

HARVARD CHINA CARE



HCC INTERNS VOLUNTEER ALL OVER CHINA

BY ADAM SANG '08
HCC Internship Coordinator

June marked the end of an active year of fundraising, playgroups, and weekly board meetings for Harvard China Care, but it also marked the start of summertime adventures. The third annual Harvard China Care (HCC) Summer Internship Program kicked off in June, with Kevin Jwo '07, Sarah Mortazavi '09, and Lydia Lo '09 arriving in Luoyang Children's Welfare Institute in the Henan Province. Former Dumplings coordinator Jessica Pang '07 was in Beijing to welcome the three interns and help them travel safely to Luoyang.

Kevin, Sarah, and Lydia were welcomed by Principal Pei of the Welfare Institute and brought to their summer residence, an apartment near the orphanage where last summer's interns, Eva Liu '08, Sarah Cramer '08, Penny Fang '08 and Adam Sang '08 lived. This year's volunteers said that they were welcomed very warmly and taken around to the attractions of Luoyang

by the principal before touring the orphanage. The interns had a very intense schedule: from 9:00 to 12:30 noon, they did arts and crafts with the younger children, they taught English in the afternoon to Dang Zhi Hu, a 12 year-old who will soon be adopted by an American family, and several older kids who were not currently in school. They then taught two full classes of various age groups at 5:00PM, and at night tutored Echo Zhou, a secretary of the institute.

Early in July, Ann Chao '08 travelled to Beijing and volunteered in Bethel Foster Home, whose founder and caretaker, Guillaume, appeared on national Chinese television last week with the popular CCTV9 program "Up Close" for his influential work in Bethel. In the middle of the month, Brittany Lin '09 and Shifra Mincer '09 arrived as the second intern group at the Luoyang Welfare Institute. Shortly afterwards, Jessica Duby '09 arrived in China to intern at the Hope Foster Home also in Beijing. She flew to Hong Kong immediately afterwards to accompany Da Jian, a child from Hope



(Above) Jessica Duby '09 was responsible for taking care of Da Jian from Beijing's Hope Foster Home in Hong Kong as he recovers from his surgery concerning his exposed bladder.

Foster Home who was recovering from surgery. After Da Jian recovered from his operation, Jessica accompanied Da Jian back to Beijing and flew back to Hong Kong in the same day to take care of Joey, another Hope Foster

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SPONSOR HCC'S 1ST ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

This past summer, SaiQi Orphanage laid the foundations for a new home in NingDe, a city located an hour away from SaiQi. The construction and furnishing of the new building will cost nearly \$90,000. As a major sponsor for the orphanage, Harvard China Care hopes to cover

a significant portion of that cost. HCC must additionally maintain its current responsibilities to provide for the basic needs of the children at SaiQi, to support several China Care Children's Homes, and to fund surgery requests from other organizations such as Hope Foster Care. In order to continue its mission

to help orphans, Harvard China Care will be hosting a large benefit dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club on November 13, 2006.

The event will entail a speech by Dr. Anthony Saich, the Dae-woo Professor of International Affairs and Director of Harvard

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INTERNS TAUGHT ENGLISH, MUSIC, ART & MORE...

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Home baby in need of a surgery. Finally, Jessica had the chance in Hong Kong, to welcome Harvard China Care's representatives for the Harvard-Hong Kong Polytech



Exchange Program, which traveled to the Saiqi Orphanage in early August. Eva Liu '08, Jessica Yang '08, Cheng-cheng Zheng '08, and Kevin Huang '09 participated in three days of culture exchange and occupational therapy instruction in Hong Kong before traveling with four second-year physical therapy students and a Polytech professor to Saiqi. Sherri Geng '09 joined the team one week later. The Saiqi team taught the children arts and crafts and English. They also worked conducting morning exercises and other activities for the children who were more physically disabled.

This summer, we saw twelve interns expand China Care's Summer Internship

Program as they traveled all over China to touch hundreds of lives. They taught English, mentored younger children, learned occupational therapy, worked with disabled orphans, participated in cultural exchange, organized concerts for musically-talented orphans, and explored arts and crafts with the children. At the same time, our interns each enjoyed five weeks of exploration, cultural immersion, sight-seeing, and personal growth.



