Every year, Harvard China Care grows in the number of programs we offer, our community outreach, and our vision. The year of the Rabbit was no exception. In 2011, HCC recorded unprecedented attendance at the Children’s Day Carnival and Fall Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction, raised over $20,000 to fund surgeries and the Children’s Home in Beijing, created the first ever Winternship volunteer program, and much more. This year, we are excited to build upon our success and continue to grow the organization in new and exciting ways.

AN EXCITING YEAR FOR LITTLE SISTERS AND BROTHERS

From making egg tarts and scallion pancakes to playing “pin the tail,” the Dumplings and Mentoring programs have had a very lively year. In 2011, the HCC Dumplings program hosted eleven playgroups that featured themes ranging from August Moon Festival to China Expo to Winter Festival. We’ve also begun collaborating with the MIT/BU China Cares to further expand the mission of the Dumplings program to Boston communities. This partnership proved to be very successful as there is now a Dumplings playgroup at least once a week instead of every other week, allowing more families to participate in the program.

The XiongDi JieMei (Brother Sister) mentoring program also had similar success. Themes from this past year include Chinese holidays, food, music, and fashion. This past year, mentees were involved in activities and events outside of the monthly get-togethers at Harvard, such as the group skating event at Frog Pond and the fashion show at the Fall Benefit dinner, where ten mentees rocked the runway in custom made dresses designed just for them. Next fall, we look forward to continue hosting group events, such as the first ever mentoring sleepover that should be a lot of fun!

NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER ABROAD

The summer internship, HCC’s flagship program, matches undergraduates with an orphanage in China at which they volunteer for three to eight weeks. Last summer, nine interns volunteered at the Jiaozuo Children’s Welfare Center in Henan province and the Bethel Foster Home in Beijing. At the reflection session upon their return to Harvard, interns described how the eye-opening opportunity has impacted their lives just as much as they have impacted the lives of the children they met. You can read about the experience of intern Dora Tao ‘14, volunteering at Jiaozuo in The Global Times.

The internship program greatly expanded this past year with the inauguration of the first ever HCC “Winternship” continued on pg. 2
program. In January, five student volunteers traveled to the Jiaozuo or Luoyang orphanages and spent approximately two weeks helping the orphanages with administrative duties, teaching English, interacting with children, and more. We are thrilled that this new program will allow us to make an even greater difference in the lives of disadvantaged children in China.

SPREADING AWARENESS
Our medical committee also continues to grow in size and outreach. During our fall speaker event, neurobiologist Dr. Nelson talked about his research in Romanian orphanages. The approximately forty undergraduates who attended the event learned a lot about the importance of placing abandoned or orphaned children in loving, family-like environments as soon as possible to prevent long-term mental and even physical damage.

In addition to our major speaker events, the medical committee held an Asian pastries-themed study break last fall to raise money for a cleft lip surgery. Everyone had a lot of fun learning more about the medical conditions that children in China face while eating delicious snacks. We are also excited to announce a partnership with the China Care from Boston Latin School (BLS), whose very first fundraiser this winter raised $600! What an amazing job!

FUNDRAISING
The fundraising season began with our second annual Chinese New Year calendar. Featuring the twelve zodiac animals drawn by participants of our Mentoring and Dumplings program, the calendar was even more popular in its second year as we easily sold over 100 calendars.

Following the success of the calendar fundraiser, we held the first large fundraiser of the year, the 4th Annual Children’s Day Carnival. For the first time ever, the event was offered free of charge as a thank-you to the families, donors, and supporters without whom our programs and fundraising efforts would not be as successful. The Carnival featured a wide range of performers, including the ever popular Harvard Dins & Tonics and the Harvard Magic Society. The audience also enjoyed more traditionally Chinese performances from the MIT Dance Troupe and Harvard Chinese Music Ensemble. A popular favorite was the popcorn machine and shaved ice, which sweetened the atmosphere of the Penthouse with the delicious smell of food. More importantly, the $1000 raised from the event was able to partially fund the hydrocephalus surgery of Huan, a five-month-old girl.

