The Bao Ji Children’s Home has gotten off to a great start and is now meeting the medical needs of nine infants who otherwise would have been neglected in underfunded and under-resourced institutions. Brightly colored floor mats and painted pictures of giant mushrooms and panda bears on the walls welcome children to a caring and loving environment where they receive a second chance at life.

Zheng Xiao Min, diagnosed with laryngeal papillomatosis, a rare disease caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV), arrived at the Children’s Home with a large lung tumor that severely hindered her ability to breathe.

She was quickly placed into emergency care and had a successful surgery on October 27 that removed several growths to free her air passages. According to the Bao Ji staff, “the surgeons had never seen a child in such a critical stage of respiratory distress, and could not believe we waited so long to bring her in. In actuality, continued on page 4

HCC BENEFIT IS A FASHIONABLE SUCCESS!

A warm thank-you to everyone who made the 2nd Annual Fall Benefit at the Lenox Hotel an overwhelming success!

With the help of our corporate sponsors, Jenzabar and Columbia Group Realty, the parents who participate in our Mentoring and Dumplings programs, various community members, local Anne Namba fans and the hard work of Anne Namba herself, we raised just over $75,720 for the Bao Ji Children’s home (see above).

The evening at the historic Lenox Hotel began with a reception during which guests were able to place bids on silent auction items ranging from babysitting services to restaurant gift certificates. Meanwhile, a slideshow featuring pictures of HCC volunteers interacting with children both in Chinese orphanages and in our local Boston programs, played in the background.

After the reception, the guests proceeded to the chandelier-lit Dome Room where dinner was served. As the guests enjoyed the delicious meal catered by Azure Restaurant, they viewed a video about Harvard China Care’s mission narrated by HCC Vice President Jessica Yang.

Everyone was wonderfully surprised when they discovered that one of the children mentioned in the video, Dang Gui Ai, was present at the benefit dinner with her adoptive parents. Brook and Stephanie Bishop adopted Dang Gui Ai, now known as Corinne, after her successful heart surgery, sponsored in part by HCC’s first benefit dinner and silent auction two years ago. Brooke, who held a happy and healthy Corinne in his arms, thanked HCC for saving his daughter’s life. (See below for the full continued on page 2
Fall Benefit a Fashionable Success!

continued from page 1 (text of his speech)

“Meeting Dang Gui Ai, seeing her laugh, watching her play - this was a dream come true," said Eva Liu after the event. “Seeing Dang Gui Ai with her loving parents reminded me of the value of the work done by HCC. It reminds me that all the late night/early morning envelope stuffings, the collating, and the printing was all worth it. I hope that all those who met Dang Gui Ai at this year’s benefit will never forget the needs of the many other children like Gui Ai who still needs our help.”

The CEO of Jenzabar, Bob Maginn, also reiterated his support for the work HCC as a student-run group is able to accomplish.

During dessert, Anne Namba, an award-winning Japanese designer living in Hawaii narrated her own fashion show! The show starred Harvard students as models, who walked through the guests wearing kimono-inspired evening gowns, button-down kimono-print shirts, and other beautiful Namba designs!

After the show coffee was served and guests had the chance to try on Anne Namba’s Designs as well as place their final bids on silent auction items. At the end of the night, the winners of the silent auction were announced and our guests went home.

“It was amazing to see that despite the rainy weather so many people, from families like Corinne, who have no hope, no chance without your help, who’s lives from our mentoring and Dumplings program to Harvard graduate students, come out to support Harvard China Care,” said Liu. She noted that two years ago, HCC did not even have a benefit dinner, and that last year the benefit dinner, located at the Harvard Faculty Club, raised over $34,000.

“We were thrilled when Anne Namba accepted our invitation to contribute her time and designs to the charity fashion show at our Second Annual Benefit Dinner,” said Liu.

Brittany Lin, the HCC Internship Coordinator echoed Liu’s excitement about the event.

“Throughout the year, we usually work with a small group of peers, and it is just incredible to see so many other concerned and caring people in our community willing to spend an evening with us to aid us in this cause” she said. “with us to aid us in this cause,” she said.

Anne Namba, who narrated her fashion show to the audience, continued on page 3
also said she was pleasantly surprised by the event and its success. “I’m so glad I could be part of the evening,” she said.

Mentor Pairs Cook, Eat and Celebrate Friendship

Twenty-five pairs of mentors and mentees have forged and continued bonds of friendship this Fall. The kick-off event for this year’s XiongDi JieMei “Brother and Sister” Mentoring Program, on October 15, was a huge success! As a late celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, mentors and mentees made their own dumplings from scratch. They even learned how to wrap them themselves. All the pairs also had a big icebreaker activity to get to know each other and the entire group then helped make a scrapbook about the Mentoring program. The mentors and mentees are encouraged to meet on their own time, around once a week, to get to know each other and spend time together.