DEAR DIARY—BRITTANY LIN'S ADVENTURES IN CHINA

Dear Diary,

I have just returned from my summer at the Luoyang orphanage and miss it already. Wow! Let's see where to begin. This summer I met some of the most courageous, most appreciative, most patient, and most thoughtful people I have ever encountered. And that's just talking about the kids under 10! What most impresses me about these children is their intuition to want the best for others even though they themselves may not live optimally. One day I complimented 7-year old friend Sara Abby's hair clip, and at that instant, she immediately took it out of her hair and put it in mine. I had to scramble around and trick her into looking the other way to get it back in her hair. Besides possessing such amazing personal attributes, many of the orphans are also insanely talented. They can sing opera, dance, conduct an orchestra, do kung fu, play multiple instruments, knit beautiful garments, cut paper into complex designs, write Chi-

nese characters with their feet, and much more! Needless to say, I was blown away.

Outside of the orphanage, I traveled around the city and to some tourism sites. By exploring the city and its restaurants and shops, I was able to come in contact with some extremely kind, but also vastly different, people. One man went out and purchased a map just to show me the various tourism locations and then carefully explained to me how to get to each and every one of them. Another time, after I had bought some *man tou*, the merchant lady hustled down a full block to catch up to me merely to bring me a bag of the more delicious ones. I watched her run back to her cart in awe.

Most of all, I miss the children. I remember the outstretched arms of the younger orphans who just wanted a *bao bao*, to be held with some love and affection. Leaving them was difficult enough, but figuring out a way to accomplish more

to improve the situation for all of the orphans in China will be the next obstacle to overcome. This summer I have gained many things, but mainly I have been filled with the desire and ambition to step back, view the circumstances of present day China on a larger scale, and direct my aims to improving these circumstances.



Back in the US,
Brittany Lin '09,
Luoyang 2006

NEWS FROM THE SAIQI ORPHANAGE

BY JESSICA YANG '08 and CHENG-CHENG ZHENG '08
HCC Saiqi Liaisons

SaiQi orphanage was founded in 1989 by Ms. Xu Yiezheng and has helped nearly six hundred children to date. Since July 2005, the orphanage, previously under the care of Hope Foster Home, has received the majority of its support from Harvard China Care. Today the orphanage cares for 34 children ranging in age from a few months old to 26 years old. There are ten girls between ages 7 and 14 who are primarily healthy and attend school; there are also several younger children who will soon begin kindergarten. Chu Chu (age 6, deaf) will be sent to a special school for handicapped children, and Miao Yun (age 7, partially blind) will begin kindergarten with the other younger children.

This past August, Harvard China Care, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University's Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, successfully launched the first joint exchange program at SaiQi Orphanage. Four Harvard students and four Hong Kong students participated in a pre-visit preparation workshop at PolyU before departing for a 25-day internship at the orphanage. During their stay in SaiQi, the students were able to teach the children English and art as well as provide occupational therapy to those with more severe disabilities. Caretakers were also

instructed in basic techniques of therapy to provide long-term, continued treatment. Harvard China Care hopes for the continuance of the collaboration and the eventual creation of sustainable programs at the orphanage.

This was the first time Harvard students visited the orphanage since its relocation to a nearby six-floor church building. The first floor contains a large playing area with slides and climbing bars. The second floor consists of a kitchen and a dining area where the older children can eat meals together. The third floor has bedrooms and a living room with a television. The fourth floor contains more bedrooms for the older children. The fifth floor houses the nursery for the younger infants and for more disabled children. Both the nursery and the dining area are equipped with air conditioners; the facilities are spacious, clean, and much improved from the previous house.

