

# Experiencing China in a Different Way

*TCSI volunteers in Lijiang, China, to teach English to primary school students*



*The TCSI team leading the children through games and activities.*

**18** students from China studying in Singapore enjoyed a unique experience and gained new perspectives on life as they worked with the less fortunate children in Lijiang, China. The students were part of the team of 24 volunteers from TOUCH Community Services International (TCSI), who were at Lijiang to conduct English enrichment lessons for 350 Primary Three and Five children from Bai Long Tan Primary School last December.

The volunteers took three months to prepare for this seven-day enrichment programme. As the level of English proficiency is very low among the students, the team focused on encouraging the students to speak out and gave them as much individual attention as possible, keeping curriculum easy for the children.

“This was a project that went beyond teaching English; we came to the children as their friends. Coming from the same homeland, we wanted to contribute to our community by giving our time, energy, love and friendship,” said Xie Wei, 20, an undergraduate from Zhuhai, Guangdong Province and TCSI volunteer.

During their stay, the team also visited the children at *Rainbow House Homes*, a group of orphanages in Lijiang. There, the team chatted with the orphans, taught them how to play games, and encouraged them to study hard. Through the short time spent with these children, many of the volunteers were personally touched as they saw how little the orphans had, but yet still live with such contentment and joy.

The trip ended off on a positive note. Teachers and students of Bai Long Tan gave very good feedback on the English enrichment programme. The students not only warmed up to the TCSI team very quickly, they had begun to look to them as role models and friends. For the volunteers, their own lives are enriched through these heartwarming experiences.



*The TCSI team bonds with the children after lessons.*

**TOUCH Community Services International** provides crisis relief and community development services to communities outside of Singapore. It has delivered crisis relief initiatives in countries including Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Turkey, as well as facilitated several community development projects in various parts of China.

*If you are interested to make a donation or volunteer, please contact Shawn Lim at [shawn.lim@touch.org.sg](mailto:shawn.lim@touch.org.sg) or call 6377 0122.*