

# morning tears newsletter

Volume 8, No 2, April 2013

## In this issue

Editorial

News

Strategy

News from Coming Home Project - Henan

Relevant Actualities

Finances



## Editorial

### When you're not allowed to grieve...

There is a type of grief that goes beyond the emotional pain and darkness of normal mourning. It is more complex and ambiguous, and consequently is it also harder to recover from. It is referred to as "disenfranchised grief".

Disenfranchised grief is when your heart is grieving but you can't talk about or share your pain with others because it is considered unacceptable to others. It's when you're sad and miserable, and the world doesn't think you should be, either because you're not "entitled" or because it isn't "worth it".

It is this type of grief that children whose parents are imprisoned or executed mostly have to cope with. Society portrays the parents as bad, evil and dangerous. It is something that has to be locked away or removed from the planet. A prisoner or death row inmate is not somebody associated with receiving or giving love.

The message from society to the children is that now that the evil is removed they can feel safe, can go to school and play. Some gratefulness to the justice system is what "should" be there. The message from society is that the great liberation from the bad parent has finally arrived, and in this there is no place for grief.

Guess what? The inner world of children conflicts tremendously with the perceived messages. For the child, it is often their burden to unravel the cluster of contradictory emotions and messages unless they get help by outsiders who help them to recognize their grief.

We often sit with the children on the floor in circles, and talk and play to make it clear to them that if they feel grief, then it is their right as a human being to grieve. They can grieve exactly how they need to as long as they are not hurting themselves or others. It is also their right to be comforted, affirmed and validated.



## Editorial (cont'd)

We try to tell the children as they live every day through their pain, that their love is real and that is why their grief is real. We try to offer them words of encouragement.

But honestly speaking, all of this work would not be necessary and the pain of the children would be more tolerable if society would recognize them as what they are: children who rightfully love their parents, despite what the parents did. Again, it was not the crime of the children, but the parental imprisonment is also their punishment.

Koen Sevenants  
 Founder - Director of morning tears  
[koen.sevenants@morningtears.org](mailto:koen.sevenants@morningtears.org)

## News

### New faces at morning tears introducing themselves

Lynn Cailliau



Intern in Beijing

My name is Lynn Cailliau. I graduated in 2011 at Sotheby's Institute of London with a master in contemporary art. I moved to Beijing 6 months ago and am currently challenging myself to improve my mandarin by taking regular lessons.

For the past 4 years, I've been living abroad, seeking opportunities to study and to work in a broad range of environments enriching my work with a creative approach.

Having taken up positions at a number of not-for-profit organizations, cultural institutions, and commercial and non-commercial galleries, based in China, the UK, Germany and my native Belgium, I experience working at morning tears as the ideal way to grow my involvement in a way that directly benefits others and to complement my work with a creative approach based on my artistic background.

Laila Haxthausen



Intern in Shanghai

I'm a master student in International Development Studies and Public Administration from Roskilde, Denmark. I come from an "expat family", which means that through my parents' NGO work, I got the opportunity to live in Mozambique, Angola and Malawi throughout my childhood, spending every other summer in Zimbabwe where my mother is from.

Having a background in Africa and an inherited interest for NGO work, I have chosen to venture into new lands and what better way to do so than with an internship for morning tears in Shanghai.

Working as an intern for morning tears is interesting, challenging and exciting, and gives insight into the different mechanisms that come into play when helping children of imprisoned parents in China. Fundraising and awareness raising poses both challenges as well as many possibilities in Shanghai, and I look forward to a very educational six months with morning tears.



## Successful Benham Gala in Beijing

On Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March the annual Gala Ball of the Benelux Chamber of Commerce was held at the Capital Renaissance Hotel in Beijing. Over 250 guests enjoyed the evening packed with entertainment. More than 32,000 RMB was raised for morning tears via a silent and live auction. Special thanks to Yifine gallery in Beijing's 798 art district for their support to the silent auction with great art works. Once more also our profound gratitude to Benham, and especially Robbert and his team, for nominating morning tears as beneficiary and making the evening a great success.

## Dream Tour: an unforgettable experience

From the 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> of February, seven Chinese children from Zhengzhou visited Belgium. This is part of what is called Dream Tour and includes visits to Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain. The children are selected on the basis of their school results. Morning tears assisted the Zhengzhou Charity federation with this visit. The children were between 13 and 16 years old and had the company of 2 adults and our own Gemma Guo (staff member of morning tears Beijing). The group was guided in Belgium by Koen, his father Guido and friend Marcel, as well



as morning tears Belgium network officer Anja. In Belgium, they visited Brussels, Hasselt, Genk and went among others, bowling and ice skating. In Brussels there was also time together with the kids from the youth home Chicago.