The fall semester started on an equally positive note with the ever enjoyable Halloween Fundraiser. Volunteers went to several neighborhoods in Cambridge to trick-or-treat for China Care. The funds raised from the event, in combination with the generous donations of our supporters, covered the operational costs of yet another cleft lip surgery.

Our fundraising season ended with an unforgettable fashion and talent show at our 6th Annual Benefit Dinner. Over 100 undergraduates, professors, graduate students, and community members were treated to a three course dinner, an outstanding fashion show featuring outfits from a local designer, speeches from China Care supporters, and a fantastic dance show from Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe. With nearly $20,000 raised from the event, Harvard China Care has raised over $260,000 to date!

It is hard to believe the year of the Rabbit has already come and gone, but we are excited as ever to build upon our accomplishments and achieve even more in the year of the Dragon. We extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters for their incredible generosity—you are very much beloved members of the HCC family! Stay updated on HCC news by “friending” us on Facebook and checking out our new and improved website at www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care. We look forward to having another successful year in 2012!
MED COMMITTEE SPEAKER EVENT

By Nina Gu

This past semester, the medical committee had the honor of inviting Dr. Charles Nelson on campus to discuss his research with Harvard undergraduates. Dr. Nelson is a professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, a research director in the division of Developmental Medicine and the Richard David Scott Chair in Pediatric Developmental Medicine Research at the Children’s Hospital Boston. His laboratory studies how brain development is impacted by infant experience and environment. Dr. Nelson has conducted extensive research on institutionalization in Romania and the impact that it has on children’s development.

This event was very successful and drew one of the largest crowds for a speaker event. Dr. Nelson discussed his research in Romanian orphanages, experience-dependent influences on brain development and the widespread problem of orphaned children. His research has suggested that the understaffed orphanages are unable to provide enough stimulation to promote healthy brain development. These conditions have led to a higher rate of autism and other social and behavioral problems. In addition, these conditions arising from the lack of intellectual stimulation have manifested as physical problems for the children. These children tend to have smaller bodies and brains. However, Dr. Nelson’s team also concludes that those transferred to foster homes at an early age had hopes to recover from the effects of institutionalization. Dr. Nelson’s talk emphasizes the need to take action and help these children in orphanages worldwide. The medical committee is continually striving to promote awareness of this pressing problem.

CALENDAR FUNDRAISER

By Kai Fei

Harvard China Care had another successful Calendar Fundraiser this year, with the help of all the kids in our Mentoring Program and Dumplings Playgroup! Instead of the one calendar sale that we traditionally do, this year we decided to make two versions of the calendar, one for Mentoring and one for Dumplings so that we could include more of the kids’ drawings. The calendars feature select drawings of each of the twelve animals of the Chinese zodiac, each hand-drawn by the children. A beautiful illustration of a dragon completes the cover, marking the year of the dragon. The children in the Mentoring Program participated in the fundraiser by selling calendars to friends, family, and teachers. We sold over 130 calendars and raised over $650. All proceeds will go towards funding the cleft lip and palate surgery of Ming Yu, an orphan who came to China Care after being abandoned in the central part of China. Ming Yu was born with a unilateral cleft lip and palate, a birth defect that occurs when the tissues of the mouth do not form properly during fetal development and result in a split in the lip and palate. Ming Yu’s surgery will mend his lip and palate and allow him to live a healthy and normal life. Thank you everyone for your generous support!
HCC’S 6TH ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER

By Robi Cai and Eden Liu

Held for the first time at Cambridge’s own Sheraton Commander, HCC’s 6th Annual Benefit Dinner featured a medley of jazz and beatboxing, a traditional Chinese dance performance, an exciting and innovative fashion show, a silent auction featuring over 40 items, and over 100 guests in attendance—it was clear that the event had been taken to a new level.

