



## **Amway Charity Foundation Spring Sprouts Kitchen Overview**

### **The Need**

All Chinese children are required to attend school from first through ninth grade. Yet many students walk between three and seventeen miles to go to school, forcing nearly 40% of students in first through sixth grade and 61% of students in seventh through ninth grade to sleep at their schools in rural provinces.

These schools were never intended for this purpose. Most schools have no facilities to feed students - no kitchens and no cooking equipment. The students subsist on a diet of rice and dried beans that they bring from home and cook for themselves in vats of boiling water. This is their only nourishment, causing malnutrition leading to delays in physical, psychological and intellectual development.

About 61 million Chinese children are “left behind” – living in rural areas while their parents work in industrialized areas. More than 1/3 of these rural children – 26 million – suffer from malnutrition.

While the Chinese government mandates school attendance for children and provides food stipends for each child in school, there are few measures in place to ensure that these funds are used to feed the children or ensure adequate nutrition.

### **The Solution**

The Spring Sprouts project from the Amway Charity Foundation (ACF) closes the gap between government stipends and ensuring rural Chinese children receive nutritious meals while at school.

ACF, working with the China National Committee for the Care of Children and local government authorities, establishes Spring Sprouts Kitchens and trains kitchen administrators at schools in mid and western China so the children of migrant workers receive nutritional meals. The kitchen staff also are trained to procure fresh meats, eggs and vegetables from local farmers.

This program combines the power of Amway’s national logistical and administrative infrastructure with cooperative government jurisdictions from the national to provincial to village level. Every one dollar of ACF investment leverages six dollars of government funds, with procedures to ensure the funds result in directly feeding the children.

### **The Results**

Since the pilot launched in 2011, 754 rural schools have been outfitted with Spring Sprouts Kitchens and provide healthy, nutritious lunches to 377,000 children in first through ninth grade in 13 provinces. Ongoing nutrition education is provided for staff, children and families to help spread an understanding of the value and process for preparing healthy food. Children also receive information to share with their extended family, improving the health of the entire community.

For all Spring Sprout Kitchens, ACF and Amway have developed:

- Standards to procure and install state-of-the-art kitchens in rural schools whose enrollment is at least 50% children of migrant workers.
- Training programs for kitchen staff that include local food sourcing and the preparation of balanced, nutritious, daily lunches.
- Procedures to ensure on-going quality including line-item budget allocation by the local government for staff salary, locally sourced food and kitchen maintenance.
- A volunteer program that checks compliance and cleanliness at each school and provides on-going nutrition education for the staff.
- Standards to procure fresh food from local farmers.

Amway China donates logistics, procurement and supply chain personnel and expertise to ensure efficient installation of the kitchens as well as an annual financial contribution to ACF. Amway China employees, distributors and customers also contribute funds and volunteer time.

ACF also works with local governments to provide funds for kitchen construction and renovation.

### **The Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Commitment to Action: Feed 1 Million Children**

ACF plans to build 2,000 Spring Sprouts Kitchens by 2015. As part of this Commitment to Action, ACF is:

- Committing to hiring, training and monitoring kitchen staff
- Utilizing local food sources
- Providing daily lunches for 1 million children in first through ninth grades
- Creating more than 420,000 sustainable new jobs
- Supporting an additional 15,000 local farmers or small-scale food producers
- Presenting an approved Commitment to Action to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) in New York City with the intention of securing international additional partners and in-kind support for this important program.

A CGI Commitment to Action is a plan for addressing a significant global challenge. CGI supports the development of commitments by facilitating dialogue, providing opportunities to identify partners, showcasing the actions taken by commitment-makers and communicating results.

To date, CGI members have made more than 2,300 commitments, which are already improving the lives of more than 400 million people in over 180 countries. When fully funded and implemented, these commitments will be valued at \$73.5 billion.