

HARVARD CHINA CARE



HCC SET TO OPEN NEW CHILDREN'S HOME IN BAO JI

Even when abandoned children are found and brought to orphanages in China, their chances at survival are slim due to the inability of many institutions to provide adequate medical care.

To give these children a brighter future, the China Care Foundation sets up special Children's Homes that serve as intensive care units for the smallest and weakest children from surrounding institutions.

The children are cared for by trained nannies and supervisors in a home-like setting. This fall, Harvard China Care will be collaborating with Jenzabar and the China Care Foundation to open up a new Children's Home in Bao Ji, Shanxi Province.

Conveniently located on the fourth floor of the Bao Ji Social Welfare Institute, the home

will support children from local orphanages needing the greatest medical attention. After being nursed back to health, the children can either be adopted or taken in by a foster family.

Scheduled to open its doors in late November, the Children's Home has the staff and resources to care for an average of ten children each month. The high adoption rate in the local area will facilitate a fast turnover rate and enable the home to reach out to more children.

To cover the foster care program and basic operational costs, HCC will be pledging \$40,000 over the next two years. Both the director and the assistant director of the Children's Home are already working with the staff at the Welfare Institute.

In preparation for the home's opening, we are currently collecting a large number of cleft palate nipples and a pulse oximeter.

If you are able to assist us in obtaining any of these items, please contact us.

We are excited by the fast pace at which the home is being established and hope to raise sufficient funding this semester!

COMING SOON: FASHION FOR A CAUSE

In order to launch the new China Care Children's Home, we are proud to present HCC's Second Annual Fall Benefit and Silent Auction on November 15, 2007, at the Lenox Hotel in Boston! Last year's benefit brought in more than \$34,000 and was covered by prominent newspapers such as the World Journal.

This year, HCC is taking the benefit in an innovative direction. The event will include a fashion show featuring Anne Namba's de



Obi Medallion Jacket & Dress
(Anne Namba)

signs and hosted by Anne Namba herself, an award-winning Asian American designer based in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her beautiful designs are inspired by Japanese kimono patterns and other oriental styles. For images of her clothing line, you may visit her website at www.annenamba.com. There will also be a silent auction with items ranging from artwork done by the very children we support to an auto-

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MENTEE GIVES THREE BOYS A NEW CHANCE AT LIFE

Last spring, Kate, a mentee in our XiongDi/JieMei Mentoring Program, asked friends and family to donate money to HCC instead of giving her presents for her tenth birthday. With the \$1000 she raised, HCC was able to fund three cleft-palate surgeries for three young boys.

All currently living in the Beijing Children's Home, Dang Yi Wu, Dang Yi Wang, and Dang Yi Song were selected to undergo surgeries that would change their lives and give them greater opportunities for a better future.

Cleft-palate, an opening in the upper lip between the mouth and nose, is a physical condition that affects a large number of abandoned children. While it can be mild in some cases, cleft-palate potentially develops into life-threatening situations such as malnutrition and pneumonia when the infant's ability to safely drink from a feeding bottle is affected.

Dang Yi Wang, a 9 month-old boy who was abandoned in Shanxi Province, was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate. On July 5, he underwent a successful surgery in the Kou Qiang Hos-



Dang Yi Wang, left before the surgery and right: after the surgery

pital in Beijing. Currently in good health and recovering well, he will need only one more surgery before he can lead a completely normal life.



Dang Yi Song, left before the surgery and right: after the surgery

Dang Yi Wu is an 8-month old boy who was also abandoned in Shanxi. On June 13, he received a successful surgery for his unilateral cleft lip and palate at the Mei Tan Hospital in Beijing. He too will only need one more surgery before he is perfectly healthy.

After being too sick all summer to undergo his operation, one year-old Dang Yi Song finally received his bilateral cleft lip and palate surgery on September 13. Also at the Mei Tan Hospital, he is currently recovering well and will not require any follow-up surgery!

We would like to congratulate and thank Kate for her truly selfless giving to these three young boys. Her efforts have certainly inspired us and have given us even greater faith in our work.



Dang Yi Wu, left before the surgery and right: after the surgery

REFLECTIONS ON SAIQI

By: Jessica Yang
HCC SAIQI LIASON and VP

The last week of August marked the end of the second joint summer internship program between Harvard China Care and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) at SaiQi Orphanage.

