YEAR OF THE BOAR: AMAZING SUCCESS ACHIEVED

By Elaine Liu '10

During the Year of the Boar, a respected animal on the Chinese zodiac calendar that is often noted for its gallant heart and its devoted service to others, Harvard China Care set significant new records in its work to improve the lives of abandoned, orphaned, and adopted Chinese children both in China as well as in the United States.

HCC has grown rapidly since its founding just four short years ago, and even more so in the monumental year of 2007. While continuing to enhance existing programs, as part of HCC’s constant efforts to make positive contributions to the lives of others, exciting new projects have been developed and creative fundraisers introduced.

Innovative Cultural Activities

The Dumplings Playgroup, for four to eight year-old children adopted from China, began with a flying start with inventive crafts and an educational skit to inaugurate the Year of the Boar.

By the time of the last Dumplings playgroup in December, kids already had “traveled” to very different parts of China, learned about Chinese ethnic minorities and various traditions, heard famous Chinese legends, played various popular instruments like the pipa and erhu, and much more. They even experimented with Chinese hair designs using beads and special sticks.

HCC has now organized nearly 50 Dumplings playgroups for families. Expressing appreciation for the biweekly program, parents have described it as an ideal way to expose their children to Chinese culture and traditions.

Immediate Past Dumplings Co-Coordinator Jessica Duby ’09 said that she has been thrilled with the success of the playgroup.

“The Winter Fest was a culmination of a fantastic year,” Duby said. “Watching the girls sit around one table and eat the food that they had cooked together, I could not help but reflect on the playgroup as a whole. Dumplings had become a cohesive group in which everyone gave their best effort and everyone received something wonderful in return.”

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HCC SPONSORS ZHAO YAN ZHONG

By Sarah Cramer ’08

Harvard China Care sponsored an urgent surgery for Zhao Yan Zhong, a thirteen-month-old boy currently living in the China Care Foundation’s Taiyuan Children’s Home, this past December.

Yan Zhong has successfully undergone surgery to correct a condition known as diaphragmatic eventration. This condition, which involves one part of the diaphragm pressing up against a lung, results in difficulty with breathing.

Dr. Jia Jun of Peking University Hospital performed Zhao Yan Zhong’s surgery on December 17, 2007.

According to his doctors, the surgery was a success and Zhao Yan Zhong will not need a follow-up surgery.

A week and a half after this surgery, he underwent a hernia operation as well.

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Another HCC program, this one for adopted Chinese children ages nine and up, has expanded in the past year to include several boys. Recently renamed as the XiongDi/JieMei (Brothers and Sisters) Mentoring program, replacing “MeiMei/JieJie,” this branch of HCC successfully fostered over 25 mentor-mentee relationships this past year.

One of its most memorable events was an outing to a restaurant in Boston’s Chinatown for dim sum during the Chinese New Year. And of course, making delicious dumplings at both Mentoring Program and Dumplings Playgroup events still ranks as an all-time favorite activity.

In addition, to help families continue to explore Chinese culture outside these programs, HCC recently produced China Beyond the Great Wall: A Guide to Introducing Your Child to the Chinese Culture in Boston. From information on Chinese recipes, restaurants, and holidays to listings of relevant children’s books, language and cultural classes, this guide serves as a comprehensive reference for parents.

Medical Needs

As the newest component of the organization, the HCC Medical Committee has strived to not only collect much-needed medical supplies to send to orphanages in China, but also raise community awareness of prominent diseases from which many orphans suffer.

To that end, the committee created a Medical Conditions book, which comprises of important facts on more than 20 common conditions. HCC furthermore organized “A Night with Joan Kaufman,” during which Professor Kaufman, who is a lecturer in Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School, spoke of her research and the challenges faced by orphans with HIV/AIDS in China.

Changing Lives, One Child At A Time

Over the course of its internship program, HCC has sent more than 30 volunteers to orphanages throughout China. During this past summer, volunteers worked directly with children in the New Hope Foundation and the Luoyang Children’s Home. Working in a joint program with Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HCC also sent volunteers to the Saiqi Orphanage.

An incredibly successful fundraising effort in 2007 has translated into a significant, tangible difference made in the lives of the children.
MANY SUCCESSES

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many abandoned and orphaned children in China. With $94,000 raised this past year alone, in four short years, HCC has raised a grand total of over $150,000. A major component of its success stemmed from the donations to its Second Annual Fall Benefit, which featured the fashionable styles of world-renowned designer Anne Namba.

These funds not only sponsored surgeries for four orphans, but as HCC completed its financial commitment to Saiqi Orphanage, they also have enabled HCC to fully support the operational costs of the Baoji’s Children’s Home, which opened last November. The home provides intensive medical care to nurse the sickest orphans in the area back to health. HCC has been proud to learn of and report the immeasurable impact the home has already had on the lives of nine babies.

“We have high hopes for the difference we can make through the Baoji’s Children’s Home,” Immediate Past Eva Liu ’08 said.

Harvard China Care is extremely excited for the Year of the Rat. Thank you for all your support of our work - our many programs, projects, and events to support the orphans of China would not be possible without you!

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS...

Revenue

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<th>Source</th>
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Expenditure

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<td>Cleft Palate Surgeries</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Lung Surgery</td>
<td>$1,136.00</td>
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Impact: Priceless

DUMPLINGS, MENTORING TOP IT OFF WITH THE BEST WINTER FESTS

Cooking various favorite cultural dishes, dozens of families in Harvard China Care’s Dumplings Playgroup and its XiongDi/JieMei (Brothers and Sisters) Mentoring Program celebrated the Chinese Winter Festival together at events on December 15, 2007 and January 12, 2008, respectively.