## Don't forget!!

- Morning tears Belgium plans 2 big benefit concerts with world famous harpist Anneleen Lenaerts, who travels the world with the Wiener Philharmoniker. This concert will take place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May in Brussels and the 12<sup>th</sup> of May in Hasselt. More information on [www.morningtears.be](http://www.morningtears.be).
- The 7<sup>th</sup> annual morning tears BBQ will be held in garden of the Belgium Embassy in Beijing on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. Great food, Belgium beers and plenty of fun activities for the children.

symphonica  
assai

morning tears  
opvoeding en ondersteuning

een **uniek** concert  
voor een doel

Dirigent: **Wouter Lenaerts**

Soliste: **Anneleen Lenaerts**

10 mei, 20 u:  
Conservatorium - Kon. Concertgebouw Brussel  
Reservatie: 03 507 82 00

12 mei, 11 u:  
CS Hasselt  
Reservatie: 011 72 88 24

kaarten: € 18,-



## MAD – all about Making A Difference

In the autumn of 2012, Morning Tears Shanghai had the pleasure to team up with the people behind MAD (Making A Difference). MAD is a new charity initiative in Shanghai; the founder Reggie Geldenhuys and his crew of volunteers put tremendous effort in organizing and hosting events all over town – and it's all for charity! We asked Reggie a few questions about MAD and his ambition for the project. This is what he said:



**Reggie, please explain a bit about MAD and your reasons for starting up a project like this.**

*I'll give you the shortened version, as I don't think you want to hear the 'It all started while I was in high school' - version... LOL! I saw a picture of my dad, in South Africa, handing out food to people in need and speaking with him I found out that he was going to start doing that on a regular basis. My dad, being retired, living off his pension and still doing things for others really hit home to me. He has so little and is doing such great work for others not expecting anything in return. I felt kind of ashamed at first at my lack of initiative, then really inspired to utilize the skills I have to do something for others, too. I figured since I am a DJ and have worked with many venues in Shanghai, I thought I can start doing events at these different venues and raise money for different charities. Thought of a name, got together with some friends that I thought would be great to work alongside ... and the rest, as they say, is history.*

**What kind of events are you doing, and can people or companies somehow support you in this?**

*Initially, I started out doing just bar/club parties, but we have shifted our focus and done some gala luncheons in conjunction with other companies and now also corporate networking events. We have awesome sponsors like Oakley & Skullcandy that fit perfectly with our clubbing events ... But since we have shifted our focus and are doing other kind of events we are always looking for people and sponsors to jump onboard to help out. Please get in touch: [mad.ent.cn@gmail.com](mailto:mad.ent.cn@gmail.com)*

**How does the future look? What's coming up in the nearest future and where is MAD in 5 years?**

*The future looks very hopeful! We started LIVE MAD, which is a few musicians (sax, vocalist, mc's, percussionist & DJ) collaborating to do live performances during events. Also the MAD Radio show on Udance radio starts at the end of Feb 2013. All the other plans we have that are in the process of getting confirmed; doing events in other cities, major events in summer, locking down some more sponsors, etc. Not to be too presumptuous, but I would like to see MAD become an established brand in 5 years – synonymous with doing awesome events and doing great work for charity, both locally & internationally.*

Morning Tears was the beneficiary of a MAD-event on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2012 and the money raised was used to give the morning tears children a big New Year's celebration! We sincerely thank MAD for all the great work they do, and we look forward to working with them in the near future.

For more about MAD, please have a look at:

[www.weibo.com/madent](http://www.weibo.com/madent) and [www.facebook.com/madentertainmentcn](http://www.facebook.com/madentertainmentcn)

## Morning Tears France

Morning tears France is looking for new board members. If you are interested or would like to know more about this position then please send an email to Ange Moray ([ange.moray@hotmail.fr](mailto:ange.moray@hotmail.fr)).



