HARVARD CHINA CARE

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BAOJI UPDATE

HOME GROWS, FOUR BABIES ADOPTED

By Ann Chao ’08-’09

Baoji Children’s Home has been growing in many ways, in numbers of children as well as their height, weight, and health. There are now 13 babies in loving foster families in the vicinity of the orphanage, and 10 babies in the Children’s Home. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, all the children in Baoji were moved to different cities during the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake. In July, the children were safely moved back into the Children’s Home.

Feng Tai An and Feng Zi Jun are among the new additions to the Children’s Home.

Wang Xiao Wei is one of the babies who recently entered foster care, and he is doing very well.

Wang Xiao Wei can now stand by himself, walks when someone holds his hand, eats solid food, and even cries when his bowl is taken away.

Unfortunately, he has also made a reputation for himself as a naughty child, often looking into cabinets and garbage cans and crawling under beds.

We are also excited to share that four children have been adopted internationally. Wang Xiao Yan, Wang Xiang Hui, Wang Yu Lin, and Wang Bo Ning are now permanently in loving families.

As the winter is approaching, Baoji Children’s Home is in great need of winter clothes for the 23 children currently in the home and in foster families. The children’s ages range from 6 months to 2 years.

If you would like to help by donating funds or lightly used clothes, please contact Ann Chao at annchao@fas.harvard.edu.

THIRD ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT COMING SOON!

By Sherri Geng ’09

Harvard China Care is pleased to present the Third Annual Fall Benefit and Silent Auction! On November 12, 2008, HCC will be hosting its largest charity event to date at the beautiful Lenox Hotel in Boston.

This year’s dinner will proudly feature award-winning film producer Thomas Lennon and his Oscar-winning documentary, The Blood of Yingzhou District, along with a three-course catered dinner, silent auction, and meet-and-greet with the Academy Award- and Emmy-winning producer himself! In recent years, Mr. Lennon’s work has focused on health, including the launch of a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of AIDS in China. In The Blood of (Continued on Page 5)
HCCSHARESEXPERIENCESATNATIONALCONFERENCE

By Elaine Liu '10

With its unique status as the first-ever college branch of the China Care Foundation (CCF), Harvard China Care shared its ideas and experiences with aspiring China Care club members from around the nation as well as learned more about the work of CCF during the weekend of October 10, 2008.

The Clubs Conference, which took place in Boston and was organized primarily by CCF, brought together college students in China Care clubs spread throughout the nation, from California to North Carolina to New York.

HCC alumni also returned to play integral roles during the conference. Aidan Madigan-Curtis '07, who served as HCC president for 2005, discussed ways to start a China Care club.

In addition, Eva Liu ’08, HCC president for 2006 and 2007, led a workshop on playgroups and mentoring programs. Before the conference even officially began, at a pizza party on Harvard University campus, many attendees talked of their desire to “start a Dumplings” - a reference to HCC’s successful playgroup for young children adopted from China that is called “Dumplings.”

The conference featured Dr. Shiping Zheng, Associate Professor of International Studies at Bentley University, who gave a speech on “Five Contradictions about China that You May Want to Know.”

Firstly, Dr. Zheng said that China is both an ancient civilization and a young nation, referring to the long history of China and its present modernization. Likewise, he observed that China is a former teacher but now a student of the West. China’s adoption of certain facets of Western capitalism forms the basis of his third contradictory fact, that China is both rich and poor. While a wealthy elite enjoy the benefits of a rapidly growing economy, significant portions of China’s population still suffer from abject poverty.

Dr. Zheng then discussed the changing image of China on the world stage. While the Chinese have recently faced many crises, including powerful earthquakes, they have also encountered opportunities, like the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, to present themselves as an international force.

Contending that China is neither communist nor democratic, Dr. Zheng concluded by describing its government as totalitarian. He said that Chinese leaders utilize a “soft authoritarian” approach; as long as citizens do not challenge the government, then authorities leave them alone under the assumption that they support their policies. According to Dr. Zheng, this approach differs from the slogan in the 1960s, “If you are not with us, then you are against us.”

Other topics covered by the Clubs Conference included medical supply drives and internships with CCF.

“We enjoyed meeting with other China Care clubs,” said President Sherri Geng ’09.

BEING AN OLDER BROTHER, PLAY DIRECTOR

By Dexter Louie '10

Every afternoon, the kids of our little orphanage in Luoyang’s Old City would crowd around the TV to watch the CCTV’s high-pitched, jangling Peking Opera productions.

When I asked them if they liked it, they would nod and make a small noise in the back of the throat (the Chinese affirmative reply). After all, some of them were learning how to sing opera themselves or play the instruments. I suppose it’s a culturally acquired taste; in the two months that I spent in China, I never was able to get used to the sound of Peking Opera.

We were buddies, role models, teachers, counselors, visitors, ambassadors, and most importantly to me, older brothers and sisters.

Everyday, we spent the morning with the younger ones, aged 8 and below before resting in the afternoon (it’s that Chinese heat (Continued on Page 3)
LUOYANG STORIES

Internship Update: Baoji’s Children’s Home

By Daphne Xiao ’11

At the orphanage there’s a hallway from which all the other rooms stem. There’s something tempting about such a long hallway, something that makes you want to run from one end to the other. One night when I was feeling particularly energetic, or perhaps just mischievous, I stole speedily down the hallway in my blue plastic slippers. By the time I was done I was grinning.

