



Students from Shanghai universities are tutoring children of parents away on the front line fighting the novel coronavirus epidemic around the country. — Ti Gong

Uni students step in to teach children of front-line workers

Yang Meiping

STUDENTS of Shanghai universities are helping with the studies of children in families affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic, such as those of doctors and community workers.

At East China University of Science and Technology, a program called “Huali Dream” has gathered more than 500 student volunteers to help 1,000 kids around the country.

They provide tutorship on core subjects including math and English, and also special courses, such as computer programming, singing and painting.

According to the university, 83 percent of the students have prior volunteering experience. All received training before beginning work.

The university volunteer association surveyed the children to pair them up with suitable volunteers.

Zhang Yiran, a major in artistic design and media, has been tutoring second-grader Gui Yushan from Yunnan Province.

Gui loves singing with her dad but he is on the front line as a community volunteer.

He signed up for the singing class for his daughter to make up for his absence.

Zhu Weiye, a major in information science, teaches programming. He begins with games and explains the programming behind them, helping students to design games themselves.

The mother of Wang Yushuai and Wang Yuxuan works in a hospital. Now He Feifan from the university is their PE teacher and monitors them do exercises at home.

He also told the boys that their mother is doing a great, meaningful job so they should concentrate on their studies and not let her worry about them.

‘Generous support’

At East China Normal University, 328 future teachers have been tutoring more than 290 students in Shanghai for 7,000 hours in total since February 18.

Tang Jialu, one of the volunteers, said: “As a future teacher, I felt greatly honored to be able to help those on the front line.”

“Thank you so much for joining our medical staff in fighting the novel coronavirus epidemic by giving us generous support

and care,” Ruijin Hospital wrote to the university.

Meanwhile, at Fudan University, a team of 300 volunteers is helping children of medical staff working in Shanghai and central China’s Hubei Province.

Among them, 161 are medical students.

They are divided into two groups, one for preschool PE education and the other helping with homework for primary and secondary school students.

“I saw a child on TV, who is about 4 or 5 years old, calling ‘daddy’ when he saw his father on television,” said Liu Shuyi from Fudan’s school of social development and public policies. “It touched me.

“So when I discovered our university has a program to help these kids, I signed up immediately.”

“I’m grateful to An Ran from Fudan for teaching my child,” said the wife of a doctor.

“She is loving and faithful and I believe she will be a good doctor in the future.”

An, a major in clinical medicine, said: “I was nervous on the first day, but the family was very friendly.

“I’m happy to be able to offer a little help to them.”

Xuhui offering subsidies to get business going

Yang Jian

XUHUI District has allocated 10 million yuan (US\$1.4 million) to help local bookstores, art galleries and others resume business amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Cinemas, bookshops, theaters, art venues and tourist spots have seen sharp decreases in visitor numbers.

Also, stores, museums and historic villas at the Xujiahui commercial hub, the West Bund waterfront and the Hengfu (Hengshan-Fuxing Road) Historical Conservation Zone have been badly hit.

To help restore both business and confidence, the district has released measures, including subsidies.

With the suspension of cultural venues, and closure of cinemas, entertainment sites and tourism attractions, the market has been hit hard, Jin Jianhong, deputy director of the Xuhui culture and tourism bureau, said.

One hotel with 700 rooms had only 10 customers during the Spring Festival.

The Zhongshuge bookstore at the Greenland Being Funny Mall has seen sales reduced to 10 percent, said general manager Zhu Bing. Business has been around a third of normal since March.

Each bookstore with over 40,000 yuan in revenue in April and May will receive a subsidy of up to 100,000 yuan.

And each theater will receive 20,000 yuan for every 1,000 people during the same period.

Art galleries, museums, historical sites and tourism attractions will be given 10,000 yuan for every 1,000 visitors.

The coronavirus pandemic has greatly affected the plans of art galleries and museums,

according to Chen Anda, assistant general manager of the West Bund Development Group.

The West Bund waterfront is developed by the district’s government as a center of art.

Some venues reopened on March 20 with reservations and limits on visitors, Chen said.

Most of exhibitions planned for May and June have been canceled.

“However, it may have created an opportunity for domestic artists to host their own exhibitions,” Chen said.

The group has also provided 10,000 free admissions

US\$1.4m

Xuhui District has allocated 10 million yuan (US\$1.4 million) to help bookstores, art galleries and others resume business.

to medical workers, who can apply online using their work ID.

The Hengfu Historical Conservation Zone has three new walking routes with guides.

All the museums and former residences of important figures reopened on March 17.

A music route takes visitors to the British-style Blackstone Apartments on Fuxing Road M., built in 1926, which have become home to the headquarters of music institutes and workshops, said Yao Jiayin, deputy general manager of the Hengfu Investment and Development Co.

The Xujiahui shopping hub will host flower exhibitions and light shows in May to bring back visitors, said Yin Jie, an official from the Xujiahui Commercial Co.

Qingming kicks off but things are different now

Hu Min

MORE than 78,600 people visited cemeteries across Shanghai on Saturday to sweep the tombs of their ancestors as reservations are about to become mandatory during the Qingming Festival.

Qingming, on April 4 this year, is when Chinese people clean family tombs and pay

tribute to their ancestors. This year, visitors to cemeteries will be controlled via online reservations to prevent crowds.

The city’s 54 cemeteries and columbaria take reservations on their WeChat accounts with four two-hour slots available each day between March 28 and April 12.

A total of 105,000 slots were

available for Saturday and 79,200 were reserved, according to the Civil Affairs Bureau.

A total of 78,600 people turned up, bringing an extra 17,000 vehicles onto the streets.

In addition, 156 urns were interred.

Tomb sweepers are required to wear masks and present their health and reservation codes.

Burning items and setting off firecrackers are banned.

A maximum of 10 people are allowed at each tomb.

Cemeteries have begun online tomb-sweeping via their websites or WeChat, enabling residents to pay tribute to their relatives online.

Since March 14, cemeteries and columbaria in Shanghai

have received 825,000 online visits, according to the bureau.

Cemetery staff can also sweep tombs for families if requested, doing tasks such as cleaning graves, bowing and laying flowers. Broadcast and photographs can be provided.

On Saturday, cemeteries and columbaria in Shanghai met 1,143 such requests.