



Harvard China Care



February/March 2006 Volume 1, Issue 1

Happy 4703!: THE YEAR PAST-THE YEAR AHEAD

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Happy New Year! Xin Nian Kuai le! Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of Harvard China Care! In each issue of this newsletter, you will find out the latest information on all of Harvard China Care's projects, events and fundraisers!

This past year was a very successful one for Harvard China Care. In October our Halloween trick-or-treating fundraiser had more participation from Harvard students than ever before, while the China Care Conference also went on without a hitch, bringing delegates from China Care student groups across the nation together to learn from each other and our speakers. We want to extend our thanks to Professor Arthur Kleinman of the Harvard Anthropology Department and Jing Jun of Qinghua University for speaking at our benefit dinner and silent auction in November. With their help, we raised over \$2,100.

Our Dumplings Playgroup and Mentoring programs for adopted Chinese children here in

Boston also had a year of successes. With trick-or-treating adventures to stories of the Butterfly lovers, Dumplings and the MeiMei/JieJie Mentoring events are always a delight!

The New Year itself was ushered in not only by its celebration at our bi-weekly Dumplings Playgroup, but also by the welcoming of our new board here at Harvard China Care. We have many exciting activities planned for the Year of the Dog. Already we've been off to a great start with our first few Dumplings playgroup and a new Valentine's Day Fundraiser for Harvard students, spreading the knowledge of China Care and the love of others on Valentine's day, while raising money for children who need it.

With the continued support of the Harvard China Care community, we are looking forward to another wonderful year.

Sincerely,

Harvard China Care Board 2006

Surgery Sponsorships Needed!

After a two-year wait Xiao Bao, a 4-year-old boy with a severe case of hypospadias at the Saiqi orphanage, has finally received a passport to get surgery in Singapore, where costs will be generously covered by the KKOK foundation. Hope Foster Home is helping him apply for a visa. However, we are still in need of a sponsor to cover the travel costs for him and one escort, estimated to be between \$2000-3000.

We are also looking for sponsors to help with a nine year

old girl, Fei Yan's, second eye surgery (estimated \$400 USD) and cleft-palate surgery for a 6-month old boy (estimated \$400 USD).



It is only through your support that we are able to provide these children with the medical procedures they need to save and improve their lives. If you will like to help sponsor one of these surgeries, contact us by e-mailing eliu@fas.harvard.edu.

(Left) Xiao Bao

Visit our Website:
<http://hcs.harvard.edu/~care>

Contact HCC:
eliu@fas.harvard.edu

Donate to HCC:
Send a Check to:
Harvard China Care
c/o Eva Liu
216 Eliot House Mail Center
Cambridge, MA 02138

Jinan Children's Home

Harvard China Care is assisting in establishing a China Care Children's Home in Jinan, Shandong Province slated to open this June or July. The new children's home will give the weakest high-risk children from the Jinan orphanage surgery and medical care, nurse them back to health, and then place them into foster care.

We are very excited about this new development. Now, in addition to supporting the annual operating costs of the Saiqi orphanage, we will be funding this foster care program, helping some of the very most in need children in China. Harvard China Care has committed to donating \$12,000 annually to the foster program for the Children's Home. The foster program will allow the children after being nursed back to health to live with a loving family and grow up in a caring environment. The foster program will be essential to the process of nursing these high-risk children back to health.

If you are interested in supporting the foster program Harvard China Care is starting, please contact us by emailing eliu@fas.harvard.edu.

Dumplings "LOVE"

Every other Saturday morning, Harvard China Care hosts Dumplings, a playgroup for Chinese orphans who have been adopted by Boston area parents. The children who participate are younger than nine. For each session, Harvard China Care chooses a theme related to China and prepare a presentation and an activity for the children to participate in.

Since the spring semester began, we have held three Dumplings playgroups: one session celebrated Chinese New Year, another one featured the legend of Qi Xi (Chinese Valentine's Day), and our most recent Dumplings involved a fun and interactive session during which the girls learned about pandas, a national treasure of China. In addition to the stories and games, each Dumplings also feature a special arts and crafts activity. For the Dumplings on Chinese Valentine's Day, everyone made a mobile of hearts!