Entertainment at its Finest

The evening began with a jazz duo featuring Kevin Sun ’14 on the saxophone and Jared Lopez ’14 on the guitar. While the guests milled about the silent auction dressed in evening dresses and three-piece suits, the duo entertained the crowd with a variety of jazz standards. Not only did they provide the music for the evening, but their talents were also featured as a silent auction item in the form of music lessons!

HCC’s Silent Auction once again featured an unparalleled set of packages, ranging from a baseball signed by the Red Sox captain Jason Varitek to breathtaking prints of photographs taken by Harvard senior Kane Hsieh. The selection of items was definitely difficult to choose from, as evidenced by the fact that guests kept coming back to ponder their decisions throughout the evening.

The jazz was followed by a captivating performance by Harvard’s own Kris Sun Liu ’14, an expert beatboxer from Taiwan able to impress any audience within hearing range. With the ability to mimic the sounds of basses, drums, disk scratches, and countless others, Kris mesmerized the crowd with an intense beatboxing performance. Following Kevin and Jared’s lead, he too offered lessons for the Silent Auction, and they quickly became the hottest items on the list.

As the guests headed down to dinner, they were in for yet another treat: a traditional Chinese dance performance by Harvard’s Asian American Dance Troupe (AADT). As one of the most talented performing groups on campus, AADT quickly captured the attention and approval of the audience with colorful lighting and exotic moves.

However, the best was yet to come. Suddenly, the lights dimmed, the spotlight came on, and the music started. All eyes turned towards the mysterious runway that extended into the middle of the room. For twenty minutes, all eyes were on the beautiful models featuring clothing from FRESHOB, a Boston-based fashion company. After the initial show, the models were joined on the runway by mentees from Harvard China Care’s XiongDi JieMei Program. Dressed up in Opal Muannathong’s most elegant styles, the mentees were given the chance to really “strut their stuff”. Needless to say, they took full advantage of the opportunity. As laughter and applause filled the room, the young models-to-be walked down the runway as if they had been doing it for years. There is clearly a large amount of natural talent out there. Dang, someone call Tyra!

An Evening with a Cause

The evening then took on a more serious tone when Debra Jacobs, a parent formerly involved in HCC’s XiongDi JieMei mentoring program spoke about the positive impact the mentoring program had on her daughter. Debra Jacobs is a child care provider, early childhood consultant, and parent coach. She also co-edited the book, From Home to Homeland: What Adoptive Families Need to Know Before Making a Return Trip to China (Yeong & Yeong, 2010). That evening, Debra talked about how happy her daughter felt whenever she spent time with her mentor and cited the importance of similar programs for families with children from China.

Her speech reminded everyone of the mission of that night—to raise money to help disadvantaged orphans in China. More specifically, all proceeds from the Benefit Dinner will fund the yearly operational costs of the Harvard China Care Special Care Unit at the Children’s Home in Beijing.

The China Care Beijing Home was opened in 2009 to establish a care unit for medically fragile orphaned infants. Children are brought to this home from orphanages around the country and are grown in a nurturing environment necessary for them to be strong enough to return to their original orphanage. This past year alone, the unit cared for over 60 infants. The $20,000 raised from the dinner will help continue the Special Care’s Unit ability to help disadvantaged children for yet another year. This tremendous support would not have been possible without the generous donation from The Jenzabar Foundation; its chairman Bob Maginn spoke the closing words at the Benefit Dinner. Together with all other donors and sponsors who continue to support us today, Harvard China Care is proud to
continue giving these infants the gift of health. Harvard China Care extends its deepest gratitude to all the performers, volunteers, attendees, and donors of the memorable event. Thank you for your generous support!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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WINTERNSHIP

By Hurman Vongsachang

This winter, Harvard China Care sent five interns to China as a part of our inaugural winter internship program. This special program is an extension of our summer internship program and allows us to physically contribute to the well-being of children abroad. During a two to three week time frame, the interns were sent primarily to two locations. Sabrina Ghouse, Laura Polding, and Joshua Lipson interned at the Jiaozuo Children’s Welfare Home, while Cindy Guan and Alexandra Foote worked in the Luoyang Children’s Welfare Home. Both homes are in the Henan Province. Responsibilities of the interns during the winter internship included, but were not limited to, teaching English, assisting with physical therapy, carrying out play-group activities, and assisting with administrative tasks at the orphanage. To prepare them for their winter journey, the interns attended three on-campus workshops before beginning their internship covering a variety of topics, such as medical conditions of the orphans, orphanage logistics, international/domestic travel, Chinese culture and etiquette, and daily life in China.

