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## Mac raising cash to help build school in China

May 30, 2008

**WADE HEMSWORTH**  
THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
(May 30, 2008)

Xueya Feng was driving to her job as a research assistant at McMaster University when terrible news came over the radio: an earthquake had devastated China's Sichuan province, including her home city of Mianyang, where her sister's family was still living.

In that city alone, the quake killed 20,000. It took two days for Feng's phone calls to get through, but she was finally able to reach her sister and find out the family was safe.

"I didn't realize how bad the conditions were until I talked to my family," she said.

Since that day two-and-a-half weeks ago, the news from China has only worsened, with at least 68,500 confirmed dead and another 19,000 still missing.

"It's very hard to express," Feng said. "We all cried for days for the people who lost their lives."

Now there is a direct way for her and about 1,000 Chinese faculty, staff and students at McMaster to help in the rebuilding, and for the broader community to join the effort.

The university's Chinese community is trying to raise enough money to build one new school in the area devastated by the May 12 earthquake. Thousands of schools were damaged or destroyed in the disaster, and more than 9,000 schoolchildren died in their classrooms. Many schools had been poorly built and in some areas were the only buildings to collapse.

The McMaster instructors, students and staff have joined together in a one-month campaign to raise \$75,000 -- enough to rebuild one school through an established program called Project Hope.

"Obviously, we can't go across the Pacific to give them a warm hug," said Lin Song, president of McMaster's Chinese Students and Scholars Association.

"What we can do here in Hamilton, in Canada, is try our best. Maybe everyone can't contribute a big amount, but together we can make a big difference. It's our way of saying, 'there is still hope' to those victims back in China."

The idea of collecting for a school emerged when engineering professor David Embury, who is travelling in China, e-mailed his colleague Gu Xu back in Hamilton.

Embury told Xu, a Chinese-born engineering professor, that he wished the McMaster community could do something "concrete" to help rebuild.

That got Xu thinking, and after consulting with Luke Chan, McMaster's associate vice-president for international affairs, he reached the conclusion that building a school should be the campaign's goal.

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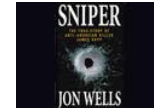
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## Daily News

Friday, May 30, 2008

## McMaster community raises money for Sichuan school

by *Chris Martin*  
May 29, 2008

"It really is about establishing a bridge," says Go Xu, a professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, of a new campaign to raise money to build a school in one of the communities affected by the Sichuan earthquake.

Project Hope is a joint fundraising effort by the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) and the Association of Chinese Professors at McMaster University (ACPM) to help children resume their education through financing the construction of safe, earthquake-proof schools.

If the campaign is successful, the school built through donations by the McMaster community would bear the University's name. Xu says that "people in China would remember this act of kindness, and it would go a long way to connecting us with another part of the world. This makes the world a better place."

A school would cost about \$75,000 to build, Xu says, and the project is hoping it can enlist as much help as possible to rebuild a shattered school system.

Contributions can be made via cheque, cash and e-mail money transfers. Cheques and cash can be dropped off at the MUSC atrium and the JHE lobby on weekdays from 1 to 2 p.m., MDCL 4010 during business hours, HSC Room 4H1 on weekdays from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and at St. Joseph Hospital's New Tower in the third floor hallway lunch area from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on weekdays. These stations will be open until the end of June.

Online donations can be sent to [MacCSSA2008@gmail.com](mailto:MacCSSA2008@gmail.com) through your financial institution's website.

The *Daily News* is maintained by the [Office of Public Relations](#) at [McMaster University](#). To view other McMaster University publications, [click here](#). Contact us at [daily@mcmaster.ca](mailto:daily@mcmaster.ca).

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## Profs, students need help to rebuild schools in China

May 30, 2008

A telephone conversation with a McMaster engineering professor traveling in China has sparked a fundraising campaign to rebuild schools devastated by the May 12 earthquake.

Representatives from the Association of Chinese Professors at McMaster University (ACPM) and the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (MacCSCSA), the two organizations leading the fundraising drive at McMaster, were joined by members of the University and Hamilton communities to launch the initiative Thursday.

“This has come together very quickly,” explained Gu Xu, president of ACPM and professor of materials science and engineering at McMaster. “We have been working non-stop the last 72 hours to get this going.”

The initial target of the campaign is to raise \$75,000 (CAD), enough to build one school in the region affected by the earthquake. McMaster organizers are liaising with Project Hope, an initiative run by Beijing-based China Youth Development Foundation, which has been carrying out school building projects in China for several years.

Media have reported that nearly 7,000 schools have collapsed as a result of the 8.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Sichuan Province in southwestern China, trapping and killing thousands of school children. It is estimated that the total death toll in the region has reached 65,000 with more than 23,000 people still missing.

The idea for the fundraising drive began during a phone call from David Embury, professor emeritus of materials science and engineering at McMaster, who is traveling in China, although not in the area affected by the earthquake.