To show their gratitude toward the eight student volunteers, the children at SaiQi Orphanage organized a special evening performance and celebration. The volunteers were greeted with brightly colored streamers hanging from the ceiling and a table covered with platters of fruit and candy. Dressed in red, flower-patterned cheongsams, the children recited poetry and performed traditional folk dances and songs.

For the final piece, the children sang, "In this world, only mothers are good," a touching note for motherless children who have come to view Ms. Xu, the orphanage director, and all the caretakers as their mothers. Their ability to dream and to see the richness in their lives inspires both Ms. Xu--who has spent over twenty years of her life helping abandoned children--and all the students who visit each summer.

SaiQi Orphanage, located in a small port town in Fujian Province, has to date cared for over 600 abandonees. Currently home to forty-one children ranging in age from a few months to twenty-four years old, the orphanage has made significant improvements in living conditions since HCC's sponsorship in 2004. In fact, Ms. Xu is currently investing in a new five-story home in the neighboring city of Ning De. The progress, however, is accompanied by new challenges that Ms. Xu can only face with outside support.

There are several new infants on the fifth floor of the building: Jian Fan (boy, 4 years), Jian Fei (boy, 7 months) – who was so small and malnourished he did not even have the energy to cry when he was brought to the orphanage, Xiao Wei (girl, 11 months) – who is just learning to walk, Zhen Zhen (girl, 7-8 months) – who has a congenital brain defect, and Mei Hai (girl, 2 years) – who has cerebral palsy.

In late August, Fei Yan (girl, 8) suffered from heart failure and was sent to a hospital in Fu An where her condition stabilized but remains uncertain in the near future. The new home is beautiful

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CARING FOR CHUN YU: A TRIBUTE

By: Ann Chao

Chun Yu is a blind five year old orphan girl whom I wrote about in the HCC Winter 2006 Newsletter; she had a massive brain tumor removed in February and has been since struggling to recover in hospitals. She has become a part of my family since summer 2006, when I volunteered at Bethel Foster Home and my mother and sister came to visit; all of us fell in love with her. My father also became attached to her although he never met her. Her story has been one of suffering, perseverance, and the power of love, and it has touched lives around the world. She may now be near the end of her life, and I am writing this article to honor her and share her story.

I am studying in China for one year, so I was able to visit Chun Yu several times since arriving in Beijing in late August 2007. I sat by her bedside in Tianjin Huanhu Hospital and sang to her, held her hand, and prayed she would wake up from her coma soon. Her struggle to recover has been long and hard, having switched two hospitals since her surgery in Wuhan Union Hospital in February. She has had severe seizure attacks, repeated respiratory infections, excessive pressure within her brain caused by the buildup of fluid, and two shunt implants. In the span of the eight months since her surgery, many people around the world have heard her story and answered the call for support and loving care. Medical experts in the US and in China have given their time and knowledge; both friends and strangers have donated to pay for her medical bills, which are staggeringly high by Chinese standards; and people of all faiths have prayed for her and sent encouraging messages of hope.

The inscription on the keychain I gave Chun Yu last year still holds true: "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."



Some may ask how that can be true when Chun Yu now displays decerebrate rigidity, signifying that her

brain has suffered irreversible damage and there is a dismal chance of recovery. Soon we will move her to New Hope Foundation (formerly known as Hope Foster Home), which will provide comfort care for her.

Where is grace when human hands have already done everything in their capability? Where is God when such a young child draws near to the end



ABOVE and BELOW LEFT: Ann and her mom visit Chun Yu in the hospital this October.

of her life after suffering so much?

I believe the answer is that grace has always been with Chun Yu; it has never left even in the hardest moments of her hospital stays. Whenever the situation seemed hopeless medically or financially, a new door would open and her needs would be provided for by helpful doctors or concerned donors. Through my mother's regular emails to an ever-growing network of people as well as Bethel's efforts, her story has touched hearts around the world and will continue to do so as long as we live. She has touched my family to the core. My parents now have three daughters instead of just two. I was born

first, then my sister Lynn, then Chun Yu.

The following is an excerpt of my journal as I sat in the Beijing airport waiting for my mother to arrive from the US to visit Chun Yu, perhaps for the last time. She booked her flight right after hearing news from Bethel that Chun Yu was displaying signs of irreversible brain damage.

Monday, October 8, 2007, 8:20 PM:

It's hard to look at healthy children these days. Makes me wonder why some aren't healthy. Some people say it's as if Chun Yu was born to suffer. I know she wasn't born to suffer, but it sure feels that way. Why did she develop a brain tumor that took her sight, her mind, and soon her life? Is there even an answer to that? Or is that like asking why the sun revolves around the earth?

