“青树”故事

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2007年暑期，浙江湖州吴兴市的叙利亚阿拉伯共和国总会主席胡大维先生（中）率团来华考察，海军副司令员、海军政治委员胡中校等全体代表团成员专程访华，参观了湖州中学。湖州中学是一所历史悠久的中学，有着100多年的办学历史。

2007年10月28日，是湖州中学建校120周年校庆。美国青树教育基金会主席周晶（左）和美国青树教育基金会荣誉主席吴建中（右）出席了庆典活动。湖州中学的学生们表演了精彩的文艺节目，庆祝建校120周年。

湖州中学的前身是上海的爱国实业家董学勤1901-1972)在杭州创办的一所中学。董学勤是清末民初著名的教育家，曾任浙江省教育厅厅长。董学勤在杭州创办了一所中学，名为“青树中学”。董学勤的办学理念是“教育救国”，他提倡“教育救国”，自1933年在上海创办后，便在教育方面办了两件大事：一是创办了“青树中学”，二是设立“青树奖学金”。董学勤在“青树中学”设校期间，为校名“青树中学”定了“青树”两个字，并在“青树中学”校门上题写“青树中学”四个大字。董学勤在“青树中学”校门上题写“青树中学”四个大字，为“青年树人，百年树人”事业长青，奠定了坚实的基础。
叫辛德俊的学生。当时与江泽民同时毕业于扬州中学的辛德俊，以高分考上了上海复旦大学，只是他家庭贫困，无线
上学。正当他欲放弃升学另谋出路之际，忽然接到了江泽民的来信，说他得到了一位企业家所设立的“青树奖学金”
的资助，使他可以上大学。就这样，辛德俊便如愿以偿地上了大学，非“青树奖学金”完成了大学学业。辛德俊感念不
忘恩人意切的雪中送炭之义，发誓日后定要恩人那样救济弱势群体。后来他到香港发展，成为成功企业家。

大陆改革开放后，辛德俊到上海、
潮州等地寻找恩人李荣贵，欲当面回报
恩情，可惜恩人已经逝世，但他仍然实
践诺言，在内地捐款建立了数所学校，
并资助20多名优秀学生去欧美深造。
2001年，辛德俊又听说赵耀渝正在为
创办与中国边远地区教育事业服务的基
金会而努力，就向赵耀渝捐出一笔种子
基金，唯一条件就是这个基金会得用
“青树”两字命名。

“青树”荫庇千万人

辛德俊母亲与赵耀渝两亲是在江苏淮海老家时的好姐妹，当年辛去香港发展，赵曾予子，因而辛把赵耀渝当作“老师”。赵耀渝出身教育世家，外祖父李荣贵在扬州办过十几所学校（曾任扬州中学校长），是毛泽东表彰过的教育家，母亲李崇华
是教师，与赵父结婚时曾将办婚礼的钱捐出在镇江举办了崇华小学。后该校在抗战时毁校，她就将两校重建资金
成功，临终前叮嘱女儿“一定要重建崇华”。赵耀渝不负母亲所托，于1993年在自州为其母子们续此遗愿，
重建了崇华小学，至赵耀渝本人更是倾注教育事业，她至今仍一心想在
教育事业上。

辛德俊对“青树”的情结让赵耀渝动容。他更感李当年李荣贵旧用“青树”之名建校的良苦用心，于是便
在2001年创立了美国青树教育基金会，并且对“青树”两字不用言而
用Evergreen（常青树）表述。基金会成员由一群热心于义工的美国人组
成，基金会的宗旨是改变中国边远地区青少年的处境、提高其
科学及教育水平

美国青树教育基金会之友会在首席基金会主席赵耀渝教授的推动下，于2004年设立了“青树奖学金”项目，从
2004年至今已资助超过1000名学生，其中不乏来自偏远农村的学生。

2007年伊始，美国青树教育基金会主席赵耀渝教授带着美国同行的“绿叶”之行，来到了中国西部
地区，与当地的学校和学生进行了深入交流。他强调，青树奖学金旨在激励更多学生
追求知识，为他们提供一个更好的学习环境。
Evergreen: A Story of Two Settings

By Yu Renjie, Ding Zhenzhen

In the summer of 2007, a ten-day Evergreen English summer camp was held at Linghu Middle School in Huzhou of Eastern China’s coastal Zhejiang Province. Seven English teachers were from universities in North America, all volunteers from Evergreen Education Foundation of the United States. They were popular at the camp and they excited the youngsters to work hard at achieving their language proficiency.

The fact that the Evergreen Education Foundation has hooked up with the middle school in Huzhou, Zhejiang Province for an education program indicates more than the foundation's noteworthy presence and endeavors to promote rural education in China. The connection traces the roots of the foundation.

