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Funding Proposal for SILVERCREST FOUNDATION

February 2010

LOVEQTRA: HEATING SYSTEM AND WASHER/DRYER FOR SENGCHEMDRUKMO GIRLS VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL (SGVTS) – Darlag County, Qinghai, China

BACKGROUND: NEW DAY

New Day was conceived as a donor circle of like-minded Hong Kong residents who wanted to learn more about issues affecting women and girls in Asia and donate funds to grassroots projects assisting these girls in a direct and impactful way. It was incorporated as a private company and granted tax exempt status in Hong Kong in February 2007. From its first meeting in March 2007 as a group of eight initial members New Day has grown to a membership of over 60 Hong Kong residents and various international and corporate donors. New Day works in close partnership with other foundations in the selection and monitoring of the projects it supports. It is run by a volunteer Working Committee with all costs borne by individual members therefore close to 100% of the funds raised go directly to the projects it supports. Since inception New Day has funded projects including shelters, training facilities and prevention and awareness campaigns for the benefit of women and girls in crisis in Laos, China, Nepal, Vietnam, Cambodia and India. New Day was introduced to LOVEQTRA through one of their members, Ingrid Sun, who is a friend of LOVEQTRA's co-founder Philip Poh. New Day provided funds to LOVEQTRA in 2008 to install and equip kitchen and dining facilities at the Sengchemdrukmo Girls Vocational Training School. LOVEQTRA is currently seeking a heating system and washer/dryer in order to further improve conditions in the school.

FUNDING REQUEST

New Day is seeking 50% co-funding support from SILVERCREST FOUNDATION for the installation of a traditional heat stove system & washing/drying machine for Sengchemdrukmo Girls Vocational Training School (SGVTS). The Sengchemdrukmo Girl's Home (SGH) was set up in 2004 and began formal operation in 2006. In 2007, it came under the auspice of 'Love Qinghai Tibet Rescue and Aid' (LOVEQTRA). Funding requested from SILVERCREST FOUNDATION will be utilized to improve the living and learning conditions for these disadvantaged girls. Program details are outlined below:

BACKGROUND: LOVEQTRA and SGVTS

- Darlag County, Qinghai Province is in an area of extreme natural conditions and it lacks funding. For these reasons, in 2000 it was classified as one of the National Level Key Poverty Alleviation Sites.

- Illiteracy rates are high, school attendance low, and there is a huge cultural discrimination against women.
- LOVEQTRA focuses its efforts on helping and empowering these disenfranchised women, including girls, mothers and the elderly. It was founded in 2007 by Philip Poh, whose family lives and works on the Tibetan plateau, and Dockpo, a Tibetan man who donated his family home to open a school which would house and educate girls who have been rescued from slavery and poverty. It was initially called Sengchemdrukmo Girls Home (SGH). By 2009 they officially received the government's approval to run SGH as a Vocational Training School in addition to providing standard schooling, and thus changed the name to SGVTS. Philip, his wife and Dockpo devote their time to caring for the girls at SGVTS.
- SGVTS currently houses and educates 57 disadvantaged girls. Some were brought back from the grips of slavery, some poverty, and others given up by their parents who were too poor to care for them. Girls are aged 5-16. SGVTS provides them with the local school curriculum along with a fortified education programme that includes English and Computer Skills.
- The long term plan is to assist these girls to regain their self esteem by utilizing counseling, education, and vocational training to help them become self reliant and have a brighter future.
- LOVEQTRA is a grassroots organisation run entirely by volunteers in Qinghai province. It has very little access to funding and no exposure to foreign donors through a website or foreign representatives. New Day is committed to helping LOVEQTRA receive the funding they need for the SGVTS in order to support the invaluable work they are doing every day with disadvantaged girls in Darlag County.



