THIRD ANNUAL HARVARD CHINA CARE FALL BENEFIT ENJOYS AWARD-WINNING SUCCESS

By Elaine Liu ’10

From a silent auction including items such as hotel stays, Celtics tickets, and autographed books by Maxine Hong Kingston to a program featuring Academy-Award winning documentary producer Thomas Lennon and a screening of his Oscar-winning film “The Blood of Yingzhou District,” the Third Annual Harvard China Care Fall Benefit on November 12, 2008 was an elegant success!

With the generous support of Mr. Lennon, The Jenzabar Foundation, families participating in HCC programs, Boston area residents, and not least of all, members of Harvard China Care, HCC is proud to report that the event raised over $26,000!

Of these funds, $1,000 will be directed towards the communities featured in Lennon’s film. The remaining proceeds will help support HCC’s Baoji’s Children’s Home.

Baoji’s One-Year Anniversary

The event took place at the beautiful and historic Lenox Hotel in Boston. With jazz piano and a slideshow of photos of HCC events—in both the United States and China—playing in the background, benefit attendees began the evening by enjoying a reception and placing bids on a wide variety of coveted silent auction items that ranged from bamboo prints to dinners to babysitting services.

The Third Annual Fall Benefit celebrated the one-year anniversary of the opening of HCC’s Baoji’s Children’s Home in Shanxi Province. In honor of the occasion, guests had the opportunity to learn about the immeasurable impact the Home has already had on the lives of orphans in China.

Located on the fourth floor of a social welfare institute in Baoji, Shanxi Province, the Home provides intensive (Continued on Page 2)
BENEFIT CELEBRATES HCC’S BAOJI’S CHILDREN’S HOME

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care to the smallest and weakest children from local orphanages. After nursing them back to health, the Home places the children in foster care or puts them up for adoption.

A display about the Home noted that in just one year, the Baoji’s Children’s Home has already provided care to more than 40 babies. Six children have even been adopted!

In the Dome Ballroom, as guests enjoyed a three-course dinner catered by Azure Restaurant, they also read short stories on some of the Home’s most memorable moments. Each table had picture frames that provided a spotlight on a few of the most precocious and adorable children in the Home.

“I was so thankful to see everyone come out and support us and the work we love to do,” HCC President Sherri Geng ’09 said. “It’s truly remarkable how much we have grown in the last year alone, and how many more children our Home in Baoji will be able to help next year, thanks to everyone who came.”

AIDS in China

After a delicious main course, Thomas Lennon began by showing excerpts of his groundbreaking film, “The Blood of Yingzhou District.” He spoke of the challenges that children who are orphaned by AIDS face due to misinformation in China.

“Really the film is about a second epidemic, which is actually more contagious than the AIDS epidemic, and that is the epidemic of fear,” Lennon said. “I realized...that even though I’m just a small part of what China Care is, these small individual acts I can do really would benefit the kids directly,” Hsu said.

In his remarks, Robert A. Maginn, Jr., the Chief Executive Officer of Jenzabar, also praised HCC’s projects. According to Maginn, Jenzabar’s sponsorship of HCC is a “triple win.”

“It’s really very good for those who are getting the help. It’s good for the students [in that] they build character and do something beyond the academics. And you know what—it’s great for the institution as well,” Maginn said. “The school really should be about things beyond the academics and build the true leaders of the world to come.”

The HCC Annual Fall Benefit has raised over $136,000 in the past three years. Thank you to all for continuing to support HCC!

To view the 2008 HCC video, please visit http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care/news.html#2008hccvideo.

Lennon added, “So when I got the invitation] from Harvard China Care, and I spent a few minutes looking at it, I thought, wow—these guys have done a lot. This is hard to do, and they’ve made something happen, and how could I not respond to that invitation?”

Geng expressed appreciation for the filmmaker’s work. “We were honored that Mr. Lennon could join us,” she said. “His film touches on a cause close to our hearts.”

The HCC Medical Committee also prepared for the event an informational display on the history of AIDS in China.

Celebrating HCC’s Work

The evening concluded with a short video focusing on HCC’s many projects and successes since its founding five years ago, from organizing the Dumplings Playgroup and Mentoring Program to funding surgeries and building a Children’s Home in China. It included interviews from HCC members as well as program participants and parents, giving guests a better idea of the history and motivation behind HCC’s work.

Emily Hsu ’10, who was among the first group of HCC student volunteers to travel to the Baoji’s Children’s Home, said in the video that her summer experience in China reminded her of the important difference that HCC makes.

