



**WHO Healthy City Awards 2005**

**Good Practice Awards Written Reports**

# **EQUAL CARE FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE. HEALTH BOOSTS DEVELOPMENT**

----- Pro-poor or equity enhancing healthy city initiatives in  
Zhangjiagang City

Proposals: Pro-poor or equity enhancing Healthy City  
initiative

**ZhangJiaGang. JiangSu. China**

**August. 2005**

## EQUAL CARE FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE.

### HEALTH BOOSTS DEVELOPMENT

----- Pro-poor or equity enhancing healthy city initiatives in Zhangjiagang City



Lying at the intersect of Yangtze River and coastal economic zones, Zhangjiagang is a young and vigorous rising economic city at southern shore of fertile Yangtze River Delta. The city takes up an area of 999 square kilometers with 0.86 million registered residence and 0.32 million floating population. It consists of 8 towns, 1 management district and 175 administrative villages and has gradually formed a city framework of one central city

with four districts.

Zhangjiagang usually impresses visitors with its cleanness and good afforestation. Early ten years ago, Zhangjiagang started to put emphasis on improving its living environment and was then awarded as “cleanest city” nationwide. In year 2004, the city’s total production value reached RMB57.62 billion Yuan with average GDP USD5600 per person. Finance income at all levels reached RMB8.5 billion Yuan, which ranked the 2nd place among cities of JiangSu Province. Deposits per person on bank’s records reached RMB30000 Yuan. Available income of citizens reached RMB15117 Yuan per person and net income of peasants boasted RMB7930 Yuan person. The Engel coefficient was kept within 35%. Expenditure on health construction takes up 4.7% in total government financial budget. Average lifespan in our city is 76.2 years. Our city enjoys more than 80 honorary titles nationwide, such as “Cleanest City”, “1st Exemplary City in Protecting Environment”, “Outstanding Civilized City”, “Garden-like City”, and etc.



## 1. Our Recognition

We always take it as one of our most important and urgent duties to help the poor and vulnerable. In Oct.2003, we launched the campaign of building up Healthy City. From then on, we have carefully studied the concept and standard of being a healthy city, devoted ourselves to increasing income of low-income people and improving their living conditions; and tried our best to minimize the living quality difference between urban and rural areas. We are gratified to find that with our continuing effort, we are more and more accordant to the standard of being a healthy city.

However, to realize equality in the whole city is not a so-easy job. When we boasted with a break-up of GDP of USD5000, we are honest enough to say that there're still many poor or otherwise marginalized individuals in our city, among which there are 4334 households, that is around 10103 low-income people; 40,000 disable people, and 834 lacking of living dependence.

## 2. Our Practice

In order to ensure the basic living conditions of the poor in our city, we designed different supporting policies aiming at the poor people poor to different extent.

### (1) For low-income groups

#### 1. Properly define "the poor"

We define "the poor" as those whose monthly family income per family member is below RMB300 Yuan in urban areas and below RMB200 Yuan in rural areas, and those who suffer from cancer, leukemia or uremia but with very low insurance and with their monthly family income per family member below RMB600 Yuan



▲ [My living is guaranteed with this certificate](#)

in urban areas and below RMB400 Yuan in rural areas. All these people are on the verge of extreme poverty. According to our policy, we should at least ensure them of basic living standard.

#### 2. Help in medical treatment

Low-income people in ZhangJiaGang City can enjoy below service after taking part in the new c-operational medical treatment: free registration fee, free diagnosis fee, and free beds for observation at any designated community clinic.

To those whose situation accord to enjoying serious disease compensation, our local government offers salvation of about RMB30000 Yuan per person per year.

### 3. Help in employment

We've increased subsidy of some public-beneficiary posts to RMB350 Yuan per person per month since July, 2005. We set a social insurance allowance standard aiming at over-30-year-old unemployed people of no less than RMB323 Yuan per person per month. And we also adjusted the qualified age of enjoying social insurance allowance in five categories of enterprises and in all public-beneficiary posts to over 45 full year old for male and over 35 full year old for female.

