

# morning tears newsletter

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## Editorial

Summer is a special time for children — no school and no homework but plenty of games, holidays, family, friends, etc ... Well that goes for most children.

Most of the children that morning tears stands for — the children of convicts — don't have the opportunity to enjoy nice holidays during the summer. Summer days are just like any other day of the year for them. They are often rejected by the other children, because they are victims of stigma and prejudice. As many come from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, their remaining family usually doesn't have the means to offer them the holidays they dream of.

Morning tears not only aims to provide for the basic needs to children of convicts under our care. Our aim is also to put a smile on their faces — to offer them childhoods that are as normal as possible. That also means enabling them to enjoy holidays like other kids.

For several years, morning tears has organized summer camps for its children. Children of the San Yuan children village enjoyed days of fun in Beijing, including the Great Wall and a fun park, while children of the Coming Home center were building sand castles in Qingdao. Check out the smiles on their faces in the News from the Coming Home Project section of this newsletter.

Nothing would be possible without your support. On behalf of morning tears' children, thank you!

We wish you a wonderful summer!

Ange Moray  
Head of Operations, morning tears



## News

### Morning tears gives a presentation for the American Women's Club Shanghai

- In spring, the American Women's Club Shanghai (AWCS) hosted a charity event at JZ Club in French Concession. *The World of Chinese* magazine house showed the movie *The Goddess*, a classic Chinese movie from 1934, to an American expat audience. They used the event to promote their magazine, all sales revenue of which are used to sponsor a disadvantaged school in the mountains of Qinghai province.
- Morning tears (by means of Nora), took the opportunity to give a presentation, show our promotional movie and sell some morning tears items. In addition, Morning tears received the revenues of that day! We all enjoyed the event, which was hosted in the charming and cozy environment offered by JZ Club.
- Morning tears is most thankful to Beth Parker, the initiator and coordinator of the event, for choosing morning tears as one of the preferred organizations for their AWCS events.

### Running ...

Virginie Goethals, a Belgian living in Beijing, participated in an incredible challenge in June: running a marathon in the desert of Gobi for morning tears!

This "ultra-marathon", organized by Racing the Planet, is one of the most difficult on the planet. But Virginie arrived 3<sup>rd</sup> among women racers and 16<sup>th</sup> among all 168 participants!

The race lasted seven days, during which Virginie travelled 250 km in 4 legs. Virginie decided to run for morning tears, and raised more than 6,400 € for the children of the Coming Home Project. Many warm thanks to her for this incredible and unique donation!



### .... And painting for the children!

To celebrate the June launch of Lance Crayon's latest documentary, *Spray Paint Beijing*, Belgium Bar Beer Mania organized a very special charity event in Beijing — a graffiti day!

The documentary *Spray Paint Beijing* traces the history of graffiti in Beijing, while following some of today's artists during their artistic escapes.

This great event started with a live graffiti performance by Beijing graffiti artists, who created four amazing paintings.

The documentary was then shown to the many people, who attended the event.

Finally, the paintings were auctioned, raising 4,500 RMB for morning tears projects !

A very special thanks to Thierry de Dobbeleer from Beer Mania, Lance Crayon and all the artists for this amazing and very special day!





## Morning Tears 6<sup>th</sup> Charity BBQ

On June 9<sup>th</sup> was organized morning tears 6<sup>th</sup> Charity BBQ and Fair in the garden of the Belgium Embassy in Beijing. As the previous years, the event was a success: over 300 guests enjoyed some nice food and waffles from Morel's and The Tree, adults cooled themselves with refreshing Belgium beers provided by The Tree and Vandergeeten while the children were having fun in the bouncing castle.

Even a sudden storm, like last year, didn't prevent the guests to dance to live music!



The lucky draw made once more winners happy with special prizes, allowing morning tears to raise funds for our projects.

We thank the Ambassador of Belgium, our volunteers, partners and sponsors and all the guests for this wonderful day!

## Meeting the Minister

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, members of morning tears had the opportunity to meet the Vice Premier Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Didier Reynders, on the occasion of his visit to China. The meeting took place during a reception at the Belgium Embassy in Beijing and allowed Koen Sevenants, founder and General Director of morning tears, to introduce more in details our work, and especially the future projects to care for and protect more children of convicts in China with the continuation of the Coming Home program. Mr Reynders was quite impressed by morning tears' work. We thank the Ambassador of Belgium for this great opportunity.





# Morning tears' strategy

## BUSINESSES-NGO PARTNERSHIPS: Symbiotic partnerships?

Morning tears is worldwide searching for corporate partners to engage in for example CSR activities, that seeks to solve some of the immediate funding issues that morning tears as an NGO faces. Morning tears already has several well established and highly appreciated partnerships with companies, but as the organization fortunately grows with the unfortunate high number of children that needs our help, there is a need for more partnerships. Morning tears increases its search for partnerships that are symbiotic in the sense, that they are formed through an alliance, dialogue and synergy between the parties with a long-term focus.

Partnerships between the corporate sector and NGOs are necessary to solve some of the global problems within education, poverty, environment and health. Not only are these relations important for immediate problems to be solved. Cooperation between businesses and NGOs are of perhaps even greater importance in the long-term, as these relationships ensure the continuous development of NGOs and their capability to meet their goals.

A long-term, symbiotic relationship ensures commitment from and benefits to both parties. Research on the topic demonstrates that the outcome of partnerships are more than merely philanthropic projects 'for the greater good'. Businesses are increasingly expected and motivated to pursue sustainability strategies and show social responsibility in order to be commercially competitive. These expectations from society and at times from governments are best realized through knowledge and competency sharing with NGOs.