Emily Hsu, the HCC publicity manager and also a mentor, says that her mentee, Xia, taught her a lot about fashion. “She brought a Vogue magazine and was pointing out her favorite advertisements,” Emily said. Realizing Xia’s interest in fashion, she brought her to Project East, an Asian themed fashion show organized by Harvard students.

On November 11 the twenty-five pairs met up again for an event called “My First Chinese Cookbook.” Mentoring co-coordinators, Diana Siu and Jessica Wen, set up three stations for the pairs. At each station they would learn to make a different Chinese food. The pairs learned the recipes for spring rolls, cold noodles (with a secret sauce of sesame oil and peanut butter) and mochi, a red bean paste inside glutinous rice flour.

We are currently creating a media kit to present our programs to possible donors and more. Here is what some girls had to say about the program:

Tian, age 11: “This mentoring program is really cool! It is really fun to meet new people and do different activities together.”

Christy, age 10: “I like this program because I like to make food and eating eat. Also it is fun to hang out with your mentor.”

Lani, 13, with Jess Yang, 21: “I like this program because I enjoy having fun with my mentor.”

Kayla, age 10: “I like this because you get to see your older sister and most importantly eat food that we make together”.

Charlotte, age 8: “I like this program because I get a big sister.”

Libby, 9, with mentor Joa: “I like this program because we do a lot of my favorite activities and we make really good food.”

We would especially like to thank our corporate sponsors for all their help with our Second Annual Fall Benefit:

- **Diamond Level**: Jenzabar
- **Silver Level**: The Columbia Group Realty Advisors, Inc.

Thank you to all our Silent Auction Donors for your help this year!

- Vision House Glasses in Harvard Square donated $500 in gift certificates
- The Inn at Harvard donated a one-night stay at their hotel
- The Boston Celtics donated 2 game tickets
- Small Plates Restaurant in Cambridge donated a dinner for four
- Sue Miller from Buzzard’s Bay donated a day’s sail on the Ballad
- Azure donated two $150 Gift Certificates
- Lucia Ristorante in the North End donated four $50 gift certificates
- Firefly’s Restaurant donated four $50 gift certificates
- Anne Namba donated a silk top with bamboo print
- The Boston Bruins donated two Boston Celtics game tickets
- Robert Wong donated two Boston Celtics game tickets
- Mary and Bruce Donald donated a family pack of four Celtics game tickets
- Harvard Lowell House Opera donated four tickets to Turandoth
- Chef Ming Tsai from Blue Ginger donated an $80 gift certificate and an autographed cookbook
- Robin Lois, a local artist, donated a Mosaic tray
- Adidas Store in Harvard Square donated a $100 Voucher
- CityBar donated a $100 Happy Hour Gift Certificate
- Bromley Mountain in Vermont donated one all-day lift ticket
- Yan-Huang Performing Arts donated tickets to a show in Boston
- Henrietta’s Table in the Charles Hotel donated a $50 voucher
- Barefoot Books and Xinran Xue donated a signed copy of MotherBride of Love
- Harvard Gilbert & Sullivan Players donated two Mikado tickets and two Victorian Ball tickets
- Radcliffe Pitches donated four tickets to their Spring Valentine’s Concert with the Harvard Lowkeys
- Jess Yang donated a portrait

Anne Namba, left, narrates her fashion show with Harvard models, Zoe and Won, left.
Author Xinran Xue Visits With HCC

World-acclaimed author Xinran Xue came to speak with HCC members on October 18, while in Boston promoting *Motherbridge of Love*, a poem-turned book submitted by an anonymous adoptive mother. The event was made possible by Jennifer Jue-Steuck, the founder of Chinese Adoptee Links, because *Motherbridge of Love* revolves around the issue of the biological Chinese mother and her eventual bridge to the adoptive mother.

The book was also read by China Care clubs around the country on November 18, National Adoption Day.

“My roommates and I have the book in our common room,” said Jackie Hsieh, an HCC mentor. “We were all incredibly moved by the well-crafted pictures and lyrical words… I know this book is important in addressing one of the most confusing eras of an adopted girl’s life.”

While speaking to HCC, Xinran explained the importance of the book to Chinese daughters, but more importantly to Chinese mothers. She emphasized that Chinese women have been under represented in Chinese literature and history. In her books she has tried to uplift the Chinese woman, showing her immense contribution in rebuilding the family structure after the Cultural Revolution, and still today as she faces the many problems of poverty and the one-child policy.

“I am a Chinese mother. I have a Chinese son,” Xinran proudly told HCC members. She says that her son brought happiness to her life at a time when she was embroiled in political problems and nothing else could uplift her. The birth of her son taught her the importance and strength of the Chinese mother.