However, Ms. Xu hopes to eventually give the children a permanent home in NingDe, a city located an hour away from SaiQi, where they can be exposed to modern city life and attend schools with better resources and teachers. Construction of the orphanage foundations has already begun on the plot of land Ms. Xu purchased earlier last year. The new orphanage will be built adjacent to a church and an elderly home. Although the land was bought at a discounted price from the

church, a large amount of money will be needed for construction work and for building the inner facilities that need to be suitable for the wide range of children in the orphanage. For instance, the new building will ideally contain large classrooms where the children can better learn from future volunteers and specially equipped bathrooms for those children who have mobility problems. We hope that PolyU will be able to provide their

expertise in this area of functional design.

The children who received medical treatment in recent months are doing very well. Xiao Bao (age 4), who received surgery in Singapore for a severe case of hypospadias, is now a healthy, normal boy who is energetic, playful, and bright. Although Miao Yun's (age 7, girl) eyesight did not improve as much as hoped after her cornea transplant, she can now detect bright lights and large forms.

Several children just received surgery in late August and are recovering. Xiao Jun (age 1, girl) had her second cleft palate surgery, and Jun Yu (age 1, boy) had his first cleft lip surgery. These operations were provided gratuitously by hospitals in Fuzhou, but the orphanage had to cover hotel accommodations for two caretakers, hospital stays for the children, and transportation (amounting to several thousand RMB). Wen Jing (age 14) is also in the process of receiving braces for her teeth. Due to the severity of her case, the cost is estimated to be 6000 RMB. Many more need surgery, and Ms. Xu is trying to find willing sponsors to cover hospital fees. For instance, Mei Hai, who was recently hospitalized for severe lung infection, needs urgent surgery for her congenital heart defect.

Although a large amount of money is already needed for surgery, Ms. Xu is looking to hire a full-time teacher who is a college graduate and who can tutor the children in English and other subjects. Most important, the teacher will serve as a positive role model for the children who normally do not have the opportunity to interact with educated young adults. This will inevitably require several thousand additional RMB per month.

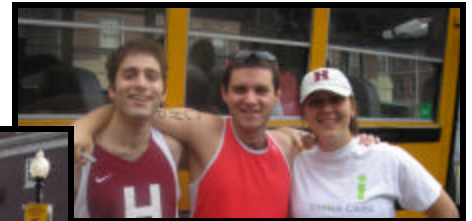
In seeking to improve the lives of the children, the orphanage now has greater

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RUNNING 26.2 MILES FOR KIDS

For the third year in a row, HCC had a very successful marathon fundraiser. Our four runners, Andrea Mayrose, Christopher Cullen, J Zachary Stein, and Marc Bhargarva, raised a total of over \$11,000. Their sponsorship came from friends, family, professors, and members of the Harvard Community, all of whom we'd like to thank, once again for their support. The entire \$11,000 will go towards the funding of Saiqi orphanage. Thanks you once again to all of our sponsors and especially to our runners!



NEWS FROM SAIQI CONTINUED

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financial needs. Having spent a month with these children and having formed personal connections, we cannot bear to let them down and must work even harder to uphold our support. In addition to the 1st Annual Benefit Dinner, we are also in the early stages of establishing a sponsorship program for the children. Individuals and

families can choose to sponsor specific children by providing a small sum each month. In return, they will receive biannual updates and photos of the child. We will send out more information later this month and hope that many of you will decide to sponsor one special child.

Thank you all for your continued support to Saiqi. We can personally say that the children are all so warm and loving that

despite the long road ahead of us, the rewards of helping them far outweigh any amount of work.



XU MEI HAI NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Xu Mei Hai was born on December 10, 2005, with a congenital heart defect. When she was first brought to the orphanage, she suffered

greatly from breathing difficulties, frequent sweating, and recurrent lung infections, all of which are common symptoms of heart problems. Al-



though her conditions temporarily improved under the care of SaiQi Orphanage, she was recently hospitalized for severe lung infection. Further testing is needed to diagnose her condition, but the orphanage currently cannot afford the chest X-ray and echocardiogram needed for diagnosis. Once her condition is confirmed, she will need immediate surgery to prevent the life-threatening infections. The total cost for her diagnosis and surgery is estimated to be \$4000. Harvard China Care, having many other financial responsibilities, cannot raise this money alone. Any contribution to sponsor her surgery will bring us closer to giving Mei Hai a healthy life!

