



The Listener: Protecting Youth Mental Health

According to the World Health Organization, depression is a leading cause of disability worldwide and is a major contributor to the overall global burden of disease.

One of ACF's primary focuses is on Taiwan's education development. Over the years, we recognized the rise in youth depression. In a Taiwan Ministry of Health and Welfare data, it was found that the youth suicide rate between the ages of 15 and 24 was particularly high. Academic pressure, social and family relations as well as the uncertainty of their futures are all contributing factors. The Listener is an initiative that aims to help tackle this matter by working with schools and teachers to empower them to be at the front line of support and prevention. [Read more.](#)



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: Online Huatung Choir Camp

Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases, the much anticipated annual Huatung Choir Camp was held online. 6-9 July, 63 volunteers and 104 campers attended the four-day virtual camp. With only one month's notice and no experience in planning a virtual camp, volunteers worked hard to redesign a new camp curriculum.

In effort to form closer bonds with campers, volunteers were paired with campers as pen pals prior to the camp; their anticipation increased as they got to know each other. To incorporate some of Huatung Choir Camp favourites virtually such as “Buddy Time” – where volunteers and campers read stories and chat, or the “Card Box” – where volunteers and campers write cards to one another, volunteers launched the Huatung Choir Camp evening podcast. They shared life stories and read aloud e-cards.



Junyi School of Innovation: Junyi Learning Express

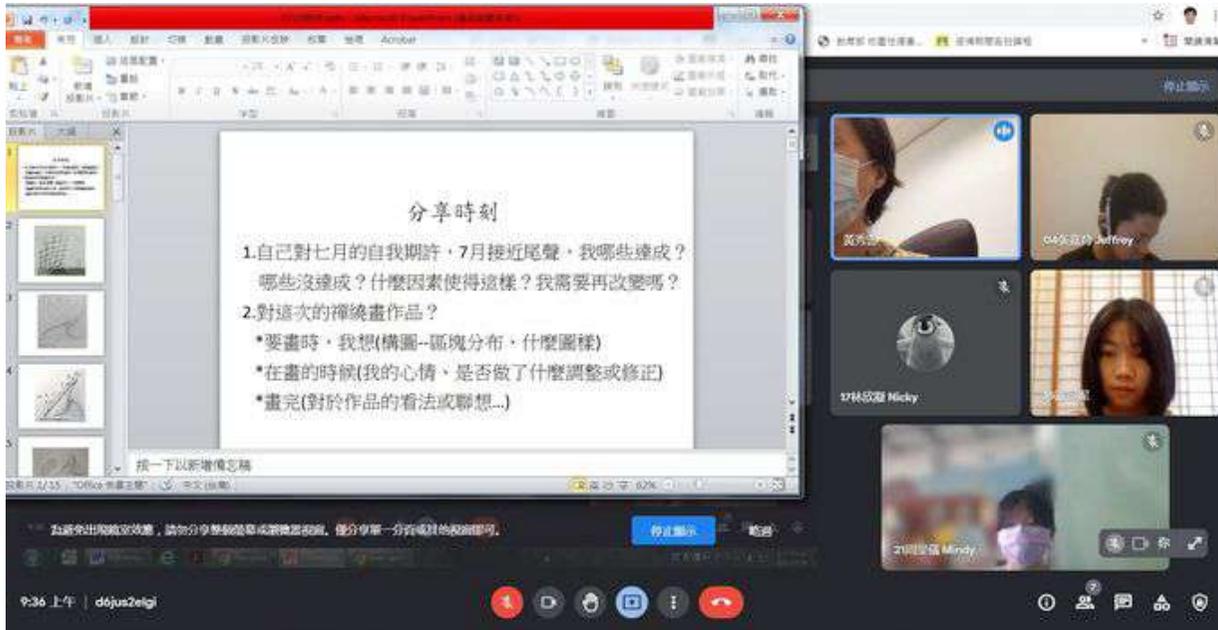
After several weeks of being homeschooled, Junyi School of Innovation students expressed how they miss having human connection and the campus environment. In response, teachers put together a Junyi Learning Express package. Each blue box with the letters “Be the Change” printed on top had books, written cards from teachers, class photo, materials such as yeast for baking lessons as well as class favourite snacks. Two twelfth grade teachers delivered the boxes to each of the students’ homes traveling from Taitung City along the Provincial Highway No. 11 to Hualien Guangfu and returning along the Provincial Highway No. 9. Students were touched by the gesture, and felt that the connection between them and teachers remained even amid Covid-19.



The Alliance Cultural Foundation: H2H X Junyi English Camp

Due to Covid-19, the 2nd annual H2H and Junyi English Camp was held online. 26-29 July, 44 Junyi senior high students and 27 H2H members from the Taipei American School came together virtually. The half-day virtual camp aims for peer-learning opportunities using English only.

Prior to the camp, each camper received a box of materials. H2H created virtual activities from puzzles, the escape room to a city tour. The activities were meant to create opportunity for Junyi and H2H campers to collaborate and help one another. One of the days called the “Junyi Day” was where Junyi students designed activities that introduced the Taitung culture. They used Minecraft to create virtual totems and made Amis beadwork together. Although campers lost the opportunity to engage in person, being able to share culture, chat, and collaborate virtually made the camp equally memorable.



Junyi School of Innovation: Summer Forum

Over the summer holidays, Junyi School of Innovation teachers created a Summer Forum. They invited teachers, faculty, and parents to participate in teaching a topic of their interest. Every participating teacher, faculty, and parent led 5-10 students virtually. With diverse backgrounds, lessons offered were particularly diverse, for example, Principal Hsiu-Yun Huang's lesson was on Zentangle. As part of the forum, teachers also started book clubs and writing lessons. Other activities include Pictionary, puzzles as well as exam preparation for students preparing for their college entrance exams.