



Project Shine 2015 – Friends Forever!

Rebecca Lee Volunteer



*"A teacher affects eternity,
she can never tell where her influence stops."*

I am Rebecca, a teacher with the Toronto District School Board. For the past eight years, I have volunteered with the CRRS Toronto Chapter, helping in their annual charity dinners and to raise funds for the education of impoverished students in rural China.

Since 2012, I have been involved with 'Project Shine' bringing North American volunteers to teach English to high school students ages 15-18 in Guangxi, China. This is my fourth year leading the team with Esther, teaching the local students and mentoring our 'Project Shine' team members.

'Project Shine' has become a life-transforming experience for many. All of the 27 volunteers established a strong bond and friendship within a short period of two weeks. We have a passion to bring people together and utilizing their resources, making an effort to bring a difference across the globe.

Many local students live in rural areas and they seldom see their parents during the year, so we become their family. The reason I keep returning to teach is because I see hope and determination in my students' eyes. They are our future leaders.

This year, the students wrote many heart-warming letters to me. Each truly has a special place in my heart.

Terese wrote, *"I hope that you will remember me. Even though I make many mistakes, you are patient and you do not give up on me."* Sandy wrote, *"If only I could have a teacher like you..."* I will always treasure the handmade flower headband that they placed gently on my head.

The last day of Project Shine was very memorable... I still remember embracing the students, wiping back tears, *"Be strong and study hard, I will see you next summer..."*

