

# Shanghai's First Women's Giving Circle Party Launched

Shanghai United Foundation (SUF) 15/09/2020



Recently, the "Women's Giving Circle Party", supported and co-sponsored by the Shanghai United Foundation (SUF) and by "2020 Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau in charge of social organizations participation in social governance of the civil affairs innovation project" was successfully held in Shanghai Philanthropic Xintiandi.

This is the first event on the theme of the Women's Giving Circle in Shanghai. **The three donor-advised funds, which are entirely female-dominated and involved, have initiated the exploration of Chinese women's giving circle from 0 to 1.**

## **Women have become an important force in the philanthropic giving circle**

The Donor Advised Fund (DAF) originated in the United States in 1931 and is an efficient model for charitable giving and management. The donors set up a sub-fund under the SUF to fund philanthropic activities and have a long-term right to advise on the use and investment of the money. A Giving Circle is a group of like-minded people who spontaneously gather their funds and work together to decide how to use the funds to impact charitable giving significantly.

In 2014, SUF started to explore the realization of localized Giving Circles, and in 2018 began to explore the localized practice of DAF, the most characteristic of which is the combination of giving circles and DAF. Half of the 22 DAFs established by September 2020 are community-based (Giving Circles), with the female-led DAF as the main force.

Three female DAF representatives were invited to participate in this Ladies Giving Circles Charity Party.

**"She is Infinite"** is a female community participating in intense mountain climbing while subsidizing junior high school girls in impoverished areas to complete their studies.

**"Three and Philanthropy"** is a combination of second-hand fashion, environmental protection shopping and philanthropy, with more than a third of the proceeds going to the female community through bazaar sales.

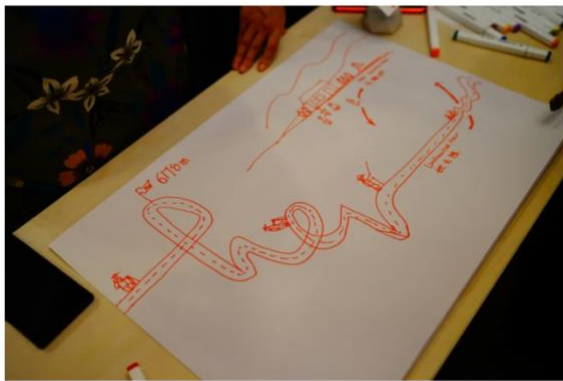
**"250 Warm Hearts"** is a female community gathering for philanthropy and collection, developed from a cheongsam philanthropic group.

"Two years ago, Cindy and her partners came to SUF and set up the first women initiated donor-advised fund in SUF and even around China, which started the exploration of Women's Giving Circles in SUF." recalled Bona, a philanthropic consultant of SUF before the event began.

Data from several organizations, including Fundraising Center (CAFP), also found that women were more active and engaged in philanthropic participation, such as monthly donation, fundraising, charitable activities and voluntary service, than men.

### Women's Philanthropic Stories and Sisterhood

"We pass on the idea of limitless potential to people around us by challenging ourselves to climb mountains. At the same time, we take this as the main concept to raise money from friends around us. All the money will help girls living under the poverty line and encourage them to find a better self and fulfill our vision of "unlimited Her". In the process, it also improves our women's self-awareness and positive energy transfer, and brings families and children together to participate in sports challenges."



"She is Infinite" Special Charity Fund of SUF

In the process of participating in philanthropy, women not only help others through kindness but also illuminate and warm each other. As Debra Mesch, director of the women's charity Research Center at Indiana University, said in an interview, women are the backbone and a strong influence of philanthropy because women tend to be more empathic and altruistic.

"In the bazaar, the simple business relationship is combined with the circulation of philanthropy and environmental protection. Some of the buyers attended many times and became vendors themselves. Some vendors will donate part of their profits in the Three and Philanthropy's market, and some are even willing to donate 100% of their profits. The money will go to charity programs to help more disadvantaged people. We hope to promote the concept of environmental protection and sustainable development, at the same time, influence more people to participate in environmental protection and philanthropic actions."



