July. 14, 2013

Dear Mr. Hu,

How are you doing these days?

Having hesitated for a while, I finally decided to write you this letter. I hope you don’t mind. It is hard for a girl to take some action sometimes. I believe writing can express my thoughts more clearly and more thoroughly than in person.

My family is not well off. Everything seemed to be fine until three years ago. My father finally got a stable job. My mom was able to earn 1000-2000 Yuan RMB (around $160-$320) each month. My grandparents could live on themselves. My younger brother and I both studied hard. As a three generation family, we lived dully but happily. However, life is as unpredictable as the weather. In February 2010, my father was diagnosed as suffering from leukemia . When we heard this news, the whole family felt desperate. Since we could not afford bone marrow transplant, my father chose to take conservative treatment. He received chemotherapy several times in two months. When I saw my father’s pale face, I could not help crying loudly. Though we chose the conservative treatment, the medial bill was still very expensive. Therefore our family was heavily in debts. Fortunately, my father’s former classmates helped us and made me continue my study to senior high school. It is highly commendable to give help when it is most needed. I really thank these aunts and uncles. They gave me a chance to continue studying and gave our family hope of survival. I studied hard and vowed that I should never disappoint these aunts and uncles.

However, our family suffered from a run of bad luck. When my father had not recovered yet, my grandfather was diagnosed as suffering from the final stage of stomach cancer. Both my father and grandfather had incurable illness; the whole family could not afford the medical treatment at all. I was very worried about how to pay my tuition and my brothers. My teachers noticed my unfortunate family background. Since my last year in senior high school, Zhong Mei Ai Xin (our main partner in China) supported me and my brother so that we could continue our study. Although the association only supported me for one year, I felt very grateful. Zhong Mei Ai Xin gave me hope and made me have a narrow hope in the dark. I believed that as long as I studied hard, I could finish my study. In order not to disappoint those who helped me, I studied really hard in my final year in high school. However, I pressed myself so much that I did not do well in the entrance exam to college. My score could not get me into a second-tier college. When I finally got my score, I felt sad and sorry. I disappointed those aunts and uncles who helped me; I disappointed my teachers who cared about me. And I disappointed my father the most. His wish was that I could go to college. Though I could go to a third-tier college, the tuition was too high. When my mother knew my score, she did not say anything. She just went out to work. I understand my mom. She has to pay my father’s medical bill, my brother’s tuition and mine. She is old and I think someone should help her. I believe it is me that should help her. I decided to quit my study and go to work. But my parents opposed fiercely. As honest peasants, they believe firmly that only study can lead to success.

Our house is old and the wall paint begins to come off. As a family of five, we only have two rooms. When it rains heavily in the summer, we have to use all the washbasins we have to collect the rain water. After heavy rain, our house seems to be flooded and washed. Our relatives and friends felt sorry for us and helped us build a three-room house. Now, I don’t have to worry about rain any more. At least, when it rains, I still have a place to shelter me.

Every cloud has a silver lining. When there is a problem, there is always a solution. One should never give up until the last moment. Life is full of pains and pleasure. Mr. Hu, I want to continue my study. I want to be a useful person. In the future, I will repay the society, try my best to help those I can help, and spread compassion and love. I hope you can help me.

Best wishes,

Rui Yan