



Secret Garden International

Helping young minds blossom and grow...

MISSION:

Helping those with special needs blossom and grow through -

Enhancing academic growth

Encouraging spiritual awareness

Expanding developmental potential

FOUNDING DIRECTOR:

C. Shushawn Touryan

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*"...to bestow on them
a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of
despair."*

Isaiah 61:3

Secret Garden International Supports China Partners Network

Secret Garden is networking with several other individuals and organizations to encourage and promote work with people with disabilities around the world. The China Partners Network is one of those organizations. Over the last ten years, healthcare providers, physicians and therapists with significant knowledge in neuromuscular diseases have traveled at least annually to Central and Western China in an attempt to improve the lives of children with cerebral palsy. It soon became obvious that services for these children were limited (perhaps nonexistent) in certain areas; this has been confirmed by our Chinese colleagues in Rehabilitation Medicine. During the last 5 years they have used the same core faculty to teach one-week intensive training seminars on "Management of Children with Cerebral Palsy" in Nanjing (twice) Chengdu, Xian; this fall they will be in Jiamusi.

Feedback from participant evaluations and leadership in the "Commission for Rehabilitation for China" has been very positive.

Their goal is to concentrate their efforts in developing a single "model center" in the West with the commitment that we would send teams skilled in cerebral palsy management two or three times per year for five years until expertise has been achieved by Chengdu staff. Specialized teams would then be sent on a consultative basis the second five years as the techniques are spread further throughout China by the Chengdu center staff.



One week intensive trainings are given on the Management of Children with Cerebral Palsy. Participants come from all over China and include physicians, therapists and orphanage workers.

Dr. Donald Mott - (Draft Proposal for a 10 Year Plan to Improve the Lives of Children With Cerebral Palsy in Central and Western China)

**China Partners Network
Wang center for International Programs
Pacific Lutheran University
Tacoma, WA 98447**

YEREVAN ARMENIA

LOCAL SCHOOL SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATES CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A public school in Yerevan, Armenia began integrating children with special needs into their typical education curriculum in 1999. This program is breaking new ground and everyone is watching. It was first sponsored by the British NGO, Bridge of Hope. The student population of the school is 880, 36 of which have special needs. The school has specialized equipment, speech therapists, psychologists and hearing specialists. The primary goal of the school is to prepare these children to be able to participate in life as a contributing member of their community.

Ms. Anahit Bakhshian, the principal, boldly leads this innovative program. My uncle & aunt, John and Arpi Haleblian, help



Arpi Haleblian & Anahit Bakhshian

with a van for transportation of the students. The Special Needs graduates are given a diploma after graduating from the 10th grade. Because of its success, the government is now supporting it financially. It is a strong pilot program for inclusion throughout the country.

Pyunic Update

In 2005 Lee Ann Williams spent a week in Yerevan, Armenia training Armenian teachers, social workers and psychologists who work with children who have Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Developmental Delays and other neurological and muscular disorders. The training was very successful and they are asking her to come back if possible. The Pyunic program has grown to a full time early intervention program from 8-5 every day. Services include speech/language therapy, music therapy, physical therapy and education. They also have a camp that operates in the summer at Lake Sevan. Due to their advocacy for people who are differently-abled, the government of Armenia is providing some financial support.



Ministry In Macedonia

In August of 2006 SGI sponsored Lee Ann Williams to travel to Macedonia for the purpose of providing training for parents and caregivers of children with disabilities.

Here is her story: *God is so faithful. There were 10 families who participated. Each family had a child with special needs. A local pastor, Pavle Kostadinova, spoke a couple of times on the value of a child from a biblical perspective. Since this is a former communist country, many of those who attended are atheists. I spoke for three days about Understanding and Teaching Your Child with Special Needs. While I worked with the parents, my children and others ran a program for the kids with disabilities and their siblings. Special Education teachers have few materials to work with and little training. I did one joint session with parents and their child using therapy balls which were purchased by Secret Garden International. That was a highlight for many of the children and families. They were all so appreciative. I also purchased other supplies and had a packet of information, which had been translated into Macedonian for them.*



For me, the highlight was the last session. We had a lot of information to cover still, so I had to pick and choose. I had prepared to share from the gospel of Mark about who are the disabled from God's/Jesus' perspective, and started to doubt whether I should or not. I finally decided that I had prepared it and had already run it by Pavle, so I should just proceed in faith. I had to summarize the Bible passages, but it went well and afterwards three people asked Pavle or his wife for Bibles! God is so faithful! Secret Garden International has had a direct impact on the conference and the lives of these families. We shall see how the Lord leads in the future, but it is all very exciting and SGI is a part of it! Thank you so much.

