‘Hello, everyone! Today we will talk about food from all over the world. First of all, let's review some vocabulary, then we will move on to show you some food from different countries and some videos.’

It was 8:30 am, May 16. An online third-grade oral English lecture delivered by student volunteers from Lakefield College School, a Canadian high school, was taking place at Xu Datun Primary School, a Chinese school located at the rural area north of Dalian City. Three Canadian teachers, Nicole, Liam and Berhan, were coaching pupils who came from remote countryside of China in English vocabularies through slides. The pupils were following the foreign teachers, despite with a little dialect, very carefully lest they should miss any word.

‘Children in remote rural areas know that such learning opportunities are rare and that this may be their hope to get rid of their family difficulties in the future.’ Wang kuili, general manager of Taiping Pension’s Dalian branch, told China Insurance News.

The online lecture, which lasted for around one hour, was over soon. Our reporter was then invited to have a transoceanic video call with the Canadian teachers.

‘Hello Nicole, Liam and Burhan! Thank you for joining hands with volunteers from Taiping Pension to build an online English classroom for those Chinese rural children. While you are taking part in the meaningful work of poverty alleviation in China, you are also building a bridge of friendship between Chinese and Canadian children.’

‘We participate in this program to help these poor children improve their English listening and speaking skills. We focus on teaching them simple conversations in English and increase their interest in learning English." said Nicole. ‘If they would like to go into service industry or start a business in the future, proficiency in English can help them move to a higher platform.’

Liam then said, "what I like about this project is that it allows me to get to know and communicate with children in remote rural areas of China. Although we are so far apart, it seems that our hearts are very close. During the conversation, I feel that they are sitting in front of me, crossing the space and I feel very warm."

There is only one class in the third grade of Xu Datun Primary School with 29 students in total, among which single parent families, poor families and disabled students account for 30%. In 2018, Taiping Pension carried out a poverty alleviation survey in Xu Datun Village. After learning about the special student group, it had focused its poverty alleviation work on education aid. Taiping Pension then conducted one-to-one donation for those poor pupils, covering their school bus fee and safety insurance.

In 2018, knowing that a charitable organization called C2 from Lakefield College School, Canada, had been insisting on delivering online English lectures to Shigui Elementary School, a rural school located at a mountainous area of Nanchong, Sichuan Province, Taiping Pension got into contact with the non-profit group immediately, asking for giving lectures to poor pupils from Xu Datun Primary School. They soon received positive response, and the courses successfully started in March 2019. In order to ensure the learning effect, Taiping Pension also found Rona, a Canadian teacher from Dalian University of Foreign Languages, to participate in this program. She initiated a volunteer action in that school and organized college students to participate in the volunteer teaching action. The volunteers have provided targeted guidance to students struggling with basic English grammar and pronunciation, helping them keep up with teaching progress.

These live streams provided by Canadian foreign teachers opens a window for children from poor families in remote villages to know about the real world, and thus improves their confidence in changing their lives. ’After several classes, what impressed me most was that as long as I encountered problems in phonetic symbols, pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar in class, I was able to get correction right away from the foreign teachers. I was really happy!’ Yin Kaiqi, one of the pupils, told the reporter shyly. While Jiang Hanyu, another pupil, said to the reporter. ‘I am confident to follow the course. I will study hard and give back to the good people who care about us so much in the future.’

‘Online English teaching enables children to communicate directly with foreign teachers, experience authentic English pronunciation and learn English in real situations. As the English teacher of the class, I learned the authentic English classroom instructions from the foreign teachers, and also found the lack of my own vocabulary, which prompted me to know how to remedy the shortfall, so as to better engage in teaching. Wu Xiaoxuan, an English teacher who volunteered to teach in this remote village, told reporters with a heavy feature.