Be strong, I have to be strong for my mom. I don't feel weak. I just feel deflated, all out of prayer. I look at the two year old boy running around happily with his dad next to this waiting area, and I wonder how Chun Yu's life might have been. Her life has been beautiful nonetheless, and she has been well-loved by many.

There are many children out there who suffer the same but are never heard or comforted; some are never even loved. We should let Chun Yu's

life be our calling to find those children and love them. They don't have the power to come to us. But if we go to them, we will see they have the power to change our world through changing our hearts.

Now I see that hope has not died. It has just changed form. Chun Yu may have started fading physically, but her beautiful life remains a light of hope in our hearts forever. Our hope is that she will have peace and joy, and that one day we will see her again, hear her gentle laughter and singing, and know that grace holds her still.

* * * * *
Chun Yu passed away on October 14 in the Hope Foster Home. This article is dedicated to her memory.

MIAO MIAO'S JOURNEY TO SUCCESS

BY: ADAM SANG

When Harvard China Care summer interns travel to the Luoyang Children's Welfare Institute (Fuliuyan), a state-run orphanage in the Henan province, one of the first friends they make is a young woman named Miao Miao. Her English name is Mia, and her surname, Dang, is the same as that of hundreds of other children at the fuliyuan.

I first met Miao Miao in summer of 2005, when she helped Eva Liu '08, Sarah Cramer '08, and myself work with a Chinese computer on our second day at the fuliyuan. Miao Miao, who was then 22 years old, helped us frequently that summer and served as a translator and moderator between us and Principal Pei, the director of the fuliyuan. At night, Miao Miao would come to our apartment to learn English or to socialize with us in English. It was then that we first learned of Miao Miao's ambitious dreams: to study abroad in the United States.

Miao Miao first considered studying computer science in the US two years earlier, in 2003. Since then, she has made several visits to Beijing to apply for a visa

through a tedious and difficult process. At the same time, Miao Miao also concen-



Sarah Cramer, right, plays the Chinese traditional game of Mahjong with Miao Miao, left, then 22, in the Luoyang Children's Home

trated heavily on learning English, wisely using opportunities to communicate with many foreigners who visit the fuliyuan. In addition to acting as a translator for these guests, she is also very adept at

learning foreign songs. In the summer of 2006, she learned "I Believe I Can Fly" from HCC intern Sarah Mortazavi '09.

Since my visit to the Luoyang Fuliuyan in 2005, Miao Miao and I have kept in touch via E-mail and instant messaging. I talked to her during the night of September 20th, 2006, the eve of her first day of classes in the United States, at the Shoreline Community College in Washington State. She told me that she was nervous about all the placement examinations administered right at the beginning of the semester. During her hectic school schedule, she also has time to travel to Hawaii and New York to see friends. Miao Miao has recently focused her studies on psychology, writing about such issues as the adverse effect of parents' pressure on their children's social well-being and the unforeseen complexities of a society saturated with choices and decision-making. She has come a long way academically since we first met in 2005, and because of her courage, dedication, vision, and gentle heart, we hope to keep her as a life-long friend of Harvard China Care.

FALL BENEFIT TO FEATURE ANNE NAMBA FASHION SHOW

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graphed copy of "Motherbridge of Love"! The evening promises to be very exciting and the event is not one to be missed! Please buy your tickets today! All proceeds from the event will go toward supporting this new Children's Home initiative.

We hope to see all our supporters at our second fall benefit! *To donate, please use the contact information on the last page of this newsletter!*

How Can I Help?

- \$100: stock an orphanage with a yearly supply of infant fever medication
- \$500: pays the entire cost of a hernia repair surgery
- \$1000 : covers the operational costs of a Children's Home for two weeks
- \$2500 : covers the operational costs of SaiQi Orphanage for one month
- \$4000 : pays for two cleft lip / palate surgeries

<p>Benefit Diamond Sponsor—\$25,000 or higher donation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ 30 admission tickets ☛ Company banner displayed at event ☛ Acknowledgment in all public relations materials ☛ Company description included in event programs ☛ Verbal Recognition at event 	<p>Benefit Silver Sponsor—\$2,500 donation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ 10 admission tickets ☛ Company logo included in event programs
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<p>Benefit Gold Sponsor—\$5,000 donation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☛ 15 admission tickets ☛ Acknowledgment in all public relation material 	<p>Ticket Prices:</p> <p>\$80 / person</p> <p>\$150 / pair</p> <p>\$370 / group of five</p>

