



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Huatung Choir Camp Volunteer Training

This year, selected videos from The Listener program were introduced into the 2022 Huatung Choir Camp volunteer training. They were the feature of discussion in three of the training sessions. The first of the three sessions provided volunteers the understanding of the character of the adolescent, and led them to practice empathy towards adolescents as well as listening skills. The second session focused on communication and introduced the Satir Categories. Case studies were reviewed and volunteers had the opportunity to practice communicating with campers through role playing. In the final session, volunteers were asked to draw their own 'tree of life' as well as write a letter to themselves to reflect on their training progress which took place over a span of six months – from application, interview, training to the near opening of the camp. Volunteers checked-in on the choices they made, and tasks given in each of their steps to see if their initial intention remained. The camp head shared her reflections on the emotions, pressure, self-doubt she experienced when she was team leader of the 2019 Huatung Choir Camp which shifted to self-awareness, self-care and looking after her own mental health. She reminded volunteers the importance that caring for your mental health should come before helping others.

Under the support of the two camp leaders, volunteers not only learned the tools for self-awareness and care, they learned about safety, crisis management, safe relationships with campers as well as Covid-19 prevention measures. Due to the rise of Covid-19 cases, the camp was cancelled after the final training session.



2022 Hawaii Cultural Sustainability Educational Tour: Pre-tour Workshop

November is when candidates of the 2022 Hawaii Cultural Sustainability Educational Tour are to embark on their journey to Hawaii. The 2022 tour will be The Alliance Cultural Foundation’s (ACF) fourth-ever Hawaii Cultural Sustainability Educational Tour. ACF invited two speakers to head the second pre-tour workshop – Alex Lei, Taiwan Representative of the Palau Visitors Authority and Executive Director of the State of Hawaii office in Taipei, and Helen Scott, Taiwan Liaison of Kamehameha Schools. Lei shared on the history of Hawaii, the Austronesian culture as well as the current green energy development in Hawaii. Scott shared on the history and mission of the schools as well as introduced the Polynesian Voyaging Society. Members from the Huatung Sustainability Forum were also invited to join the workshop to expand their knowledge.

Through Lei and Scott’s sharing, participants had a better understanding of Hawaii. When separated into smaller groups for discussion, not only did they talk about canoe-making, sailing, indigenous architecture, they also talked about culture and how to pass on indigenous traditions across the Huatung region. Lei said, “For a culture to be passed on generations long, not only do the tribespeople have to make the effort to pass down traditions in their own tribes, but they must take the initiative to encourage village elders to open up their minds to share traditions to the community. To have acceptance in the community is critical for sustainability.” The statement gave members something to think about.



Junyi School of Innovation: Satir Workshop

Conversations between teachers and students are constant on the campus grounds. In the times when students feel sad, disappointment, anger, or when they challenge the teacher – how does the teacher handle their own feelings as well as the student’s? The Alliance Cultural Foundation invited Chung-Chiene Lee, who has studied the Satir Categories for 20 years, to head the Satir Workshop to better equip teachers in these situations. The workshop took place over a span of three days and was open to all teachers in the Huatung region. Teachers learned about the Satir Categories and had the opportunity to practice and experience different communication scenarios. Participants learned to connect with themselves and face their own feelings

Lee said, “The way an adult communicates is an expression of what they feel on the inside, and what they feel on the inside is a result of the experiences in their lives.” Lee demonstrated with a participating teacher through conversation.

Through care and curious questioning using Satir’s Personal Iceberg technique, teachers revisited past events that impact how they respond today. One teacher said, “When discussing sculpting our emotions, we were able to see how our emotions change in different scenarios. On the surface one may look angry, but on the inside in fact is sadness and pain. It was particularly fascinating to experience how different styles of communication bring out different emotions – from placating, blaming to the super-reasonable.” Lee said, “Adults that tend to blame themselves are more likely to be upset at children.” To engage better with students means to first accept and be aware of own emotions and to take care of oneself.



Junyi School of Innovation: After-school Workshop – Understanding Therapy Dogs

In 2020, Junyi School of Innovation introduced its after-school programs in effort to nurture students the ability to self-learn. The programs take place after school on weekdays and twice a month on weekends. In the form of a workshop or lecture, the after-school programs are an important part of the Junyi education method. Early May, Junyi’s counselling office designed a series of workshops and lectures focusing on mental health. They invited Paw for Good, a therapy dog training facility, to share with students about therapy dogs. Two therapy dogs who were once strays were brought onto school campus. Students learned that engaging with therapy dogs not only increases the motivation to learn, lowers anxiety, and promotes relaxation, it also enhances human-to-human socialization and gives a sense of self-existence.

The speaker shared the background stories of the dogs, and taught students the respectful way to engage with dogs – to call their names before petting them, to never point directly at them, and to lower themselves so that they are at the same eye level as the dogs. Students realized that there is much to learn even from stray animals. By the end of the workshop, students that once feared dogs felt more comfortable with them.