“We were discussing various matters related to China and he mentioned that we should do something concrete to help the people recover from the earthquake,” explained Gu Xu, president of ACPM and associate professor of materials science and engineering. “There is a lot of immediate relief funding coming in but we felt it was important to start looking at longer term needs as well.”

Prof. Xu spoke with Luke Chan, associate vice-president, Office of International Affairs at McMaster, who was aware of the work being done for Project Hope.

“We would like this to turn into a more personal relationship,” explains Prof. Xu. “We want it to benefit people on both sides for many years to come.”

Other members of the Faculty of Engineering supporting this initiative include David Wilkinson, Dean of Engineering; Max Wong, Chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; and Gary Purdy, Professor Emeritus, Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Donations are being collected by the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association at several locations at McMaster as well as at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Hamilton General Hospital. Donations can also be made online or by mail.

[To donate or for more information](#)

### Links:

<http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM/openLetter-v2.pdf>

<http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM>

[www.cydf.org.cn](http://www.cydf.org.cn) (in English: <http://159.226.8.159/gb/english/index.htm>)

### Media Contact:

[Gene Nakonechny](#), Manager, Public Relations, Faculty of Engineering 905-525-9140 ext. 26781



Among supporters of the fundraising drive to rebuild schools in China are (left to right): Yiping Guo (civil engineering), Peidong Wu (mechanical engineering), Gu Xu (materials science & engineering), Luke Chan (associate VP, Office of International Affairs), Changqing Xu (engineering physics). Photo credit: Licy Li (third-year biochemical engineering)



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## CSSA and ACPM organise PROJECT HOPE

Posted on Friday, 30 May 2008

In the wake of the devastating earthquake that has shaken the Chinese province of Sichuan, leaving over 68,000 people dead with another 19,000 missing, the **McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)**, as well as the **Association of Chinese Professors at McMaster University (ACPM)** have organised **Project Hope**. This fundraising campaign is aimed at securing enough financial support to rebuild one Chinese school, with an earthquake resistant design.



**CSSA** and **ACPM** are hoping to raise \$75,000 during **Project Hope**, which will run for the next month. They will be accepting donations of cash or cheque at the following locations:

- MUSC main hall, and JHE lobby, weekdays, 1:00-2:00 pm
- MDCL 4010, working hours
- HSC, Room 4H1 (lounge), weekdays, 12:30-2:00 pm
- St. Joseph's Hospital, New Tower, 3rd floor hallway lunch area, weekdays, 12:30 to 2:00 pm
- Hamilton General Hospital, McMaster Clinic, Room 358, ext 44686

Please make cheques payable to: **Chinese Students & Scholars Association**.

As well, donations can also be made online via your bank to **MacCSSA2008@gmail.com**.

For more information regarding **Project Hope**, including common FAQ's and the tax deductibility of donations, please read the **OPEN LETTER**

See the related article in the May 30th edition of the **HAMILTON SPECTATOR**

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學生在校園內募捐狀況。(圖片由麥馬士打大學提供)

要聞 [昔日明報]

麥大華裔師生籌款為災區建校

**麥大華裔師生籌款為災區建校 目標7.5萬加元 中專協教育基金會發捐款收據**

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明報

【明報專訊】本月12日發生的四川大地震，在頃刻間摧毀了近7,000間學校。為了幫助災區學生盡快重返校園，安省麥馬士打大學華人教授協會和中國學生學者聯誼會日前在校園內聯合發起賑災籌款活動，第一階段的籌款目標是7.5萬加元，將用於在災區興建一間希望小學。

上述賑災籌款活動的發起人之一、麥馬士打大學材料工程系教授許谷告訴記者，四川大地震發生時，他身在美國。當他在本月20日返回加拿大後，大清早便趕到學校與同事們進行商議，應該如何為賑災盡自己的力量。

在過往幾天內，許谷和同事們忙於開展緊鑼密鼓的籌備工作，他們與中國青少年發展基金會的「希望工程」辦公室取得了聯繫。而根據「希望工程」提供的信息，在地震災區興建一間希望小學的費用約需7.3萬美元，相當於7.5萬加元。

與此同時，他們還與加拿大中國專業人士協會屬下的教育基金會達成了合作意向，由後者這一慈善機構負責接收捐款，並向捐款20元以上的人士提供捐款收據。所有捐款將由加拿大中國專業人士協會教育基金會轉交給「希望工程」。

除此之外，他們還爭取到校方的支持，以及麥馬士打大學教授協會、職工協會等多個團體的支持，並在此基礎上向全校師生發出了一封公開信，呼籲廣大師生踴躍為在四川災區興建希望小學而捐款。

許谷說：「本周四中午，我們在學校的學生中心舉行了一個簡單的籌款活動啟動儀式，當場便募集到3,000多元的捐款。」

他還表示，第一階段的籌款活動計劃在6月底結束，目標是募集7.5萬加元的善款。如果屆時無法達到上述籌款目標，也可能考慮在災區搭建帳篷小學，至於搭建一間帳篷小學的費用約在3,000至4,000美元之間。