But the hallway also saw stranger, sadder times. One day, a little baby girl was brought to the home. She was so sick, but no one knew what was wrong with her. Too frail to make the train ride, the baby couldn’t be sent to the Beijing Children’s Home, which is nearer to better hospitals. Rony chose not to send her to the Baoji Hospital, which during the weekends is understaffed and could do little for her. So she stayed, with Rony almost constantly by her side.

I remember how gray her skin was, and how her eyelids didn’t fully close when she was sleeping. She displayed a little half circle of blackness of pupil, framed by white underneath, like a ghoul.

The second night she was here was unbearably hot. I woke up in the middle of the night, sweating. The light outside turned on, and I heard footsteps going to the roof. I got up from bed and sat in the kitchen for a while. It wasn’t until Joan sat across from me with her Bible that I realized that the girl had already died.

At night the A-yis washed the mats that cover the floor where the babies play. They line up the colorful puzzle pieces along the hallway to dry. How surreal it was, to see the hallway decorated so brightly and bizarrely. The A-yis had also washed the babies’ diapers and hung them on the stairway railings. The rows of pink diapers looked like a plain of pink flowers, spiraling upwards. Looking at them, I felt like both crying and laughing.

Not all my memories were sad. There was a girl, named Wang Kaihui, who was a year and seven months old. Older than the other kids, she was bored just staying in the playroom and loved attention. Joan named her Andy, and it suited her so well. She looked like a boy, with punkish rock star hair and two rows of sharp, pointy teeth. She had no fear; I soon began twirling her around as we walked together. Once, I put her on my shoulders so that she could peek through the high window looking into the babies’ room. Andy laughed so much!

I took her to a nearby park, and when we went under the willow tree, she looked up and smiled so wide that I looked up too—and it was really beautiful, because you could see bits of blue sky glinting between the swaying branches. It’s funny; I felt like being with Andy made me see things as she saw it. When she laughed, I wanted to know what it was that was making her laugh. And then I realized how new everything was to her; and it felt new to me, too. There were many times Andy was annoying, but I miss even those parts about her now!
XIONG DI / JIE MEI MENTORING CELEBRATES IN KICK OFF EVENT

By Jessica Wen '10

The XiongDi/JieMei Mentoring program had a very successful kick off group event on October 5, 2008. This year’s program has twenty five mentoring pairs altogether, including three boy mentees.

The pairs got to know each through their introductions and group activities. One of these activities included the human knot game: after standing around in a circle and randomly grasping hands with people across and around them, teams had to extract themselves from the human knot they created.

Mentors and mentees also celebrated the Autumn Moon Festival by learning about the holiday and writing a few basic Chinese characters, like “sun,” “moon,” and “tree.”

Of course, Autumn Moon Festival isn’t complete without moon cake, a special dessert pastry eaten during the holiday, often filled with different flavors of sweet bean paste and an egg yolk.

The group event closed with a few rounds of telephone charades, a game where participants pass along a message using charades and gestures rather than through words.

This year’s program, along with activities each month for the mentees, will also hold informational sessions for parents.

Each month’s meeting will feature a different topic, ranging from learning about specific cultural traditions to the orphan situation overseas to issues that kids may deal with growing up being Chinese.

The Mentoring program hopes to expand by providing this additional resource to parents.

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MENTORING CHANGES

(Continued from Page 4)

who are interested in learning more about China to be able to share with their families.

The first meeting elaborated more on the overall goals of as well as specific changes that will be implemented year, including a greater networking among the mentors.

As the Coordinators and also like to encourage parents and who have experience in order to strengthen community and support. With such a dynamic and active group of participants, Harvard China Care Mentoring is looking forward to a fun-filled year!

BENEFIT TO SUPPORT CHILDREN’S HOME

(Continued from Page 1)

Yingzhou District, Lennon highlights the heartbreaking—and unnecessary—suffering endured by orphans due to misinformation.

In collaboration with The Jenzabar Foundation, the money raised from this event will go toward supporting HCC’s most recent project, which provides direct funding toward the creation and operational costs of a China Care Children’s Home in Baoji, Shanxi Province. The Children’s Home, which opened last November, provides care to the smallest and weakest children from surrounding welfare institutions. Located on the fourth floor of the Baoji Social Welfare Institute, it has already provided care to over 40 infants, and five have been or are in the process of being adopted. Proceeds from this year’s Fall Benefit will go towards this initiative.

Last year’s Fall Benefit featured a fashion show hosted by internationally renowned designer Anne Namba; and with your help, we raised over $76,000. We at HCC are delighted to invite our friends and family to join us again this year. Together, we can make a difference.

For more information about the event, please visit http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care/08dinner.html or contact Elaine Liu at liu10@fas.harvard.edu.

Note: If your publication would like to cover this event, please e-mail liu10@fas.harvard.edu to reserve a press spot.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE AN IMPACT

Ways you make a difference when you donate to Harvard China Care’s Third Annual Fall Benefit and Silent Auction:

$100: stocks an orphanage with a year’s 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
$4000: pays for two cleft lip/palate surgeries
$5000: pays for a child’s heart surgery or spina bifida procedure

Benefit Diamond Sponsor
($25,000 or higher donation)
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- Acknowledgment in all public relations materials
- Company description included in event programs
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Benefit Gold Sponsor
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Benefit Silver Sponsor
($2,500 donation)
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Benefit Bronze Sponsor
($1,000 donation)
- 6 admission tickets
- Company logo included in event programs

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