A SUMMER IN SAIQI: MEETING, LOVING, AND MISSING THE KIDS BY: ELAINE LIU

This summer Harvard China Care sent summer volunteers to orphanages and foster homes in Beijing, Luoyang, and SaiQi. Here is an account of one of our intern's experience:

Humming a tune the kids sang during the Chinese Duck Duck Goose game, I jumped up to chase Xiao Bin after she dropped a small beach ball behind my back. Everyone laughed when I as the "Goose"

promptly disgraced myself by tripping and nearly falling in my efforts to tag her. By the time I finished my turn, I was more than happy to head toward my new seat in the circle, opposite of my original spot.

Happy, that is, until I saw six year-old Si Si, looking at me as I did not return to sit next to her again.

Her confused and disappointed expression did not last long, however. Chosen next to be the "Goose," she dropped the ball behind the person to my right, quickly ran around the circle, and with a smile, leaped onto my lap.

Before arriving at the orphanage, I wondered whether or not I could connect with the kids when I could not speak their language. Would the kids even like me if I could only respond with the blank stare like that of an innocent baby when they spoke to me? I discovered the answer for myself. It was only the third day of our trip to SaiQi, but it struck me as I hugged Si Si, "I am really going to miss these kids."

During our month in China, Edith, Tiana, Katie and I, along with five Hong Kong students, were at the orphanage generally from 8:45 AM to 5 PM every day, with a break in the middle for lunch. From karate, ballet and arts and crafts during the mornings to cooking, English lessons, and games in the afternoon, we always tried to do creative, fun activities that the

kids otherwise would never get to do.

These talented kids learned English fast and eagerly. They excitedly tried out s'mores, jello, and fries. They loved making picture frames from the funny looking wood called Popsicle sticks. They even braved the smell of fingernail polish to experiment with nail painting. They tried to avoid getting wet by the water balloons, though.

In the afternoons, we were able to spend time



with the children who are more severely disabled and who often lie on their beds all day. Just simply holding the children and providing them stimulation made a huge difference in bringing smiles to their faces. The time I have spent with them, seeing their smiles, made any difficulties with adjusting to the filth and diet of the small town of SaiQi more than worth it for me.

It has been inspiring to see all these kids overcome the many challenges that they face and accomplish so much. For instance, Miao Yu, who is one of the friendliest and most eager kids, is mostly blind. Si Si, who surprised me with her energy and talkative nature after her initial quiet reluctance to participate in activities, cannot use the right side of her body very well.

I will never forget our last day in SaiQi, especially when Si Si suddenly kissed me on the cheek. In the near future, I hope to be able to visit every single one of the adorable, amazing kids in SaiQi Orphanage again. We can look over the hundreds of pictures I took of them with my camera. I can try to speak Mandarin well enough to hold the conversations I wish we could have had this summer (Since leaving Saiqi I decided to learn Chinese.) And just maybe—if I am lucky—we can even play a game of Duck Duck Goose.

REFLECTIONS ON SAIQI

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and spacious, but still lacks all the necessary furniture and household amenities ranging from toilets to windows and doors.

Ms. Xu hopes to move in before the winter, but she must find sufficient funding to do so. Standing inside the large, well-lit rooms, I could imagine the children studying at their own desks, drawing inside the classroom and running through the hallways. From the very top of the building, one has a magnificent view of Ning De from the front and of the mountains, soon to be designated as a national park area, from the back. Ning De promises a future with higher education, greater exposure to modern life, and the many other opportunities that the city can provide.

I am deeply impressed by Ms. Xu's vision for the new home and for the children's futures after overcoming the burden of securing enough financial resources to both finish the building and cover the rising cost of living. She hopes the creation of an established home will draw more potential donors and facilitate collaboration with the local government and health system. This dream, however, can only be reached after overcoming the unimaginable burden of securing enough financial resources to finish the building and to maintain their current living conditions.

The price of meat and rice have nearly doubled; Miao Yun (girl, 8) will soon begin schooling at an institution for the blind in Fuzhou; infants are continually brought in; rising wages force Ms. Xu to pay higher salaries in order to keep the orphanage caretakers, many of whom have their own families to maintain. The future holds many uncertainties, but Ms. Xu is confident that her faith and her love for the children will enable them to successfully begin a new life at NingDe.

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