## Prison visit in Cambodia

Morning tears Germany provides assistance at all possible fronts to support the work done for children of prisoners in Cambodia. Uschi Germer from morning tears Germany visited Cambodia in February. This is her story,

Visiting Cambodia is always beautiful – but a challenge at the same time. People are very friendly and smile easily. But even when travelling the tourist sites and bigger cities, one cannot turn a blind eye to the poverty and the desolation of many people, especially the children. While most children attend school, they do so mainly for grades 1-6. To attend grades 7-9 they would have to travel far from home and need accommodation, which many of them cannot afford. School is 4 hours in the morning from 7-11 or afternoon from 2-6. Teachers are paid so poorly that the kids are expected to bring a small sum with them each day to be noticed and taught in school.



Children are the future of a country, so education is essential. For the children with incarcerated parents this is even more difficult to achieve. They must support the family income with work, they must take care of siblings while the parent is in prison, and they often have nobody who tells them to go to school every day.

In Pailin Prison, we managed to reduce the number of children that have to live inside prison. Our constant visits supported the prison to better organise the daily lives of the women, children and men inside prison. They live in separated areas now, which provides safety for the children against abuse. The creation of the play area and the daily attention and stimulation they get from the playroom assistant is helping the children to become more active and to learn useful life skills. It helps to improve their self-esteem and provides them with the needed skills and prepares them well to later go to school and to reintegrate well into their communities. An additional advantage is that the mothers can now watch the playroom assistant and learn from her educational expertise as well.

Among the people remaining in prison, one family of 5 children is especially striking. These children range from 2-7 years and the mother and father both are incarcerated. It remains a challenge to reintegrate this family back into their community and to find legal support for them to improve their situation.



In Banteay Meanchey Prison the mothers were grateful to receive further food provisions for their children as a result of our visit.

One story stays in my head – a boy attends school outside prison in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with good success, but his 2 siblings of 10 and 13 are fending for themselves, all alone at home in the countryside. What will his future be, once he and his mother are reunited with them? Will this boy be able to finish school successfully or will he have to work to feed the family instead?

Providing solutions for such questions and building up a much-needed support system for all family members affected by an incarceration is what we are working for in Cambodia.

On the internet portal, betterplace, you can find info on a part of our work in Cambodia: [www.betterplace.org/en/projects/12485-cambodia-children-of-prisoners-need-help](http://www.betterplace.org/en/projects/12485-cambodia-children-of-prisoners-need-help) .



## Morning tears' strategy

Over the past two months we have been working hard to ensure operational continuity and efficiency. Some insights:

- Events and fundraising: the events in Beijing at Beer Mania and the Benham Gala were a success. We are now working on the organization of more fundraising events for the period May-July. In parallel, we of course keep pursuing other options to meet our fundraising targets for 2013.
- The capacity-building project as supported by the European Commission is ongoing, and we hope to present you with more news in the upcoming editions, also on the new model centre for childcare and protection.
- MT Shanghai had to relocate and has now found a new small office.
- We have done a critical review of our website and are working on adjustments to make the site more attractive and informative.

## News from Coming Home Project - Henan

Currently there are 44 children in ATY and we are working to ensure additional placement of the extra 4 children for one of the existing family units as well as the 16 children for the new building.

Several new children have arrived over the past months but some children also left the project to be reunited with parents or family. The new children have been placed in the existing building for efficiency reasons and in the interest of their care. Placement of children at the school throughout the school year can normally be arranged but receiving 20 additional children in a relatively short time proved to be an obstacle. In cooperation with our Chinese partners, we will keep doing our utmost best to ensure placement of the additional children as soon as possible. However, this is beyond our direct control and it appears more realistic that the children will arrive in the period of June–Aug, hopefully sooner. Also we will keep you informed on the progress over the next months.

### Recent happenings

- Jan.24<sup>th</sup>, one of the boys gave a performance at an event organized by the Zhengzhou Youth League committee.
- Feb.6<sup>th</sup>, one of the children went to see her mother at the Zhengzhou women's prison.
- Feb.9<sup>th</sup>, the children prepared food for Chinese New Year and watched the fireworks.
- Feb.16<sup>th</sup>, the children went to see a 3D movie at the cinema and go to park.
- Feb.27<sup>th</sup>, the children came back from holiday and prepared for going back school.
- Mar.2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 children went to the Zhengzhou women's prison to visit their mothers.