### 4. Social Salvation

Since we started construction of Healthy City, 20266 households, 46101 individuals have been brought into our protecting circle. We've spent RMB37.78 million Yuan on helping them to make it sure that they all can live at least at the basic living standard. With our flexible management, we paid insurance fee for those who should enjoy insurance but are not able to pay for corresponding fees. In year 2004, we invested RMB13.77 million Yuan in building 2988 houses for



846 households who had originally lived in dangerous buildings. Among those who we helped to build houses, there're 163 households with low insurance, 96 households of the handicapped, and 503 extreme poor households. This year, we plan to invest RMB 4 million

#### ▲ The old house(Left) and new house(right) of Farmer WangZhiXiang

Yuan to build 956 houses for another 344 poor households. We believe our help in building houses can greatly improve living conditions and living quality of the poor.

### 5. Charitable activities in back-to-school aid

In recent two years, the whole society has input 3.5626 million Yuan into various charitable activities of helping students who drop school early because of family poverty. Those activities helped more than 3580 poor students to remove study and living difficulties. A study-subsidize branch of Headquarters of Charitable Association was founded this July in our city. We set a fund with RMB4.76 million Yuan available at present. The fund will be well kept with our local government's allocation of RMB one million per year and with a fixed enterprises' donation of RMB0.1-0.3 million per year. Meanwhile, our city implements "two free, one subsidy" (free incidental expenses plus free textbooks expenses, subsidy on campus accommodations) to the children who are in families with very low

insurance or with nearly no insurance. All expenses on this implementation are from local town or county government and are brought into yearly governmental financial budget. To those students who are under non-compulsory education but whose families are enduring extreme poverty, we reduce the tuition at 50% or even charge free.

## **(2) For the handicapped groups**

It is recognized and accepted by more and more countries that whether the situation of the handicapped is improved and to what extent the handicapped can take part in social activities equally have become an important measuring standard of social civilization and development. At present, there are 40000 handicapped people in our city, among which 15000 have labor ability to some extent and 14000 are of employment. The employment rate of the handicapped in our city is around 93%.

### **1. Improve the handicapped' s employment situation**

We set up and developed some welfare enterprises according to national stipulations, mainly for solving the employment difficulties of the handicapped. We now have 7000 handicapped workers in all welfare enterprises in our city. In terms of the policy that there can be 1.5% employment of the handicapped in any organ, enterprise or institution, 1000 have been in their employment. To those handicapped people who operate individual business, we can remit taxation and give priority in getting business field. Till now, there are 6000 handicapped people in our city who run individual business.

### **2. Fulfil the guarantee to the handicapped**

Those organs, organizations, enterprises or institutions which can not realize 1.5% employment of the handicapped must pay employment guarantee fare for those handicapped people. The amount of employment guarantee fare is more than RMB2 million Yuan per year in our city, which has become the main source of our supporting funds of the handicapped. In addition, we set up" demonstration service stations" for the handicapped, offering good, favorable and prior service for them.



### **3. Help the rehabilitation of the handicapped**

We've built and re-equipped many assistant physical training appliances in more than 70 communities where there're relatively more handicapped inhabitation, which offered the handicapped people with better rehabilitation environment. We also designed special path for the blind in all

our main roads and no-barrier path for all the handicapped. And in our public toilets, there're special rooms for the handicapped.

#### 4. Perfect social salvation system

At present, we try to perfect our salvation by improving work of government and society. Government mainly ensures of policy support. We've brought all handicapped people in rural areas into co-operational medical treatment and serious disease insurance. We offer free medicine to poor psychopaths and fix common artificial limbs for the handicapped free of charge. We supply favorable no-barrier service to the deaf. And we subscribed "Monthly Publication for the blind" with the governmental allowance. Society mainly takes effect with its feature of all-sided. We called for the whole society helping the handicapped and we once sent a wheel chair to each with his legs seriously handicapped under the help of World Wheelchair Fund Association.



### (3) For “Three-no” Group

“Three-no” means no living dependence, no labor ability and no earning. “Three-no” people can get governmental free offerings in eating, wearing, residence, medical treatment and funeral as long as they hold the “Three-no” certification and “Five-guarantee” certification which are granted by civil administration. And to this special group, we mainly guarantee in following aspects:

#### 1. Standard of five guarantee

Five guarantee expenses are included in our yearly governmental financial budget. We offer RMB5040 Yuan per person per year to collectively supported group and RMB3360 Yuan to dispersedly supported group. Till now, our local government has input more than RMB48 million Yuan in building and rebuilding 21 old people's home in rural areas, which has in great extent improved the living environment for the five-guarantee group

#### 2. Standard of education salvation

All public primary and middle schools in our city implement completely free education to students who are from “three-no” and “five-guaranteed” families.