The Harvard China Care internship program allows students to truly make a difference in the lives of orphans. When interns returned back on campus for spring semester, they all reflected upon their experiences with great fondness. Please refer to the beautiful piece one of our winter interns, Alexandra Foote, has written regarding her special and endearing experience in Luoyang this winter. Stories like these truly bring to light the very real and heartwarming mission of Harvard China Care.

HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

By Kai Fei

This past Halloween, Harvard China Care brought together over 20 volunteers from across Harvard’s campus to trick-or-treat for a cause. These volunteers—Harvard China Care board members, general Harvard undergraduates and alumni—gave up most of their Halloween evening knocking on doors around the Cambridge area to raise funds for the cleft lip surgery of a young infant at the China Care Home in Beijing. Despite the unusually cold and snowy weather, our volunteers were able to raise over half the amount needed to fund the cleft lip surgery—and some even snagged a few candied treats in the process! Volunteers were also successful in spreading the word about China Care’s mission around the Cambridge community. All proceeds were donated to fund the cleft lip operation of Hong, who has since underwent a successful lip repair surgery and now doing very well. Thank you for all your support!

SURGERY UPDATE—HONG’S SUCCESSFUL LIP SURGERY

By Eden Liu

We are happy to report the success of Hong’s cleft lip surgery this New Year. Thanks to the money raised from our 2011 Trick-or-Treat for China Care Fundraiser and the generous donation of a Harvard China Care alum, we were able to fully fund his surgery last fall. Hong was abandoned in the central part of China with a severe cleft lip and palate, a condition that causes the tissues of the upper and nose to improperly join together during fetal development. This congenital deformity prevented Hong from eating properly, severely compromising his health and development. Worse of all, it also caused him a lot of pain, preventing Hong from living a comfortable life.

Fortunately, Hong was able to undergo a successful lip repair surgery and is now doing very well. Nannies from the China Care home report that he is no longer in pain and is actually able to enjoy playing with toys and listening to music. His appetite and mood have also markedly improved. He will return to the China Care Home soon to undergo a second surgery to repair his cleft palate. We thank the members of the Cambridge communities who donated to our fundraiser for helping Hong’s journey to a better, healthier, and happier life.
I had traveled to China many times before, but this trip was much different. This was the first time I had been to China in the winter, my first time to Luoyang and the first time I had to create my own itinerary. The cold weather, at first a frustration, was the best thing that could have happened to us. We stayed inside the orphanage instead of sightseeing and got to know the kids. On our first morning with the younger children, a spirited little boy, who acted like the teacher of the class, greeted us. As we played with them over the next two weeks, we saw their creativity as they constructed sculptures with blocks, and we saw their compassion for each other as the older students helped the younger disabled students back into their chairs after falling.

In the afternoons we talked with the older kids and helped them with homework. They explained their TV dramas and favorite music artists (Zhang Jie seemed to be the unanimous favorite) to us while we explained American culture and vocabulary to them. One of the more outgoing teens, Haiyang, showed us an essay from school. The title of his essay was 亲情 (family love). He wrote about how he never understood what this meant and how he was always very thankful for his loving aunties. One rainy afternoon, however, he saw his friend's parents pick him up from school, carrying umbrellas and holding hands. From this image, he understood what family love meant. My fellow volunteer and I were speechless for the rest of the day.