“I really connected with her mission of recovering a heritage that is vanishing with each passing generation,” said Su Gao, a Dumplings Playgroup co-coordinator.

For Adam Sang, a current Harvard senior and a longtime member of HCC, meeting Xinran was a long-awaited experience. “I really, really, wish I knew who Xinran is before this meeting,” he said. “She presented insightful research into the role of women in Chinese society and the heavy political factors surrounding why female infants are abandoned.”

Sang was particularly intrigued by Xinran’s historical explanation for the current cultural favoritism of boys over girls, a significant cause of high numbers of girls in orphanages. Xinran explained that the Chinese tax system, first set up in 200 AD, favored male children.

“If you had one more boy in the family, you had one more piece of land, and if you had a girl, you got less land,” she explained. According to her, this taxation system is still in place and provides a clear explanation for the particular favoritism in Chinese culture for male heirs.

Xinran, a columnist for the Guardian newspaper was born in Beijing and is also the author of *The Good Women of China* and *Sky Burial*. In 2004, she founded a charity called The Mothers’ Bridge of Love (MBL), a London-based organization dedicated to reaching Chinese children living all over the world, including those adopted by Western families and those still living in China. According to the MBL website, the organization “ultimately wants to help bridge the huge poverty gap, which still exists in many parts of China.”

Her visit allowed her to learn about HCC and its goals, while it allowed HCC members to understand the larger historical impact of the current orphan and adoption situations.

She also graciously autographed a copy of the book, donated by the publishing company Barefoot Books, which HCC was able to sell at the 2nd Annual Benefit Silent Auction to raise money for our newest children’s home in Bao Ji.

We greatly appreciate her visit and also Jue-Steuck’s help in organizing the event.

BAO JI HOME
CARING FOR
9 BABIES

continued from page 1

we transferred this child as soon as we got her.”

“Since her discharge three days after her operation, she has been like a different child—breathing easily, playing happily, toddling around asking for hugs and eating with a voracious appetite. She was able to eat very little when these growths were occluding her airway, and how that they are gone, she is making up for all the lost time!”

Wang Kai Hui, born with a congenital heart defect, was severely malnourished and suffered from pneumonia when she was brought to the Bao Ji Home. She has been nursed back to health and is ready to undergo heart surgery. Wang Xiao Lan has meningocoele, a complicated form of spina bifida that requires a costly operation of several thousand dollars.

Two younger infants are also being cared for by the Bao Ji staff: Wang Qingping and Lu Lijing.

Thanks to the generous contributions of Jenzabar and all our guests at the HCC 2nd Annual Fall Benefit, we have been able to provide much-needed care for these children. With your continued support, HCC can ensure that the Bao Ji Home will continue to make a meaningful impact.
The Harvard China Care Dumplings Playgroup has never been more active! This Fall we have filled every playgroup to capacity, successfully bringing together 20 young children adopted from China and their families to learn about and share Chinese culture in a fun, interactive way.

In September we celebrated the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival with a special leaf rubbing activity to welcome in the autumn season. We played the Chinese game, “the Great Wind Blows” and made paper-plate sun and moon scenes with aluminum foil. The children even got to taste mooncakes, the traditional dessert eaten during the festival.

In October, the Dumplings children learned about Chinese ethnic minorities. They then made paper dolls and dressed them up in costumes from the different minorities to better understand what they had learned. The children even had the opportunity to make their very own traditional headdresses.

Later that month, the children learned about the upcoming Beijing 2008 Olympics. They made their own Olympic torches and watched a performance by Harvard’s Wushu Club!

In November the children learned about Chinese music, and the playgroup featured a performance by Harvard’s Chinese Music Ensemble. In addition to being able to touch the traditional Chinese instruments brought in by the Chinese Music Ensemble, the children were taught to make their very own Chinese musical instruments!

This fall has been an exciting one for the Dumplings Playgroup. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Dumplings families once again for being such active and enthusiastic participants in our program.

In order to spread the word about the Dumplings and Mentoring programs offered by HCC, we are creating a special media kit on our U.S. based programs. Here is what our Dumplings parents had to say:

“As a parent, this fantastic and dynamic program allows me to help my daughter learn about where she comes from and how that makes her who she is. Hopefully, this knowledge and experience with be a comfort and guide throughout her life.” - Michael

“I feel so grateful for this group and experience deep emotion every time I see these little girls sitting together and learning about China – from arts and crafts to games and stories. We plan to participate here for a long time!” - Maria

“Dumplings provides a source of positive identity for our children as Asian-Adopted Americans.” - Lloyd

“I attend Dumplings Playgroups because I want my daughters to see the richness of their native culture. I also wanted them to see strong, smart, talented Chinese women.” - Lou

“Harvard Dumplings gives me an easy and fun way to talk to my daughter about China on a regular basis.” - Maria