他還表示：「我們也希望能有更加直接的渠道，將捐款送至四川災區，用於在當地興建小學。」

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歡迎回應

## 目標:為地震災區建希望小學

麥克馬斯特大學中華教授協會 ACPM 與麥大學生學者聯誼會 CSSA 籌款活動側記 ◆Licy



五月十二日,我們無法忘記這個全中國人民為之哭泣的日子。在五月十二日的四川汶川大地震中,數萬的生命離我們而去,而其中,坍塌的校舍下埋葬了無數本應該有著希望的幼小的生命。由於地震的原因,受災地區大量學校遭到了破壞。為了還活著的孩子們的未來,不能埋沒他們讀書

的希望,為此,由麥克馬斯特大學中華教授協會 ACPM 與麥大學生學者聯誼會 CSSA 共同發起了為災區重建學校的籌款活動。

五月二十九日上午舉辦了一個簡短的籌款活動的開幕式。開幕式中由發起人中的徐教授及麥大副校長之一的 Luke Chan 教授為活動作了簡短的

介紹。據悉,此次活動的發起源于正在中國的材料系教授 David Embury 的建議“我們必須做點什麼”他這麼說。並且這項建議迅速得到了包括麥大校長 Peter George 以及其它教授的響應。由於地震帶來許多變數,主辦方從提出建議起花費了整整三天的時間終於擬定了活動計劃。計劃的先期目標是建立活動教室以為學生們提供暫時的學習環境,而最終目標則是籌集 7.5 萬加元以建成一座希望小學。據了解,捐款將會被收集起來並且轉交給中國希望工程,而捐款所建立的學校將以麥克馬斯特大學的名義命名。

活動中,來自各方的人們,包括教職工及學生們聚集在一起積極為災區捐款。筆者在捐款時,旁邊趕過來一位風塵仆仆的學生,稱自己就是為了捐款過來的,並且一開始表示並不愿留下名字,直到主辦方解釋之後才留下名字,並且拒絕接受了 tax return 的收據。

天災無情,人間有義。雖然我們並不能為逝去的生命做到更多,但我們至少還能為或者的人們做些事情。我們希望受災的孩子們能迅速走出陰影,早日返回課堂,重展笑顏。更多活動細節及捐款方式請見: <http://acpm.mcmaster.ca/ACPM/>

## 愛心:為四川災民募捐義賣 —滑鐵盧地區暨 K-W 地區賑災活動記實

中國地震災難,喚醒我們內心的情懷,大家同心合力,打破了方言,宗教,地域,和社會背景的觀念,共同舉辦了一次為地震災區募捐義賣的活動,大家聚集在 NCR 的停車場,互相認識,然後我們內心感到舒暢,驕傲,快樂。也同時認識許多新的朋友,對滑鐵盧區華人來說,國難把我們聚集起來了,這是一個好的開端。

這次為地震災區募捐義賣的活動,累計大約有 3000-4000 人到場,其中包括 K-W 地區的兩位現任國會議員 Andrew Telegdi MP (Liberal, Waterloo), Karen Redman MP (Liberal, Kitchener Center)。參加義賣活動的家庭和個人超過 100 個,捐款的家庭和個人約有 260 個。在許多義工協力之下,收到 32 家餐館捐贈的食物,在 Wok Wagon 協調下,賣中式快餐的收入大約 \$2,500。加上義賣捐款,以及沙發拍賣所得和其它捐款,本次活動總計籌得約 \$31,874。其中以華人捐款為大多數。這充分表現了海外華人的愛國熱情和人道主義精神。組委會在此向所有參與和關心此次活動的朋友們,表示深深的謝意和崇高的敬意!

這次活動所得善款將依照捐款人意愿,分別轉交給加拿大紅十字會



(\$25,102)和中國領事館(\$6,772)。紅十字會和中領館將根據我們提供的名錄,給捐款人開出收據。

中國有許多方言,也有各種風俗習慣不同的民族,中國文化是多元的,中國人多才多藝,中國人的生活方式,也各不相同,因此中國人的團體,各有特色,這些團體,從這次共同籌劃和辦事,開始了友誼和合作的途徑,如果我們本著這種精神,今后互相協調互助,將會使我們的生活,更為豐富。

本次賑災義賣募捐組委會包括:揭

鈞 Peter Chieh, 安省中部中華文化中心 Central Ontario Chinese Cultural Centre (COCCC); 蘇立明 Liming Su, 滑鐵盧華人聯誼會 Waterloo Region Chinese Community Association (WCCA); 班大雁 Dayan Ban, 滑鐵盧華人聯誼會 Waterloo Region Chinese Community Association (WCCA); 張奕 Lily Zhang, 滑鐵盧地區華人社區服務中心, Waterloo Region Chinese Integration Service (WRCIS); 吳文 Wendy Wu, Chinese Canadian Women Federation (CCWF)。

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