Lee Ann Williams

The following is an email that Lee Ann received after returning home:

Dear Lee Ann, I saw Luke's mother, Tania a few days ago and she was so happy that she did everything that you told her and she saw immediate results with Luke. She quit the valium and now the boy is not aggressive and withdrawn, he looks happy. Zaklina, Gorjan's mother, told me to thank you for inviting all of them to such training. Nobody in this country every gave directions on what to do with our children (with disabilities) and after the training we were able to apply all that was learned. May God give to Lee Ann many blessings and good health. We will never be able to repay what she experienced at the training. She also said that she has never had the privilege

of having a Bible and being able to read it. Thank you for your sacrifice and your time. Glory to God who loves these children who may never be able to read the Word of God, but because of the big grace of God, they are saved.



*With Love,
Suzanna*

Abled-Hearts Ministry



On December 6, 2004, God gave us Konrad Mattias Armen Schmal; now we are expecting another baby January 4, 2007. Being the mother of two small children limits what I can do and international travel is now out of the question for a while. I have been focusing my efforts closer to home and SGI has had great success in this area. Abled-Hearts was first introduced to SGI donors last year and we



have proceeded to grow significantly. SGI's mission includes encouraging spiritual growth and that is the primary mission of Abled-Hearts. Abled-Hearts is devoted to the inclusion of people who are differently abled into the family of God. There are so many people with disabilities that are unable to get to and from church. Churches offer ministries that go out to the home bound, but being part of a spiritual family is vitally important for everyone. Abled-Hearts has worked to acquire a wheelchair bus and provides a weekly route that picks up people with disabilities throughout the Denver area and transports them to and from church. We now have a full route and enough drivers and assistants to provide a full door to door service. SGI has used some of its budget to provide driver training, tie downs for the wheelchairs in the bus, bible study material, large print bibles and RTD bus passes for those who live outside of the route boundaries. Two of our members have now been baptized in front of the congregation. One went through a full immersion even though she has Cerebral Palsy and is fully reliant on her wheelchair. (See photo) This has been a wonderful testimony to the rest of the church because this ministry goes both ways. It is an outreach to those who have disabilities, but it is also an outreach to those who do not feel comfortable around people with disabilities, and this is very common in churches within the United States. The change within the congregation has been tremendous.



Abled-Hearts has also been responsible for providing a location for Innovative Services of Colorado. This program is offered at Southern Gables Church Monday through Friday to adults with various disabilities. It provides job skills, community services and social skills training for adults in the area. This has been extremely exciting because Innovative Services covers all three branches of Secret Garden's mission statement: Helping those with special needs blossom and grow through - **Enhancing** academic growth, **Encouraging** spiritual awareness and **Expanding** developmental potential.

Yes, I wish to make a Tax-Deductible donation to
Secret Garden International
 4375 S. Kalamath St.
 Englewood, CO 80110

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Local (Tutoring Scholarships and Abled-Hearts) | \$25 | \$50 | \$100 | \$200 | \$_____ |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Where needed | \$25 | \$50 | \$100 | \$200 | \$_____ |

Name: _____

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Farewell To a Dear Friend
Carolyn Finnell
December 27, 1942 - June 29, 2006

Carolyn was born with cerebral palsy which greatly hampered her speech and confined her to a wheelchair. After the 9th grade she was discouraged from continuing her education, but she continued and did graduate from high school. She then attended Metropolitan State College of Denver and graduated with a degree in journalism. Carolyn spent four years living in a nursing home and worked at a sheltered workshop counting fish hooks. Unfortunately people around her were completely unaware of what she was capable of doing. Carolyn became an original member of Atlantis, a group empowering disabled people to become believers in themselves and their abilities, and on July 5 and 6 of 1978 she was one of "The Gang of 19". This was a group of 19 individuals, all who had significant disabilities, who protested the Denver based RTD bus system and the lack of accessibility for people with disabilities. This resulted in a legally based mandate by the government that required all public transportation to have complete accessibility for those who are differently-abled.

There is a plaque on 14th and Broadway that commemorates that amazing time of courage and strength. A time that showed everyone that people who are disabled are actually quite ABLED in many different ways.

She is now dancing with the angels in heaven, but is still dearly missed by us here on earth.



Please visit my
website at

www.secretgardeninternational.org

LAST YEARS GOALS
(Accomplished)

*SGI is continuing to provide scholarships for tutoring children with disabilities.

Ongoing 2006

* Expand Abled-Hearts Ministry in Colorado with Southern Gables.

*Weekly transportation provided
Fall 2006*

* Provide financial support for the skate/snowboarding team at EHS.

On hold due to pregnancy

* Continue partnerships with those in Armenia who work with people with disabilities.

Regular Contact with Pyunic

* Investigate other international partnership possibilities.

SGI supported training in Macedonia and China



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C. Shushawn Touryan
4375 South Kalamath St.
Englewood, CO 80110