Through these playgroups, we continue to bring a little bit of China and a lot of smiles to the Boston area.

Summer in China

Currently in the works is one of Harvard China Care's most exciting annual projects: the summer internships. This will be the third year that HCC sends a team of skilled and dedicated Harvard students to various orphanages and sites all over China to interact and work directly with the orphaned and for whom disabled children that HCC works to raise support.

In the past, volunteers have spent their summers in orphanages and foster homes in Beijing, Tianjin,



and Luoyang. This year, HCC is working with the largest volunteer team ever, and corresponding with four different orphanages in China, the most ever covered in a single summer. Volunteers will be working at Hope Foster Home (Beijing), Luoyang Children's Welfare Institute (Henan), Saiqi Children's Home (Fujian), and Bethel Foster Home (Beijing). The volunteer team consists of over fourteen students, with incredible diversity in talent and background. Some interns are skilled musicians, lab researchers, or rugby players, while others are ESL teachers, Crimson writers, or tutors. Many volunteers also have valuable experience teaching children or working with disabled patients in various countries all over the world, including India, China, Africa, and Israel.



In the spirit of the ever-expanding internship program, we are proud to introduce our partnership with Hong Kong Polytechnic University, who will be participating in an exchange from with China Care. Four Harvard students will be paired up with four HKPU therapy students to participate in a week of occupation therapy training, before the eight-member team

(Continued on Page 3)

China Care In Brief

SAIQI:

35 orphans of all ages and abilities live in this orphanage in the China harbor town of Saiqi, Fujian Province, including those with serious medical needs and disabilities. Since July 2005 Harvard China Care has been the major sponsor for the operational costs of the orphanage, covering food, medicine, education, and more.

DUMPLINGS PLAYGROUP:

Harvard China Care's bi-weekly playgroup for children ages four to nine who were adopted from China now is in third year. It allows the children to meet other adoptees and learn a little about China, while providing an opportunity for their parents to network with each other.

MEIMEI/JIEJIE

MENTORING PROGRAM:

Our mentoring program matches a child adopted from China (ages nine and up) with a mentor. In addition to serving as role models and "big sisters", mentors help foster continued interest in Chinese cultures, meeting with their mentees one-on-one and in large-group activities related to Chinese cultures.

Update on Saiqi

Since July 2005, HCC has been a major sponsor of this small orphanage that is the home of 35 orphans of all ages, many with disabilities or medical conditions.

Because of the poor conditions of the original orphanage building, Saiqi Orphanage has been temporarily relocated to a nearby church building since October 2005. Freya Zhang of Fuzhou City, Fujian, has helped Harvard China Care transfer funds for the basic running costs of the orphanage during this time. Earlier last year, the head of the orphanage, Ms. Xu, purchased a plot of land to build a new orphanage, but these plans did not work out, and the search for a permanent new place for the children continues.

Currently Saiqi has 12 staff under the supervision of Ms. Xu. Her long time assistant, Mr. Yu, left in October, which was a difficult time for Ms. Xu. She helped two older girls to register for vocational school this fall, one orphaned and the other with severely ill parents. The girls will return to work at the orphanage for three years upon completion of school (the tuition, to be fundraised, is about \$1200 per year).

As for other education news, we are pleased to report that two of the ten children healthy enough to attend school, Dan Dan (age 11 girl) and Xian Xian

have received outstanding grades (second and first places) in their 4th grade classes.

Several children recently received medical treatment made possible through funding by Love Without Boundaries (LWB). Jianwen (age 8) had his first leg surgery in Beijing in September and can now relax his fingers and straighten his legs. Miaoyu (age 6) received her cornea transplant in Guangzhou in December. LWB will continue to help with Jian Wen's second leg surgery in Beijing scheduled for March, as well as Hui Yu's cleft lip surgery, and Miaoyu's eye exam and follow-up in the coming months. In addition to support from LWB, Saiqi has gotten help from the UK's Child Link this year. Emory and UCLA's China Care clubs have each pledged funds to help with Saiqi's running costs in 2006 (approximately \$2000-2500 USD/month). On Harvard China Care's end, plans are under way for the annual Boston Marathon fundraiser in April, which will help to benefit the children at Saiqi.