After learning about famous legends, with the help of HCC volunteers, the energetic kids in the Dumplings Playgroup first enthusiastically made their own special Chinese treats before eagerly trying them out. From the delicious egg tarts to the savory spring rolls, the kids discovered that they now have some new favorite dishes.

“The Winter Fest was a tasty delight,” Immediate Past Dumplings Co-Coordinator Su Gao ’10 said.

In HCC’s China Beyond the Great Wall: A Guide to Introducing Your Child to the Chinese Culture in Boston, each family also received copies of the treats’ recipes.

Likewise, in January, mentors and mentees gathered to decorate cookies, play games, and learn about, make, and eat a variety of Winter Fest foods.

While filling up on frosting and cookies, the mentor-mentee pairs caught up on stories from the holidays. To truly ring in Winter Fest, they then worked together to mix juices and teas with tapioca bubbles to create their customized versions of the classic Chinese bubble tea, and also wrapped “tang yuan” (soup balls)!

The Mentoring event concluded with a rousing game of Telephone Charades.

While on the one hand, the December celebration marked the final playgroup organized by 2007 Dumplings Coordinators Gao and Jessica Duby ’09, the January festival marked the first event organized by new 2008 Mentoring Coordinators Jessica Wen ’10 and Kathy Han ’10.

China Care’s Dumplings Playgroup and Mentoring Program coordinators have announced the upcoming dates for the 2008 spring semester, and they look forward to holding events in the future that will continue to foster cultural awareness and an atmosphere of warmth and excitement!

A MENTEE’S BIRTHDAY GIFTS

With the help of a mentee’s generous birthday fundraiser, HCC sponsored the cleft palate surgeries for these orphans this past year!

(From Far Left) Dang Yi Wang; Dang Yi Wu; Dang Yi Song.
By Chenjie Zheng ’08
2007 Orphanage Liaison

Excitement reigns in a beloved home in Saiqi, Fujian. For the 42 children residing in Saiqi Orphanage, the construction of a building in the neighboring city of Ningde has for years promised a different experience and a new home.

The director, Ms. Xu, has worked indefatigably to complete this new orphanage despite financial constraints – and we are excited to report that the younger children have now already been able to move in! The older children will join them once the current academic year finishes, meaning that next year, they will be able to enjoy a better school system in Ningde.

However, there is still a lot of work to be done on the orphanage, as the new building is not yet completely furnished (in China, this includes windows, doors, wall paneling, and similar items). The rising cost of goods – including medical supplies – continues to contribute to the orphanage’s budget constraints.

Nevertheless, the children have been doing relatively well. For example, Xu Dan Dan has demonstrated herself to be a very good artist, and recently developed an interest in coordinating activities. After proposing a dinner banquet a few months ago, she even organized the necessary preparations herself!

In addition, Xu Qiao Yun has developed a love for singing, and is frequently gracing the orphanage with her vocal pieces.

Over the past several years, the Saiqi Orphanage has been one of the projects closest to our hearts, and as we transition to fully funding the new Baoji’s Children’s Home, we hope to continue to provide support to Saiqi on a more individual-need basis.

As the children of Saiqi Orphanage move to live in Ningde, we hope that they will continue to enliven their new home with their talents and energy!
A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Harvard China Care,

It is hard to believe that Harvard China Care has just finished its fourth year. And within these years, HCC has accomplished so much. Since our inception, we have sent over thirty volunteers to China’s orphanages, raised over $150,000 to fund surgeries and cover operational costs, helped build a school for visually impaired orphans, organized nearly fifty Dumplings playgroups, successfully fostered over thirty-five mentoree relationships, and much more! This year alone we raised over $65,000 to open a new Children’s Home in Baoji, China.

The growth of Harvard China Care would not have been possible without the support of the parents in our Dumplings playgroup and Mentoring program, the orphanage directors in China who permit Harvard China Care volunteers to spend time in their orphanages, and members of the Harvard community. To all of them, I express my deepest gratitude. Furthermore, successes in the not have been out the hard work group of students, less devoted nu- the work of HCC up late on a Friday templates for the ing Dumplings to spending numerous summer hours to volunteer in an orphanage in China.

I would like to extend a special thanks to this year’s HCC Executive Board for their hours of devotion. Without their leadership, HCC would not have been able to grow so quickly and make such a tangible impact.

This Winter Newsletter, in addition to celebrating what HCC has already accomplished, is a reminder of HCC’s huge potential in continuing to make a life-altering impact on children throughout China and the United States. I hope that as you read about what HCC has accomplished in just a mere four years, it will remind you of what is still in store for HCC. When I became president of HCC in 2006, I had no idea that in just two years HCC will be able to more than double its fundraising revenue while continuing to expand the mentoring and dumplings programs substantially. This is proof to me that when determined individuals work together, there truly is no limit to what they can accomplish.

To the 2008 Executive Board: Good luck in the upcoming year. I have the utmost faith in your ability to successfully build on our past successes and achieve new heights never thought possible before.

Thank you so much to all HCC members and supporters! It is only because of you that we have made—and will continue to make—a difference that spans the globe.

With Much Harvard China Care Love,

Eva Liu ’08
Harvard China Care President 2006 & 2007

“The stunning growth of HCC in so short a time is incredible, but our once-unimaginable achievements are by no means HCC’s limits. Thank you so much to all HCC members and supporters. It is only because of you that we have made—and will continue to make—a difference that spans the globe.”

CONTACT US!

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