"Three and Philanthropy" Special Charity Fund of SUF

"The reason for such a name is that we firmly believe that people must maintain a pure and simple heart in doing philanthropy. Just do it 'silly', and don't do philanthropy with any utilitarianism. This name represents our attitudes toward philanthropy and our lives. We hope to find more "silly" partners."



"250 Warm Hearts" Special Charity Fund of SUF

"Philanthropy gives these women the courage to simplify life, to step out of their comfort zones, and to show their beauty. What's more, courage is transformed into love, helping vulnerable groups, and bringing about social change." concluded Bona, a philanthropic consultant, after listening to the sharing.

### **The Flash Exhibition of American Women's Giving Circle Holds Simultaneously**

Dominos Education Founder Helen Li curated and directed "The Flash" exhibition of American Women's Giving Circles, which opened on the same day. **The exhibition presents the glittering power of ten giving circles dominated and participated by women, teenagers and other groups.**



Photos of the Exhibition

Launched in 2006, the initiative of "100 Women WHO CARE" calls for 100 people to donate 100yuan for an hour-long meeting to help bring together 10,000yuan contribution to the development of the community. So far, more than 900 branches have been replicated around the world, and participants have expanded from women to men, teenagers, and children, etc.

The Washington Women's Foundation, founded in 1995, is an influential model of collective giving by women worldwide. "Yizhong Special Charity Fund" of SUF is a replication of this model. At present, more than 100 people have joined the "Yizhong Special Charity Fund" of SUF, each participants donating the same amount and having equal voting rights to make donation decisions jointly.

Founded in 2005, the Asian Women's Giving Circle supports Asian Women's use of art and culture as a means for social changes and philanthropic engagements and has so far funded 100 Women's arts and culture projects. Founder Hali Lee has become an important advocate in the women's giving community, focusing on the sisterhood and professionalism of philanthropy.

"The status of Chinese women has made great progress since the founding of the people's Republic of China. Therefore, Chinese women's philanthropic choices have become diversified from the beginning, covering education, gender, community, environmental protection and other issues. The donation methods also include combining sports, traditional culture, fashion and other ways." Helen talked about the foundation and the development of the Chinese women's Giving Circle.



Helen shares stories of domestic and foreign female giving circles

In the end, Zhiyun Wang, chairman of the SUF, was inspired by the meeting and said: "The strength of a person or an organization is limited, and there are too many people who need attention and response. Therefore, for those who need to be concerned and the social problems that need attention, it is significant to enable more people to participate in philanthropy. More people who have participated in charity can participate in philanthropy more happily and continuously. **The female donor community is precious in this scenario. Everyone's participation makes the light from a point into a bunch or even a whole piece, illuminating ourselves, people around us, and others from a far distance.**



Chairman Zhiyun Wang summarized and shared

Participants also said that they had gained a deeper understanding of the power of women's philanthropy through this activity and hoped to unite more people in the future so that the multi-gender power can shine in the field of philanthropy and create more sparks.



Photos of the Event

Special thanks to Yimin Wang and Helen for their guidance, Phil's visual record.



Yimin Wang, founder of LuminaLearning China and co-founder of SUF "One crowd Fund"



Phi Guo, Visual Strategist, Deloitte China



Helen Li, founder of Dominos Education

An advertisement for the Shanghai United Foundation. On the left, a man in red shorts is depicted in a dynamic, jumping pose on a large, grey, crescent-shaped moon. Several small, stylized icons of a person with a red cross are scattered around the moon. In the top left corner, the logo for "Shanghai United Foundation" (联劝公益) is displayed. On the right side, the Chinese characters "美好" (Mei Hao) are written in a large, bold font, followed by a stylized icon of a person with a red cross. Below this, the English text "More Than Kindness" is written. At the bottom right, there is a large QR code with the "Shanghai United Foundation" logo in the center.