BENEFIT DINNER

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University Asia Center, several musical performances, and a silent auction featuring items such as Adirondack chairs, a commissioned painting, and artwork by the children at SaiQi Orphanage. The dinner, already sponsored by several corporations including Jenzabar, seeks to attract many more potential donors who can assist HCC in its support of orphans in China.

Any sponsorship level will make a big difference in the lives of these children, please e-mail eliu@fas.harvard.edu for more information on how you can contribute and attend this amazing event!

HELP SPONSOR JOEY'S BRAIN SURGERY

Jessica Duby, one of Harvard China Care's Dumplings coordinator, spent this past summer volunteering for Hope Foster Home, a privately run orphanage in Beijing that cares for sick and physically disabled Chinese children. During the summer, she cared for two children who were receiving surgery in Hong Kong. One of those children was Joey: a bright-eyed 10 month old baby who suffered from an exposed bladder. Thanks to the wonderful medical care he received, Joey had a successful surgery. However, recently the doctors have discovered that Joey also has a malignant brain tumor.



With the proper care, he has an 80% chance of being cured. While many people have already donated their time and resources, currently Joey is desperately in need of money to fund his surgery and chemotherapy. Below is more information on Joey's condition from Hope Foster Home's website (hopefosterhome.com):

"Joey Dang Jian Yu is 10 months old. He is from Luoyang SWI and was abandoned because he was born with his bladder outside of his body. Joey arrived to [Hope Foster Home] when he was only a month old and [Hope Foster Home] arranged for him to have surgery on his bladder in Hong Kong by a Urologist whose specialty is Bladder exstrophy. His surgery was successful despite some minor infection and he was returned to [Hope Foster Home] last month. Since then he has not been well. He returned to Hong Kong's Matilda International Hospital 3 days ago (Friday, September 22) and after thorough investigations they have found that he has a malignant brain tumour. His neurosurgeon tells [Hope Foster Home] that if they operate now,



and he goes through 6 courses of chemotherapy he has an 80% chance of a cure. The tumour is localized and has not spread. St Mary's Hospital has a team all ready including pediatric oncologists waiting to accept Joey. They have generously given Hope Foster Home very basic rates but the cost of his surgery and 6 courses of chemotherapy will come to about US\$60,000. One generous donor has already donated US\$20,000. Joey was transferred to St Mary's Hospital Monday, September 25, and his surgery will go ahead September 28." Please visit Hope Foster Home's website to donate to Joey's cause.

JOIN OUR DUMPLINGS & MENTORING PROGRAMS!!!

HCC runs several programs in the Boston area for children adopted from China. One of the programs is our Dumplings playgroup! Last year's Dumplings program ended with two special events: a performance by the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe (AADT) and a dumplings cooking session. Through AADT's visit to Dumplings, the children had an opportunity to watch a traditional Chinese dance. To finish off the year, Harvard volunteers worked with the Dumplings girls to pack and fold dumplings. Everyone enjoyed a yummy snack, and each child received her very own dumplings recipe to take home.

Our Dumplings program for the 2006-2007 school year opened with a celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. The

girls listened to the fable of Chang O and tasted traditional moon cakes. Currently, the Harvard Chinese Yo-Yo Club and the Harvard Wushu Club are each scheduled to volunteer at a Dumplings playgroup. This semester's Dumplings playgroups will be held on September 23, October 7, October 21, November 4, November 18, December 2, and December 16.

Another program that Harvard China Care runs in the Boston area is our MeiMei/JieJie Mentoring Program. This program is for girls adopted from China aged 9 and older. Each girl is paired up with a college mentor. The goal of our mentoring program is to foster continued interest in China and Chinese culture for adopted children. We hope to befriend the children in mentor-mentee

relationships, and to build trust and friendship as big-sibling figures. Mentors and mentees spend time together individually, keep in touch regularly (online or otherwise), and participate in monthly activities for all mentor and mentee pairs. The monthly large-group activities are related to Chinese culture in some way! Applications for mentors are currently available.

CONTACT US!

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