Exciting plans are under way this summer with Harvard students and students from Hon Kong Polytechnic University scheduled to visit and help. [see "Summer 2006" for details.] Thanks to everyone who has continued to help Saiqi!! None of this would have been possible without your help...you have brought light to these children's lives.

Summer 2006 (continued from page 2)

will spend four weeks in the Saiqi Children's Home, an orphanage that will accept HCC volunteers for the first time ever. This project truly mirrors the spirit of Harvard China Care's dual dedication to fundraising and direct correspondence with the many orphanages across China. Volunteers will begin their internships as early as June 1st, and the last volunteers will leave China in early September. Currently, HCC is finalizing all the volunteer roster, orphanage assignments, and time

slots. The next stage of the project will be a series of workshops during which past

volunteers, UHS practitioners, and physical therapy professors will interact with the new volunteers to prepare the Summer 2006 volunteers for their summer experience.



Yum Yum...Mentoring Program

On a cold and windy March day, the mei-meis and jie-jies of Harvard China Care's mentorship program braved the chilling weather to meet and bond over, what else, food in the mmmmmmmMarch event! Mei-meis and jie-jies laughed, chatted, and got dirty in Mower Kitchen cooking an all time favorite Chinese dish: scallion pancakes. The mei-meis were first taught how to make them, and were provided with paper and markers to make their own little scallion pancake recipe to bring home to parents. Then it was on to cutting and frying the scallion pancakes!

While one pair of mei-meis and jie-jie dabbed oil onto a frying pan and flipped scallion pancakes with chopsticks, everyone else proceeded to make milk tea, a popular traditional

Asian beverage, and ice cream cookies! While sipping away at freshly made milk tea, mei-meis and jie-jies spread chocolate chip ice cream onto cookies and dabbed them in sprinkles. Topping them with another cookie, they proceed to chow down on the mouth-watering sweets!

At 6 o'clock, parents joined the rowdy and bubbly crowd, each bringing with them a dish for the long-awaited potluck event!

Both mei-meis and jie-jies stuffed themselves on curry chicken, cold noodles, cinnamon cookies, and tons of other yummy dishes, including, of course, their very own scallion pancakes! Mei-meis and jie-jies left the event with promises to see each other soon and with smiling faces and full stomachs.

Running a Marathon for Orphans

Each spring, 20,000 runners convene in Boston in what for many is the run of a lifetime---the 26.2 miles of the Boston Marathon. Some run for speed, some for fitness, and some just to show that they can do it.

Due to the generosity of Commissioner O'Toole, Harvard China Care has once again received charity bibs for the Boston Marathon. Following in the tradition of Harvard China Care founder, Gary Cooney, and Harvard China Care President emeritus, Aidan Madigan-Curtis, this year four Harvard undergraduates—J Zachary Stein of New York City, New York, Chris Cullen of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Andrea Mayrose of Salem, South Dakota, and Marc Bhargava of Bellaire, Texas—are running the

Boston Marathon with one thought in mind, the health and welfare of underprivileged Chinese orphans. By running the marathon, they are raising money to help improve the lives of children in need. All of the money they raise will go towards the support of the Sai Qi orphanage, details about which can be found in the Sai Qi update. The money that will be raised through the running of the marathon is essential for the annual operating costs of the orphanage. These runners are each hoping to raise 5,000 dollars for Harvard China Care.

The four runners are seeking support to help with the huge fundraising effort. To find out more or make a donation please visit www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care/marathon.html.

2006 HCC Board

With the new year comes new officers! Harvard China Care sincerely thanks the 2005 board. HCC also wishes its graduating seniors, **Zhenzhen Lu** (Co-President 2005) **Shelley Jiang** (Vice-President 2005 & Webmistress), the best of luck.

If you have any questions concerning HCC, feel free to contact its 2006 officers:

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