We knew we didn’t have the power to fill this void in the orphans’ lives, but we decided to try our best to make them happy. We performed with them for Chinese New Year, sang Zhang Jie songs, played computer games, watched dramas, and let them play with our cameras (they particularly enjoyed Mac photobooth). On our last day the cold snow and dense fog almost prevented us from leaving. However, the memories made with our new friends kept us warm.
This past fall and spring have been yet another great semester for Dumplings. After celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival at the end of September, we started off October with a lesson about the different ethnic groups in China. We made fans to learn more about the Han and made paper peacocks to represent the Dai people. All of the kids also had a lot of fun learning new Chinese phrases and watching Dai dance videos!

Our next event was centered around Chinese calligraphy. Dumplings kids had the chance to write and decorate their own name tags, which featured their translated Chinese names. After seeing a quick calligraphy demonstration and playing a game of Pictionary, we made rubber band stamps! Stamps varied from designs and pictures to actual Chinese characters!

Continuing with the theme of traditional Chinese art forms, our next playgroup was about Chinese music. We had a special performance by the Chinese Music Ensemble and each of the kids also had a chance to try out the erhu (Chinese violin). Erhu is a traditional instrument which has an attached bow between the strings that is often made of horsehairs. For arts and crafts, everybody got to make their own drums and erhus! We also learned a new song about friendship that we all sang together.

The next Dumplings included a lesson about all different types of Chinese performing arts. We learned about dance, wushu, and dragon dances. Wushu came and performed an exciting act with sword fighting and cool stunts. Annie performed a beautiful Dai dance as well. We also made dragon puppets and mini parasols, which are often used as a props in traditional Chinese dances.

We ended our fall semester of Dumplings with a celebration of the Winter Solstice! After starting the playgroup by making mini take-out boxes, we made yummy egg tarts and scallion pancakes to eat! The food was all delicious and the kids also had the chance to decorate their own holiday cards and make winter snowflakes. This was a great (and tasty!) way to end another amazing semester of Dumplings.

We have loved every second of working with the Dumplings playgroup. From planning meetings to late nights working on crafts, we are so happy to see the kids have fun every other Saturday morning. While we will no longer be the coordinators, we are passing the baton to Michelle and Emily, whom we both know will do an incredible job!
MENTORING UPDATE

By Dan-Dan Li and Doris Chiang

The Harvard China Care “Xiongdi Jiemei” mentoring program matches children adopted from China by American families with college mentors who have similar personal interests and characteristics. The mentor will have two one-on-one outings with his/her mentee every month. This is an opportunity for the mentees to learn more about the culture they were born in and to get to know their mentors and have positive role models and friends. Aside from the individual outings, Harvard China Care also plans a monthly get together as a program with 25 mentors and 25 mentees. This event is intended to help mentees get to know other mentees and mentors. The program creates a comfortable environment for the mentees to learn about the Chinese culture and other people.

The first meeting focused on the Lunar New Year. Since this is the first meeting of the semester, the mentors and mentees had a great time playing the icebreaker games to get to know each other. All the mentees also participated in the calendar-making process. All revenue funds surgeries for orphans in China. Later on, we shared with them stories about the New Year, and learned what people usually do on that day. We ended the first event with a game called “money flow” and delicious food.

The main theme for the second meeting was the Lantern Festival. The Lantern Festival is a day when all people make lanterns, eat yuan xiao (Chinese sticky rice dumplings), and enjoy spending time with families. The mentees each made paper lanterns for two people they wanted to thank. We also taught them how to make panda noisemakers. This simple artwork really excited the kids and we were pleased to see them running around holding their own special noisemakers. Since riddle-guessing is a tradition for the lantern festival, the kids played Charades by acting and guessing. The event ended with the kids and mentors bonding over Chinese food from a local Chinese restaurant.

