

SICHUAN QUAKE: IN THE ZONE.

**SICHUAN
QUAKE
RELIEF**

Reporting the latest news and views on the recovery and reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the May 12th 2008 earthquake

April 2009

With only a few weeks to go until the Anniversary of the May 12th, 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, an enormous amount of work has been done to rebuild infrastructure, homes, and lives, yet a lot remains to be done. Sichuan Quake Relief itself is only one small group contributing to this process, and we hope to do even more to maximize the effectiveness of our efforts, and your donations. This mini-newsletter is a brief look into what we will be doing in May, and what lies ahead for SQR.

COMMEMORATIVE BENEFIT EVENING

Date: Tuesday, May 12th
Time: 18:30 to late
Venue: The Bookworm, Chengdu
Cost: TBC

Join the Chengdu community in remembering those who lost their lives, families, and friends during the May 12th, 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, and celebrating the successes of those who are rebuilding their lives in spite of enormous odds. More information will be available about this event at The Bookworm (www.chengdubookworm.com), and in our May newsletter.

AFTERQUAKE

Last month, a small team of people, led by Abigail Washburn, came to Sichuan capture the sounds, voices, and hopes of the children affected by the earthquake. This inspired EP, *Afterquake*, will be released globally on Tuesday, May 12th.

The collaboration was inspired in 2008 through Abigail's volunteer work for Sichuan Quake Relief where she performed in 'relocation schools' with kids from pre-school to high school - most of whom were relocated from mountain villages to schools in new locations far from their families.

The Afterquake team included [Abigail Washburn](#), singer/songwriter and banjo player extraordinaire, [Dave Liang](#), the maestro behind the [Shanghai Restoration Project](#), and [Amanda Kowalski](#), double-bass player and photographer who documented the trip. The Afterquake website (www.afterquakemusic.com), and packaging features some of the moments Kowalski captured while they were creating the EP.



The EP *Afterquake* will be for sale on Amazon (physical copies with international shipping), and Hinote will be handling digital distribution throughout mainland China and Taiwan. Everywhere else in the world it will be available through the

soon-to-be finished Afterquake website (physical copies) and digitally on i-Tunes. The first 99 CD's purchased will also contain a note written by the children interviewed for this project. A generous portion of sales revenues will be donated to Sichuan Quake Relief. 200 copies of the CD will also be on sale at the Chengdu Bookworm from May 12th.

Read more about Afterquake:

[JamBase report on Afterquake](#)

[Paste magazine's report on Afterquake](#)

CLOWNS!

8th March 09: Chengdu Sports Aid and Clowns Sans Frontieres trip to LuoShui

Approximately 20 Chengdu Sports Aid volunteers and 5 members of Clowns Sans Frontieres took a bus to Luo Shui via PengZhou. About 50 kids were waiting for the group, and they got involved in sports coaching and activities, including skipping, basketball, badminton, soccer/football, and touch rugby.

There followed a fabulous performance from the Clowns Sans Frontieres crew. [Read more about it and check out pictures of the day.](#)



Your help is helping to rebuild lives

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CHENGDU SPORTS AID

On April 19th, over 30 volunteers went to a middle school in Qipangou, to the north of Chengdu, and organised sports activities and games for about 100 children who have been displaced as a result of the earthquake. SQR and the newly formed Chengdu Sports Aid have teamed up with a group of local university students, **[Where There Be Dragons](#)**, and other member of the community to visit area schools every Sunday. The sports and games organised vary, but usually include football (soccer), touch rugby, badminton, basketball, skipping games, and an extra sprinkling of fun is added by sack races, 3-legged races, limbo competitions and the like. Suggestions for new games and sports welcomed. The volunteers are put into sports/games groups on the bus to the school, and each activity is run by one team leader, appointed by the organiser of that day's trip. Generally there are coaching sessions/drills before a game is set up. So, turn up in sports kits, with ideas for activities and enthusiasm.

To volunteer email your details to **volunteer@sichuan-quake-relief.org**, and further information will then be sent to you.