THE SGVTS HEATING SYSTEM AND WASHER/DRYER MACHINE

LOVEQTRA is seeking USD \$27,723 to (see budget in Appendix 1):

- Install a central heating system (USD 21,838) to provide heat for 1100m² of classrooms, dormitories for the girls and rooms for the teachers;
- Purchase two 10kg volume Washer/Dryer machines (2 in 1) (USD \$5,885) to provide basic washing and drying facilities for girls, staff, and teachers.

Existing Facilities - Background

SGVTS currently has the main body of the building. In recent years they have been given partial funding to initiate construction of hostels and dormitories for the increasing number of girls. Last year, with funds from New Day, they were able to build and equip the kitchen and dining room, so that this winter the girls no longer have to squat in the cold to have their meals. There are 57 girls, 8 staff and 4 teachers at this time, but by the end of 2010, they estimate that they will house more than 100 girls.

The Need for the Central Heating System & Washing/Drying System

There is an urgent need to install a central iron-cast heater that will provide heat for these rooms in the winter. The average elevation is 4,300m above sea level, average annual temperature is -2C, with a mere 40% of oxygen at sea level. Therefore, caring for these young girls during long and severe Golog winters is a serious matter. Winter in Golog lasts about six months and it could get as low as -45C at night. Currently, SGVTS is using small manual stoves in each room but the heat is inconsistent and usually goes out in the middle of the night, making sleep difficult and uncomfortable. The traditional fuel of yak dung can only keep the heat going for about half an hour with each load. Coal is another option, but it is very expensive, and if no one is tending to the coals, it is easy to get monoxide poisoning, especially in enclosed rooms.

In addition, due to lack of facilities, the girls do not get to take a shower or wash laundry as frequently as their counterparts in the city. Since there are no shower and washing facilities, they have only been able to take a shower and wash their laundry (bedsheets, clothes, shoes, etc) a couple of times a year (mainly during summertime, by the river). Therefore, many girls have personal hygiene related problems such as skin conditions, rashes, lice, tick bites; not to mention, foul smell. Starting this winter, as part of their on-going education program, the girls are learning about personal and basic hygiene. It is clear that a washer/dryer machine can significantly improve their hygiene and health conditions.



See more pictures in Appendix 2.

Benefits of the Central Heating System & Washing/Drying System

Providing a central heating stove will heat the 1100m² of classrooms, dormitories for the girls and rooms for the teachers. SGVTS will need to install pipes and panels in each room, which will distribute the hot water from the central stove. The heat will be consistent, safe, and cheaper in the long run than either coal or yak dung. The proposed system comes with a 5-year warranty from the installation company. There are other buildings near SGVTS with a similar kind of heating system, and it proves to be efficient and effective.

In Darlag, weather conditions and temperatures are extreme. This central heating system would go a long way in keeping all the residents warm, thus improving the living and learning conditions for the girls and teachers.

Installation of Washing and Drying machines will allow the girls to do their laundry at least every two to three weeks. Compared to once every six months, this will meaningfully increase the level of personal and general hygiene. In fact, the heating system and washer/dryer is likely to dramatically change the quality of their lives thus allowing focus on studies, improved health, and a more positive view of the future. LOVEQTRA hopes to have funds available this summer to

build hot showers for the girls. This will help to further improve their health and hygiene along with the heating system and washer/dryer.

Appendix 1

SGVTS PROGRAM BUDGET

BUDGET		
Machine and installation costs	CNY	US\$
1. Install the main heating stove (height around 2m)	16,500	2,426
2. Complete set of pipe installation (1m needs CNY 120)	132,000	19,412
3. 10 kg volume Washing and Drying Machine (Haier) x 2	38,018	5,591
4. Transportation (Xining to Golog)	2,000	294
TOTAL	188,518	27,723



The girls only get to wash their clothes and bedsheets once or twice a year, in the summer.



Picture of the new dorm building. There is no heating at the dorm building, classrooms, or main building.



The current sleeping arrangement – to keep warm, 4 girls cram on one thin mattress which sits on the frozen floor in -40 C temperatures. Bedsheets and blankets are rarely washed.



Sengchemdrukmo Girls Vocational Training School (SGVTS)