Yu Liqing, vice president of the foundation and a noted writer with overseas Chinese readers, came to visit friends in Cixi, Zhejiang in the summer of 2006 after she had finished her mission in Yunnan, a border province in southwest China. When we met, I asked her if there was a possible connection between the foundation and the Linghu Middle School in Huzhou. I explained that I once worked at the school and knew it had been previously known as Evergreen School founded by Zhang Rongchun, a patriotic entrepreneur based in Shanghai. Hearing the story, Yu said she would ask Zhao Yaoyu (Faith Chao), president of the foundation and a professor with Golden Gate University in San Francisco. There and then, Yu made an international phone call to Zhao. Professor Zhao was excited at the news. “We found our roots in China!”

I contacted the government office concerned in Huzhou and the middle school. The two evergreen education institutions soon bonded.

A representative from the foundation came to Huzhou and attended a ceremony in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the middle school on 28th of October, 2007. A journalist from Global Journal, the largest Chinese newspaper in North America, came along to cover the event and wrote a story about the connection between the two evergreens.

Zhang Rongchun (1901-1972), founder of the evergreen education program, was a native of Huzhou, Zhejiang Province. Shortly after he made a business fortune in Shanghai in 1933, he set up a primary school in his hometown Linghu Town. Hometown pupils attended the school free of charge. He also set up scholarships. The school and the scholarships all carried the name Evergreen. The name came from a Chinese proverb that “you plant trees if you want benefits in 10 years and you educate people if you want benefits to last 100 years”.

The aggression war launched by Japan
in 1937 brought the school down to total ruins. It was not until 1946 that Zhang Rongchun had a chance to finance the rebuilding of the evergreen school in his hometown. The rebuilt 4.6-hectare school offered elementary and middle school education combined in American style. Zhang provided adequate funds for the school to purchase teaching equipments and hire teachers. The school became well known in the northern part of Zhejiang. The Shanghai-based scholarships were also resumed to help students from needy families to go through college.

Xin Dejun was one of the beneficiaries of evergreen scholarships. He almost gave up college education and planned to find a job due to his family’s poor financial situation although his score of the entrance examination was more than good. One day he was notified by Datong University of Shanghai that he was to receive a full scholarship. Xin never forgot the Evergreen financial aid that changed his life and promised to himself that he would help others as Zhang Rongchun had helped him.

When reform and opening-up started on the mainland, Xin, then a successful businessman in Hong Kong, came back to Shanghai and Huzhou in the hope of saying thank you in person to Zhang Rongchun for the scholarship. His benefactor had passed away. Xin kept his word. He donated generously and had several schools built on the mainland and financially helped over 20 students to study in European and American universities. In 2001, Xin Dejun learned that Zhao Yaoyu was raising money for a foundation designed to help education undertakings in outback places in China, he donated an amount of seed money with the condition that the foundation be named evergreen.

Xin’s mother and Zhao’s mother were close friends in their teenage years. When Xin Dejun was about to leave for Hong Kong for career opportunities, Zhao Yaoyu’s father helped the young man get started in Hong Kong. So Xin regards Zhao Yaoyu as a cousin. Zhao Yaoyu is from a family long engaged in education. Her maternal grandfather Li Gengsheng set up more than 10 schools in Yangzhou, a city in Jiangsu Province. Her mother, a teacher, donated all the money for her wedding to have a primary school set up in Zhenjiang, another city in Jiangsu Province. The school was destroyed during the World War Two. She tried twice in vain to have it rebuilt. On her deathbed she asked her daughter to do her best to have the school rebuilt. Decades later, Zhao Yaoyu finally had the school rebuilt in her mother’s hometown Huaiying, Jiangsu Province in 1993.

The Evergreen Education Foundation came into being in 2001. It has American volunteers who commit themselves to working for people who need their help. So far, the foundation has helped 34 schools for children of migrant parents in China, scattered in remote provinces such as Guizhou and Gansu as well as the coastal Jiangsu province and the suburbs of Beijing, set up libraries with computers that access the Internet. Evergreen has also issued scholarships to more than 300 students from needy families. In 2004, the organization was honored with Access to Learning Award by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for its efforts to set up libraries with computers with Internet hook up in remote Chinese western provinces.

Since 1946, over 30,000 students have graduated from Linghu Middle School. Today, the previous evergreen has grown into a key provincial middle school with 2,900 students and a faculty of nearly 200. Designated by Ministry of Education, the school offers special courses for students from Tibet. The school also issues evergreen scholarships through a foundation set up and supported by teachers, business people and alumni. There will be more activities between the two evergreens. Another English summer camp is scheduled; the school will host an international seminar on IT and education in May, 2008.