Chengdu Sports Aid - EMEI SHAN, 3rd May 2009

As well as trips to Qipangou, a Chengdu Sports Aid group will be heading out to a school at Emei Shan on Sunday 3rd May 2009. To volunteer for this trip, email **volunteer@sichuan-quake-relief.org**. Meet at the Bookworm at 8.45 am. Please be sure to bring water for yourself. The group expects to be back at the Bookworm at around 5pm.

Details are on **[Chengdu Sports Aid's Facebook page](#)**.

EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BENEFIT DINNER IN AID OF SQR.

Date: Friday 8th May 2009

Celebrate Europe Day, and help those that are still working to rebuild their lives one year after the devastation of the Wenchuan earthquake. The EUCCC in Chengdu has kindly dedicated this event to raising funds to reconstruct the Guangji Pre-School and Kindergarten. In addition to money raised by ticket sales, there will be an auction with items from, and SQR merchandise.

To purchase or reserve your tickets, contact the **[European Chamber of Commerce in China](#)**, Chengdu at Tel: +86 (28) 8671 0577, or **chengdu@euccc.com.cn**. Book quickly as tickets are limited.

PAIN FOR GAIN: CHENGDU HALF MARATHON

Date: Saturday, May 9th
Time: 07:30

Still on the sporty theme, the 2nd Annual Chengdu Half Marathon will take place to raise cash for Chengdu Sports Aid on Saturday 9th May 2009. Some of Chengdu's finest athletes, and some of Chengdu's most lethargic couch potatoes will line up on the starting line at 7.30am. Visit **www.sichuan-quake-relief.org** for more information.

PROJECT UPDATE: GUANGJI KINDERGARTEN

With the generous support in particular of the British, American and European Chambers of Commerce, SQR is helping the reconstruction of a kindergarten in Guangji. After working on gaining various land rights and permissions, the next stage is the official survey of the land, and preparing detailed building plans. SQR will be going to survey the site with Keith Linch, Chief Architect, of Robinson JZFZ Architects on Wednesday, April 22nd.

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LIBRARIES

The Library Project is an organization which funds small libraries of books for schools. Many places within 3 hours of Chengdu that have requested a library have now received one (click here for examples from the SQR blog: <http://www.sichuan-quake-relief.org/?p=100>). However, there are other places outside that 3-hour range that still need a library. The issue for these schools is getting the libraries to them. For around 800 RMB for transport, SQR can work with the Library Project to install a small library in some of these schools. If you're interested in assisting SQR in getting libraries to these more distant locations, please contact the SQR office.

Yan Daiyu

Yan Daiyu, a young girl who attended the Guangji Kindergarten, was recently diagnosed with leukaemia, and is now in hospital in Chengdu. We are pleased to report that she is responding well to therapy.

A small group of people in Chengdu is raising money to finance her ongoing treatment. If you would like to donate to help with Yan Daiyu's treatment, please email info@sichuan-quake-relief.org and we will put you in touch.

VOLUNTEER!

Sichuan Quake Relief has benefitted from contributions from a host of volunteers, including photographers, drivers, maps specialists, teachers, admin specialists, psychologists and others. If you think you can help rebuild lives in the quake-hit area, contact us at volunteer@sichuan-quake-relief.org and we will do our best to put you in touch with a relevant group or organisation, or ask you to help us on a current project.

Two specific instances of volunteers required:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TEACH

If you live in Chengdu and would like to help out by teaching, here's your chance.

If you live in or around Chengdu and would like to help out by teaching, here's your chance. Half the Sky (<http://www.halfthesky.org/> - an established children's charity) are looking for foreign volunteers to volunteer to go to Dujiangyan every week to play with/teach young children during the week, and with older children on the weekend. :once or more per week for this semester, or at weekends (till end June/mid July). This is a medium-term commitment: they are looking for people who can commit for 10 to 12 weeks of regular visits.

Contact SQR and we will put you in touch.

CHENGDU SPORTS AID

Register to help out on any Sunday by emailing volunteer@sichuan-quake-relief.org.

Generally, you meet at the Chengdu Bookworm at 8.45 am.

To contact Sichuan Quake Relief

Email: info@sichuan-quake-relief.org

Web: <http://www.sichuan-quake-relief.org>