## Relevant Actualities

- An interesting article with Koen in The Global Mail; [China's Children of the Damned](#)
- State legislation in the United States for children with a parent in prison:  
[www.childrenofinmates.org/BlogTopic/5805/encouraging-legislative-bills-aimed-at-helping-children-of-prisoners.aspx](http://www.childrenofinmates.org/BlogTopic/5805/encouraging-legislative-bills-aimed-at-helping-children-of-prisoners.aspx)



# Finances

Below you can find our financial statement for China for 2012 as promised. The end of the year showed a positive balance. The substantial increase in net assets consists largely of restricted funds; co-funding by the EU for part of our project work (52,4%) and restricted funds for the Coming Home Centre in Zhengzhou (36,4%).

## Financial statement Morning Tears China 2012

( Currency: CNY)

### Revenue & support

Event & sales	588.103,00
International schools, foundations and organizations	945.613,00
Corporate	699.705,00
Private donations	78.482,00
European Union <sup>1</sup>	1.271.603,00
Governments/institutional excl. EU funds	624.230,00
Other	6.591,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.214.327,00</b>

### Operating expenditure

Coming Home Centre	1.289.397,00
European Union	-
Re-unification project BJ and Xian	328.315,00
San Yuan	70.239,00
Xi'an Children Village	42.897,00
Trip to Europe (ZZCF)	83.042,00
Fundraising	185.083,00
Cambodia	13.581,00
General & management <sup>2</sup>	321.266,00
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.333.820,00</b>

**Total net assets (1st Jan 2012) 545.431,00**

**Total net assets (31st Dec 2012) 2.425.938,00**

Incl. net assets EU 1.271.603,00

Incl. net assets non-EU 1.154.335,00

**Change in total net assets 1.880.507,00**

### Notes

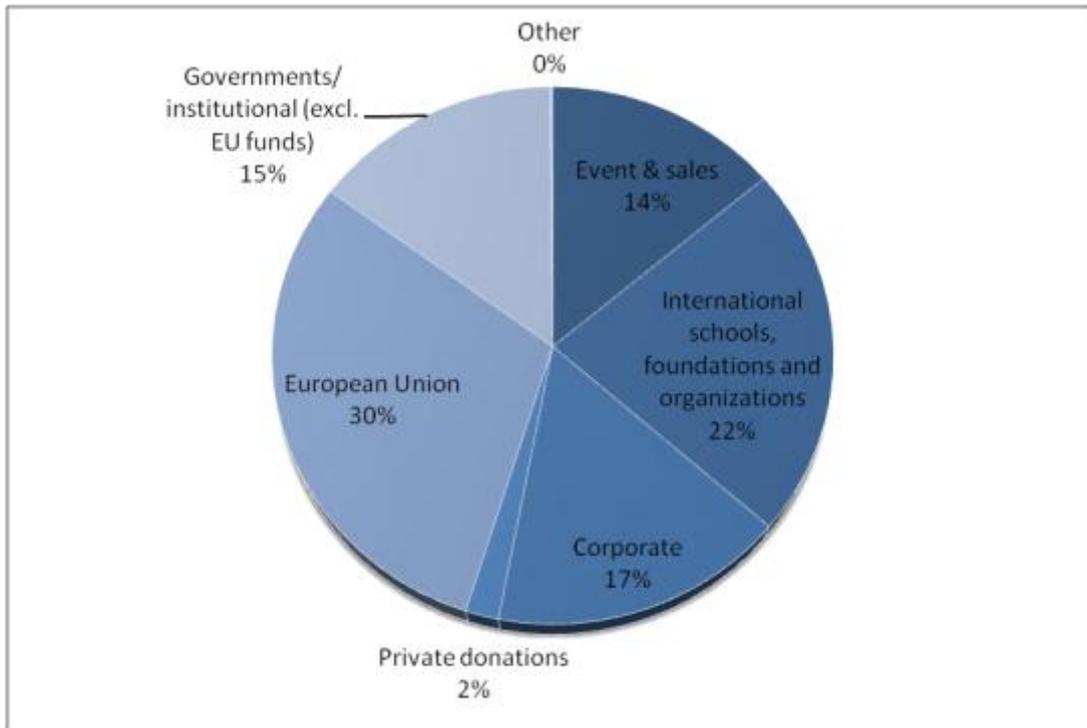
1. The EU funds are restricted for use in the EU project. Started on the 1st of December