NGOs and businesses undoubtedly can solve some of the world's problems together. Partnerships cannot save the world, but they can certainly do 'bits and pieces'. Studies show that NGO-businesses partnerships are limited in numbers, because often there is a corporate fear of NGO pressure, a reputation risk. Other factors contributing to the lack of partnerships are mistrust, fear of losing control, misunderstanding of intentions and cultural barriers.

The question is how the NGO and the company in question ensure that the relationship is mutually beneficial? How can we stimulate match-making between businesses and NGOs finding this symbiotic balance?

Not only in morning tears does this task seem difficult and challenging. This problem setting is getting much attention around the globe and has caught the attention of prominent people. At a Partnership Conference held in Copenhagen last month, where morning tears was represented, Crown Princess Mary of Denmark gave a story on a partnership, which at first sight seems as a happy one: the ox and the ox picker on the African savannah.



The ox and the ox picker on the savannah are helping each other. They have a partnership and deal: The ox picker eats ticks and fleas of the ox, helping the ox to stay clean from the annoying bugs on its back, which it cannot reach anyway. In return, the ox picker gets food and enjoys a free ride on the back of the ox. On the surface this seems as a happy couple, mutual benefitting from each other. They seem to have found the balance in their partnership.

However, this symbiotic relationship between the two is not as happy as one would immediately expect. Every



## Morning tears' strategy (cont'd)

time the ox picker eats bugs of the back of the ox, the wounds created by the ticks and the fleas gets even bigger. The bigger the wounds get, the more annoying bugs appear on the back of the ox, which eventually infects the wounds. What the ox picker is actually doing is thus not helping the ox to get rid of the bugs; it actually attracts even more and making the infected wounds larger.

Irrelevant of who is the ox and who is the ox picker in this rather harsh story, it highlights that partnerships only become efficient where dialogue is open and honest. This story can remind us (both on the NGO – and the business side), that what seems at first glance as a good idea, might not be brilliant, until all expectations for the relationship is settled. This goes for both parties. The ox and the ox picker can only join forces once they succeed in finding the common interest.

Where the businesses can offer resources, power to act and political influence, the NGO can offer expertise, awareness, local knowledge and network. It can be hard to explain businesses from a commercial point of view that NGOs do not only “take”, we also “give”. Morning tears gives. We give our children care and we give them hope. We give attention to our corporate partners. And we give the opportunity to help us help the children. We invite potential partners for an open dialogue in the path towards finding a symbiotic partnership.



At the same Conference, morning tears listened to Kofi Annan addressing this very same issue, by sharing some of his ideas on partnerships with point of departure in his thinking when formulating the UN Global Compact. As Mr. Annan puts it “*in today's world, we depend on each other*”. Businesses and NGOs must design, implement, maintain and develop collaboration that benefits both business and society. Kofi Annan argues that pre-2008 there were no fully understanding of these types of partnerships. With the UN Global Compact a focus aroused on maximizing the alignment with the private sector and development projects.

From where we are sitting in morning tears, it is obvious that *together* we can give much more and *together* we can help solve problems. Morning Tears cannot offer the perfect recipe on how we ensure that partnerships are mutually beneficial. But we can open the dialogue in the match-making process between us as NGOs and you as businesses. Through experience we know that the very first step of the recipe is openness and mutual trust. The next step is finding the common interest for you and for us together. This is thus a call for all potential corporate partners out there. Let's give each other the chance to help solve 'bits and pieces' of the world's problems!

Anne Kathrine Mehlsen  
Chairman morning tears Denmark



# News from Coming Home Project - Henan

## Recent happenings:

- Several meditation workshops have been held for the children.
- Several university volunteers are working for two months to teach extra classes.
- Officials from the national government came to visit the project because they were interested on our "prevention of abuse" program, which is based on the simple rules: STOP, RUN, TELL.
- Every kid visited his or her parents in prison.
- Several kids earned outstanding school grades. Others didn't.
- Last but not least, the kids went on holiday to Rizou, near Qingdao.

## In the near future:

- A Dutch family will come to work on the project, just like they did last year. The kids loved it. Olympic Games will be organized.
- The president of morning tears Belgium will also come, together with his family. They also know the kids well.
- The construction of a new building starts with two family units.
- Caregivers will be retrained in working with children with attachment problems.





## Finances

**Most organizations propose a tax deductible receipt in exchange for a donation. Morning tears China also does!**

Morning tears China is one of the rare NGOs in China able to deliver a tax deductible receipt for your donation.

How does it work? Morning tears has had an agreement with the China Charity Federation (CCF) for several years now. This agreement allows us to deliver a tax deductible receipt for donations made in the morning tears account of CCF. All donations made into this account are allocated to morning tears' Coming Home program.

For more information, please contact Ange on [ange.moray@morningtears.org.cn](mailto:ange.moray@morningtears.org.cn).

## Relevant Actualities

**Every year, many thousands of children experience separation from a mother who is sent to prison, a trauma which in many cases can also mean losing their home.**

When Cheyenne was 13, her mum was caught trying to smuggle drugs into prison and earned herself a four-year sentence.

Source: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17627258](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17627258)

**Starting over: A young man leaves prison and re-makes his life in a barbershop**

Daravuth is one of hundreds of children who end up in Cambodia's prison system each year. He is among the lucky few who got help, got out and stayed out. Early intervention might have spared him a trip to prison to begin with.

Source: [www.unicef.org/cambodia/12633\\_13061.html](http://www.unicef.org/cambodia/12633_13061.html)

**China rescues 181 children after large trafficking bust**

Chinese police arrested 802 people on suspicion of child trafficking and rescued 181 children in a major operation spanning 15 provinces, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security said Friday (July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012).

Source: [www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2012/07/06/china-child-trafficking-ring.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2012/07/06/china-child-trafficking-ring.html)



### 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.