So far, the mentors have had a blast bonding and hanging out with the mentees. Coming up, HCC will be holding the annual carnival. Mentors will join their mentees and explore all the wonderful stands and games offered. We will also plan a sleep-over in September.
Realizing positive change warrants much more than a simple vision: it takes days, months and years of hard work and unwavering support. As now eight Harvard China Care executive boards have come and gone, our vision – that a group of dedicated students can effectuate positive change in the lives of Chinese orphans – has never been more real and our impact never so significant. Starting with a handful of volunteers in 2003, our mission has grown to include a multitude of programs both in China and the United States, all made possible by the hundreds of generous families, parents, students, institutions and businesses that support us. That’s you. To say thank you would be to understate. Instead, we turn to the hundreds of fragile lives that have been rescued in China, to the scores of bright-eyed kids who have grown up through the dumplings and mentoring programs, and ultimately to the volumes of others who have been inspired by the our mission as a testament to the enormously positive impact that you’ve helped us achieve, and as a testament to the hard work that remains.

I feel incredibly honored to have served as President of Harvard China Care during 2011. I maintain that this group encompasses Harvard’s best and brightest, not only in their intelligence and abilities, but in their devotion to humankind’s noblest mission – helping those who cannot help themselves. My four years with China Care – signing up my first day freshman year to be a freshman representative, and continuing as Treasurer, Fundraising Co-Chair and President – have changed me in immeasurable and profound ways. I’ve made lifelong friendships. I’ve been inspired by the stories and experiences of hundreds of students, parents, and volunteers. But perhaps most importantly, I know now that anyone and everyone can and must work to right the many injustices and tragedies that exist in the world. That millions of beautiful children around the world suffer due to lack of basic care is heartbreaking. Knowing that we could save them with even minimal amounts of resources is infuriating. The challenges are formidable, but the implications of doing nothing are markedly more serious.

All of you – our steadfast supporters – no doubt share a commitment to improving the lives of others, and have inspired me in my journey to transform Harvard China Care into a highly efficient, impact-maximizing organization. With your help, this year’s benefit dinner and fashion show had more attendees than ever before. We sponsored upwards of 50 surgeries at our TCCP home in Beijing. We sent dozens of interns to the orphanages in China, and began a new winter J-term internship offering. We partnered with other Boston-area schools to include dozens of new children and families in our dumplings and mentoring programs. We’ve channeled a great deal of time and effort into helping other fledgling high school and college China Care chapters gain their footing and reach their respective communities. We hosted a wide range of prominent health experts from around the nation to speak to students and parents about orphan-related health issues. We created an alumni organization to keep in touch with our former members (of which I will soon be one). In short, we’ve done a lot.

Our work is never-ending. This year’s leadership must think critically about each and every facet of our organization, figuring out what works and what needs improvement, and insure that everyone’s time and resources are employed in an efficient manner. It has been a great honor to serve as 2011 HCC President, and know that I will continue to stay involved long after leaving Harvard. To those of you I’ve come to know dearly over these past four years: It’s been a great pleasure, and I wish you all the best. Thank you for your continued support of a cause to which I will devote my entire life and faculties. God Bless ---

Maxwell Meyer

2011 HCC President
Year in Numbers

By Kai Fei

Fall 2011 was a great fundraising semester for Harvard China Care. Thanks to the hard work of the HCC board, volunteers, and our generous China Care community, we were able to raise over $20,000 this past semester! We kicked off our fundraising efforts with our annual Halloween fundraiser, which despite inclement weather, raised over $250 to help fund the cleft lip surgery of Hong. This was supplemented by the efforts of our wonderful Medical Committee and donors, and we were able to fully fund the $500 surgery for Hong. Our major fundraiser of the fall, HCC’s Benefit Dinner, was also a smashing success, raising over $20,000 to help fund the Special Nursery Care unit at The China Care Home in Beijing. As we move towards the spring, we look forward to more fundraising success stories in events such as the HCC Carnival. Thank you all for your support!

Revenues:
- 2011 Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction: $22,106
- 2011 Family Carnival & Calendar: $944
- Other Fundraisers: $519
- Grants & Donations: $2,840

Expenditures:
- TCCP: $21,000
- Surgery Sponsorship: $2,000
- Mentoring & Dumplings: $3,585
- Medical, Internship & Fundraising: $7,697
- Publicity & Misc: $172

Board Members: Past and Present

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