2. Incl. expenses for awareness raising and communication

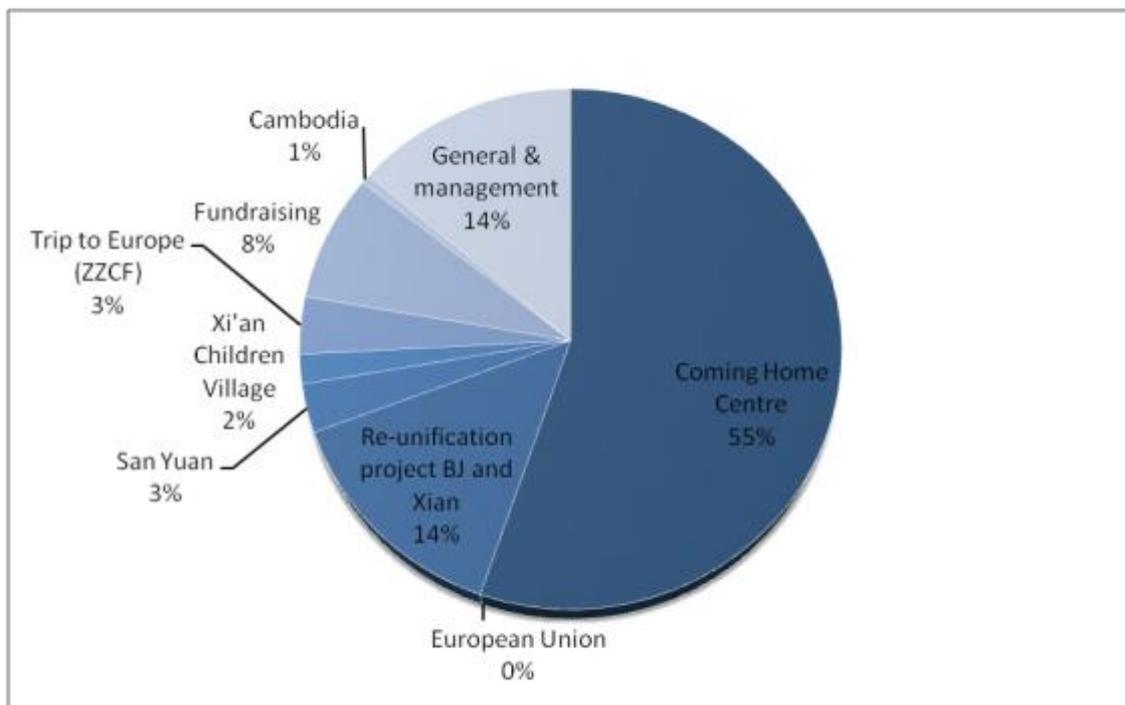


## Finances (cont'd)

### Income by donor type



### Operating expenditure





### **morning tears Belgium**

BNP Paribas Fortis  
 Account No: 001-4495454-65  
 IBAN: BE 18001449545465  
 BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB

### **morning tears Netherlands**

ABN Amro  
 Account No: 45.75.13.764  
 Stichting Morning Tears Nederland  
 IBAN: NL81ABNA0457513764  
 BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A

### **morning tears Spain**

La Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions  
 Account No: 2100.0233.99.0200332319  
 IBAN: ES28 21000233990200332319  
 BIC/SWIFT: CAIXAESBXXX

### **morning tears Denmark**

Danske Bank  
 Account No: 10490189 Reg. Nr. 1551  
 IBAN: DK14 3000 0010 4901 89  
 BIC/SWIFT: DABADKKK

### **morning tears in China**

Bank of China, Beijing Xi Cui Lu Sub-Branch  
 [中国银行北京西翠路支行]  
 Account No: 4160-3000-1880-2623-90  
 Beneficiary: Guo Zhi Hong (郭志弘)  
 BIC/SWIFT: BKCHCNBJ110

*morning tears rebuilds the world for children who have lost their own world.*

**morning tears** rebuilds the world for children who have suffered or are suffering heavy emotional pain.

We focus particularly on:

- children whose parents are in prison;
- children whose parents have been sentenced to death;
- children who have been abused or neglected;
- orphans;
- children who haven't been registered at birth, and thus have no rights;
- street children.

**morning tears** has been operating since 1999 on an informal basis without legal structure. However, in March 2005 **morning tears** became a formal non-profit organization registered under Belgian Law. Currently, **morning tears** has offices in Belgium, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Italy, the USA and China.

**morning tears** is run mainly by volunteers. These volunteers are mostly professionals from the social sector or development aid workers, although we also have journalists and engineers in our group.

The running costs of **morning tears** are kept very low, so that donations can go almost entirely to the children in need.