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(Clockwise from Left) HCC Vice President Elaine Liu ’10, HCC President Sherri Geng ’09, Eliza Petrow, documentary producer Thomas Lennon, Ling Chai, Barbara Oppenheimer, Don Oppenheimer, Jenzabar CEO Robert A. Maginn, Jr.; The Lenox Hotel Dome Ballroom; Thomas Lennon; HCC Silent Auction; Guests mingle during the reception and place bids for Silent Auction items.
For the XiongDi/JieMei Mentoring group event on November 9th, the pairs took part in Chopsticks Day, a celebration of traditional Chinese utensils. The event started off with a skit performed by the mentors about the origin of chopsticks. Chopsticks came about in China’s ancient Shang Dynasty and spread to other countries in Asia.

Mentees learned how to use chopsticks, picking up small things like cucumbers, and peas. Their skills were then put to the test in our chopsticks relay race. The game consisted of passing an item from your chopsticks to the next person’s chopsticks, and continuing until your team reaches the other side of the room. All teams were successful in playing the game!

Teams were next asked to make a creation from various supplies including chopsticks, rubberbands, and paper. Structures that were made included a playground set and a sailing ship.

Afterwards, mentoring pairs learned a little bit about the traditions and etiquette surrounding chopstick use. Chopsticks can be designed with different lengths, styles, and purposes. People eat special types of food with chopsticks, including noodles, dumplings, and rice. These types of food are sometimes served for special occasions.

The event ended with everyone enjoying good Chinese food—lo mein and dumplings!—and a few rounds of a signature Mentoring program game, Telephone Charades.

A meeting with Mentoring parents that took place at the same time featured presentations by students who volunteered with Harvard China Care at orphanages in China during the summer. Dexter Louie ’10, Tian Feng ’10, Emily Hsu ’10, and Thea Lee ’10 relayed stories and pictures, and even showed a DVD of the Snow White play kids in Luoyang performed with the help of the interns.

Thanks to all those who joined us and helped make the event a success!
Baoji’s Children’s Home received three new babies. Xiao Hui had jaundice and a high oxygen level when she first arrived, but her condition soon improved and she now feeds regularly. Xue Lin is a boy with cleft palate, but he is able to feed well. Mei Hua is a beautiful little girl who fusses a lot and demands to be held often.

In mid-November, the home received two more babies. Shao Hua is very thin and had a cough, and he was sent to Beijing for care. Li Ping has spinal bifida and is also in Beijing for treatment. There are currently eight children in the Children’s Home, ten receiving care in Beijing, and fifteen in foster care. We look forward to more good news about these babies throughout the winter!

**SPOTLIGHT ON XIN JUAN**

*By Ann Chao ’08-’09*

In the HCC Baoji’s Children’s Home, Xin Juan is a beautiful girl a little bit over one year old who is blind in both eyes. She loves music and always listens carefully whenever people talk or sing to her. On October 21, 2008, she was put in foster care with a caring family. However, her foster grandmother became sick recently and had to send her back to the Children’s Home, where she has been a little fussy at night and sleepy during the day. Xin Juan can return to her foster family in early December, and we look forward to placing her back in a loving family environment.

**NEW ARRIVALS AT BJCH**

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**DUMPLINGS “VISITS” HISTORIC LANDMARKS, LEARNS WUSHU**

*by Daphne Xiao ’11*

As we near the end of the year, it is always nice to look back at all the fun we’ve had in Dumplings Playgroup this fall!

On Saturday, October 18th, Dumplings participants learned about the famous Great Wall of China, and, during our crafts session, made our own.

The basement of the First Church in Cambridge, where we hold all of our playgroups, was decorated with a row of hot pink, purple, blue, green and yellow Great Walls!

Then, on November 1st, we invited the Harvard Wushu Club to come perform for Dumplings, which always makes for a really exciting Saturday morning.

Performing to the cheerful beat of Chinese pop music, the Wushu Club members seemed to fly around the room, they jumped so high! Afterwards, the captain of the Wushu Club led an “instructional” portion, teaching the Dumplings kids how to do simple wushu moves, including the “horse stance” (which, in my opinion, is just a very painful squat!). During our crafts session, we made little paper dolls with joints, dressed in brightly colored wushu outfits.

On November 15th, we took an imaginary trip to the Forbidden City in Beijing, where, in ancient China, the Imperial family once lived.

During the arts and crafts session for that day, we made tiny houses in traditional Chinese architectural style and lion masks.

We have seen a lot of excitement!

**CONTACT US!**

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