#### 3. Standard of other salvations

According to corresponding stipulations in “Implementation of helping urban and rural people with low insurance”, local Power Supply Department and Water Supply Department give allowance of monthly 5 kilowatt/hour electricity and 5 tons of water per five-guaranteed family.

#### (4) For The Aged Group

In year 2004, the proportion of the aged to the others of society is 16.6%. According to the request of UN that the society should realize dependence, participation, being well cared for and self-esteem of the aged, our government takes the work of caring for the old people's life very seriously. First, we are always improving the supporting-the-old system. We pay insurance for all the aged people who can not make insurance for themselves. We implement "Family planning award in some rural areas", according to which, old people who are of 60 full years' old can get RMB50 Yuan per person per month as the award. We also implement the "farmers' endowment insurance measures" and "the elders annuities policy", according to which old people (60 full years' old for male and 55 full year's old for female) who have no income can get annuities of RMB80 Yuan per month. Till the end of last year, our government has devoted 50.60 million Yuan funds on the 102 thousand elders' annuities, accounted for 90.4% totally. The elders more than 70 years old enjoy the privileges taking free bus services. The governments have devoted 0.8 million Yuan on free bus services at 2003 year and 1.5 million Yuan at 2004 year. Especially we devote more than 0.5 million Yuan each year on the high years old elders' long life subsidies.



Secondly, improving the elders' medical treatment services. We improve serious diseases' collaboration medical treatment compensation rates for the elders

▲The old man smiling when getting annuity

without stable incomes, those males more than 60 years old and females more than 55 years old, participated in the collaboration medical treatment system more than 3 years; We implement the "temporary measures for the medical treatments of special poor group", give the preferential services for the no-income elders. We devoted 9 million Yuan in building a professional elders hospital for medical treatment, health care and rehabilitation. We also add the elders diplomats, the elders sickroom and widen the elders medical treatment services.

### 3. Our Thoughts

To make it sure that equal healthcare service can also reach the poor and vulnerable, we set up a strict monitoring mechanism to achieve better distribution of doles.

1. Government concerns and increases funds input

In past decades, we have put considerable amount of money in helping the poor and vulnerable. Especially in last year, we spent RMB0.24 billion Yuan on setting 12 subsidies in medical treatment services, annuities, houses buildings for the poor, paying tuition for poor children, awarding outstanding disable students and so on. During the practice of building up Healthy City, we concluded following index in our Healthy City initiatives standard system. They are registered unemployment rate, average net income of peasants, participation rate of new co-operative medical treatment in countryside, management measures to perfect medical salvation for extra-poor groups, the basic guaranteed living level of the urban inhabitants, the medical salvation rate among extra-poor groups, compared rate between numbers of actual employment of disabilities and numbers should-be employment of disabilities, and covering rate of annuities among urban and rural old people.

## 2. The whole society participates and community takes effect

We need the whole society's supports on helping the poor and vulnerable. First, it is very important to strengthen our community organizations. We further consummated the local Federation of the Handicapped, the Charity Association and the old people's activity organizations, and guided these communities to participate in helping the poor and vulnerable. Till now, we have 135 aged activists and have built normal associations and physical training associations for the old in 246 villages and districts. Secondly, it is also important to guide the participation of communities. We made full use of communities, based on ever constructing them. Citizens of all walks of life are now positively taking part in various activities of helping the poor and vulnerable. Our total charitable funds have reached RMB16 million Yuan. 23 enterprises donated RMB3.1 million Yuan to the back-to-school funds. A solely-invested foreign enterprise even donated RMB0.68 million Yuan at one time. In each April, we have a donation day, calling for donations from the whole society to help the poor and vulnerable.

## 4. Our deficiencies

Although we've done a lot in helping the poor and vulnerable, we still have many deficiencies in our work. For example, the source of donation is considerably limited which is at present mainly from financial allocation of local government and from some called-for activities. There is relatively less active donation from enterprises and individuals. Also, our helping system is not sound enough. Though we drafted a contemporary all-sounded helping system for the poor, we still have deficiencies in setting up healthy data-base for the poor and listening feedbacks from the poor; and lack of some evaluation work. Government and the society should improve in coherence and standardization of helping measures and try our best to make progress in our later work.