation.
Winter 2018 Newsletter



Scholarship Distribution Ceremony in October 2018 for the Guanlan Sisters and their families by Dr. Seeberg and her team with our partner NGO, Shaanxi Children's Welfare Service Center staff and the local Women's Federation.

To make a tax-deductible, secure donation please go to GuanlanScholarshipFoundation website & find the Paypal, donate button on the left Friend us on Facebook

I wish Guanlan Mama good health.
Jing Pei-pei, 8 yrs old, grade 3

Our local partner, Pang Baoliang (standing) cautioned their parents not to ask or let them withdraw before the end of senior high school and had them sign the contract.

A group of people sitting at a table
 Description automatically generated
 We have been able to support 120 young Chinese girls since 2000:

- . 22 are continuing in primary school,
 - . 51 completed primary and middle school.
 - . 9 graduated from vocational senior secondary school,
 - . 4 graduated from academic senior secondary school
 - . 4 graduated from vocational college
 - . 11 graduated from 4-year college.
- IMG_0986
 . This year, we accepted 5 new primary school Guanlan Sisters.
 . We lost track of 18 Guanlan Sisters in the early years

Our continuing mission is to offer Guanlan Sisters an opportunity to finish their K-12 schooling, to foster their aspirations, to enhance their capabilities, so they may live a life of dignity and respect.

We are now gearing up to raise funds for the next academic year. The Guanlan Scholarship Foundation seeks to raise \$ 6,000 for the 2019-20 school year. All but 10% for administration and bank fees go directly to the Guanlan Sisters to spend on schooling expenses.

We hope you will find it in your hearts and wallets to continue to support the Guanlan Sisters' schooling. Your donations are tax deductible. We will send you the acknowledgement of receipt of donation that you can use in your tax filing for 2018.

Your investment in the future of those girls is making a tremendous difference. To show you how dramatic the changes can be, we can show you chapter 2 of the lives of two of the Guanlan Sisters we introduced to you last year. From the least auspicious beginning, through the power of schooling, these young women are making something of herself

and making a difference in their community.

We want you to know that what we do together can set in motion a virtuous cycle of better lives and community.

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.

Our long-term, local partner selects the scholarship candidates, and arranges the distribution of the funds. He is from the village himself and keeps in close contact with the families and makes sure they help their daughters continue to stay in school.

He and his wife have organized a child drop-in center (photo of the wall covered with children's drawings) in the city where Guanlan Sisters can go after school for cultural programs and four to six orphan girls can stay on the week-end. Many of the parents from Anjinggou are in the city or further away to do migrant work, and often have little time for their children.

We have attached photos on the last page of this newsletter of some of the really wonderful artwork the Sisters have done which you can purchase for \$8-\$20 depending on size. order some of this artwork.

On behalf of all of the Guanlan Sisters, their parents and our partners in Xi'an and Anjinggou,

*We wish you a warm and peaceful season,
 Sincerely yours,
 Vilma Seeberg,
 Founder, Guanlan Scholarship Foundation*

Two Guanlan Sisters' Stories Then and Now Yang Yuhu



Yang Yuhu was adopted (informally) by the parents of a man with a severe mental disability when she was only one week old. She was raised as the grandchild, and from a very young age did

the house and farm work for the elderly family and their son. From primary school on, she received the Guanlan Scholarship and much encouragement from Pang Baoliang and his wife. They helped with her overcome many difficulties and support her with her adopted family so that she could continue in school. By the time she was 20, she was able to finish junior high school (grade 9). Then after a year of Pang Baoliang persuading and negotiating with her adopted family, they allowed her to go back to vocational senior high school in preschool education.

This past year she graduated and got a job in a non-public kindergarten for migrant kids in Xi'an. She recently got married and financially supports her adopted family. To celebrate she held a big birthday party for her grandfather in the village this summer.

In October she came to visit with Dr. Seeberg in the hotel in Shangluo. We were both really happy to see each other and held hands for a long time.

Guanlan Sisters – their Stories Then and Now Shan Dangdang dandan

Shan Dangdang (pseudonym) was given away as a young girl to a man with a mental illness to keep house for him and his father. Her birth grandmother had died very early, her grandfather had been old, frail and sick, and her parents had abandoned them and her.

Since 2013 Dangdang was enrolled in the Guanlan Scholarship, and every year Pang Baoliang had to persuade the two older men to let her continue her studies. In 2017, she finished the coursework in a vocational-technical high



school also in preschool education in Shangluo.

March 2018, she started her internship in a local, non-public kindergarten.

Do you recognize her standing confident as a young teacher before kids also from nearby villages? She with our combined help has changed her destiny.

Home Visits in October 2018

With Pang Baoliang we visited some of the Guanlan Sisters and their families who had migrated from Anjinggou to nearby towns to work in the secondary service economy.

Here their daughters, second-generation Guanlan Sisters, attend segregated public schools with other village kids. These children live on the margins of the towns and cities, marked as "out-of-status" migrants by their village birth



registration [hukou] or by their lack of a birth certificate [heihu].

Guanlan Sister in their one-room apartment city; bath down the hall, no heat, a/c, stove in the hallway.

Most of them live in migrant urban villages of helter-skelter housing

Doing homework in the hallway, while their

