

AustCham: Helping Underprivileged Young People in Shanghai by Sponsoring Education and Supporting a Youth Risk Assessment Program.

In 2018, AustCham Shanghai will generously donate RMB 121,000 to Shanghai Sunrise. Shanghai Sunrise creates a brighter future for underprivileged young people through education; empowering them to realize fulfilling careers, attain greater life opportunities and become a positive force within their community. AustCham's donation will be invested in two ways: firstly, to sponsor the high school education of nine deserving young students, and secondly to facilitate the annual Youth Risk Assessment Program to identify young people in need in the community.

Youth Risk Assessment Program

Phase One of the Youth Risk Assessment Program took place in May 2018. During this phase, volunteers worked in partnership with local district social workers and the Shanghai Charity Foundation to identify 41 new students who were of high school age, whose families were unable to afford their tuition. Through Phase One, Shanghai Sunrise volunteers visited each of these students in their homes, to interview both parents and students, assess living conditions and ascertain that genuine financial assistance was required. Over the course of the month, volunteers travelled over 750 kilometres to visit all of these students across Jinshan District, Pudong New Area and Chongming and Hengsha Islands.



Ding Lao Shi, Lillian Zhao and a District Representative prepare to interview a family.

By the end of Phase One, 23 new students were qualified for the Shanghai Sunrise scholarship program. Each of these students comes from families experiencing severe hardship, where the monthly family income is less than RMB 2,500 and additional financial burdens such as chronic or terminal illness in the family have left them unable to pay for their children's tuition.



Ding Lao Shi talks with a student.

Each of these students will be gifted with tuition scholarships for the 2018/19 academic school year so that they can continue their education.

The next phase of the Youth Risk Assessment Program is the most labour-intensive and will begin in late June 2018. Shanghai Sunrise is expected to interview approximately 180 families spread across the outer districts of Shanghai.

The annual Youth Risk Assessment Program is an intensive and critical task that allows Shanghai Sunrise to continue its work in the community. It is thanks to AustCham Shanghai's generous support that the organization is able to continue this fundamental part of its sponsorship program.

Student Sponsorship

As part of their generous grant, AustCham Shanghai will further donate the funds for nine three-year high school tuition scholarships, to enable nine underprivileged young students to complete their education. Thanks to AustCham, the next three years of these students' lives will be filled with opportunities for learning and development which would not have existed without their help. With AustCham's support and their high school education, they know that a brighter future for themselves and their families will be within their reach.

At the start of the new academic year, AustCham will receive the names and photos of their sponsored students, along with an invitation to join Shanghai Sunrise's annual Student Sponsor Pairing Ceremony in November. This is a heartwarming ceremony where new sponsors and students meet for the first time and have the opportunity to bond and interact over afternoon tea and activities.



New students entering the Shanghai Sunrise program pose for a photo during the annual Student Sponsor Pairing Ceremony.

“Read more”: www.shanghaisunrise.com