A YEAR OF CARNIVALS, CRAFTS, AND CELEBRATIONS!

Along with celebrating the arrival of the 2009 Lunar Year, Harvard China Care is taking time to reflect on another successful year of serving its mission to better the lives of orphans and adopted children from China.

Fundraising Up A Storm!

Fundraising sits at the core of our goals as a student organization, and this year’s successful efforts to expand our global impact demonstrate our commitment to this mission. In 2008, HCC raised more than $34,000, which have supported the surgery costs for two orphans and the operational expenditures of HCC’s Baoji’s Children’s Home.

Last spring, HCC presented its First Annual Children’s Day Carnival on April 19th at the Student Organization Center at Hilles on Harvard campus. The event celebrated the community of HCC families and supporters with an afternoon of games, activities, food, and performances. Kids tried their hands at games like ring toss and hacky sack, made their own flower pots, got their faces painting, and watched performances by Harvard’s Asian American Dance Troupe, the Harvard Din and Tonics and the Breakers.

This past fall, the Fundraising Committee spearheaded two additional projects: a Harvard Yale T-shirt sale and a holiday gift wrap fundraiser hosted at the Harvard COOP. Funds were sent to China Care Foundation to cover the operational costs of two medical surgeries.

The highlight of the fall was the 2008 Benefit Dinner, featuring Academy Award-winning film maker Thomas Lennon. On November 12th, guests arrived at the Lenox Hotel to

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PRESIDENT’S FAREWELL LETTER

Dear Friends of HCC,

It is hard to believe that it’s been six years for Harvard China Care. The journey has been an enriching one for all involved: since the fall of 2003, we have sent over forty volunteers to China’s orphanages, raised close to $200,000 to fund surgeries and cover operational costs, and helped build a school for visually impaired orphans. Back on campus, we have grown from a handful of students hovered around a breakfast table, to a large organization that has overseen more than 50 Dumplings playgroups and successfully fostered over 40 mentor-mentee relationships.

Over the course of 2008, we have gotten to know so many children, from those in Baoji to our Mentoring and Dumpling families to the individual surgeries and adoptions whose narratives we have been a part of. They are playful, energetic, funny, quiet, loud, curious; and most of all, they—like your children, and hopefully mine someday—each have the chance to live a healthy life and pursue dreams of their own. Thanks to the generosity of your support, these children can go on to live as though they are not orphans at all but rather, simply children.

The best part of my job has been the opportunity to meet the

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REMEMBERING THE YEAR THAT WAS

Relive the year that was, from Mentoring and Dumpling events to HCC’s first annual Carnival Day to the Third Annual Fall Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction: 1. Summer Intern Dexter Louie plays soccer with the boys; 2. Members of the Harvard and Cambridge communities listen to Eliza Petrow speak about her Pediatric AIDS program during the Spring Medical Committee event; 3. Intern Gracia Angulo bonds with the babies at HCC’s Baoji’s Children’s Home; 4. Families play dress up at our Carnival; 5. Dumplings plays a Chinese New Years’ version of Duck, Duck, Goose; 6. Mentors and mentees make “firecrackers” for the Chinese New Year; 7. The 2008 HCC Exec Board celebrates a successful Fall Benefit; 8. Dancers perform at the Spring Children’s Day Carnival!
incredibly diverse community that HCC brings together, our work has allowed us to grow and support more children, families, and homes. I am genuinely grateful, and to you I give my heartfelt thanks for thinking of and believing in our cause, particularly in these economic times.

Raising over $30,000 this year alone to fund our projects both abroad and at home testifies not only to the strength of our mission, but to the huge devotion of an incredible group of students. I remain indebted to the brilliant 2008 Executive Board and all the volunteers of the club, for the work and time and energy they have devoted to HCC this past year. From lugging boxes to the Lenox, getting up impossibly early on Saturday morning to help cook for Dumplings, or braving the cold to trick-or-treat or solicit donations in Boston, their dedication has been instrumental and also inspiring.

We love the work that we do here, and I have faith that the next year and new Board will bring magnificent new success. I hope this Winter newsletter will remind you not only of how far we have come in such a short amount of time, but more importantly, that we have only just begun.

With gratitude, and best wishes for a wonderful 2009—

Sherri Geng '09
Harvard China Care President 2008

A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS...
(Febr. 1, 2008 - Jan. 31, 2009)

Revenue
Private Donations  $4,800.00
Silent Auction and  $26,068.43
Benefit Dinner
Family Carnival   $1,225.00
Other Fundraisers $3,172.24
Private HCC $220.00
Total Revenue $35,485.67

Expenditure
Baoji Children’s Home $42,000
Surgery Sponsorship $500
Internal Programs $928.71
Other Expenses $8,024.90
Total Expenditure: $51,453.61
UNCOVERING CHINA, PIECE (OF PAPER) BY PIECE (OF PAPER)
by Sisi Pan

O
f the four great inventions of ancient China - paper, printing, gunpowder, and the compass - HCC mentors and mentees gathered in early December to garner true appreciation for the greatest invention… paper.

Before the mentoring pairs learned fun facts about paper, pronounced “zhi” in Chinese, they engaged in rousing circle games. Later, having heard so much about paper and Chinese paper cutting, or “jianzhi”, the mentees were eager to split up into stations, each with different mentors leading arts, crafts, and activities involving paper.

The December event kicked off in high spirits with a few rounds of a game called “Waij”. In this game, one person begins by swinging their arms to point at someone in the circle while yelling “Waij”. The chosen person must swing their arms up while yelling “Waij”. Then, the two people around the chosen person must swing their arms toward the chosen person while yelling “Waij”. The chosen person then swings their arms down to point at another person, and the game progresses. Cries of “Waij” soon filled the room.

Next, the mentoring pairs played a similar game, but this time, incorporated names in order to increase the level of difficulty. The initial shy giggles and hesitancy and forgetfulness gave way to fierce competition.

One of goals of the 2008 Mentoring Program was to strengthen mentor-mentee relationships through the monthly group events, but also facilitate interaction and build friendships among the mentees themselves. Not to mention encourage fun, as games were rounded out by a contest to see which mentee could pick up the most Starbursts off the floor while blindfolded, following the instructions of their mentors.

Learning about paper after playing games proved no less exciting. Did you know that prior to paper, documents were written on bone, bamboo, or silk? That the invention of paper was inspired from wasps and bees? The mentees also discovered that both toilet paper and printing money originated in China. After learning the art of paper cutting, the group split up to try crafts involving paper themselves.

In addition to holiday card making and snowflake cutouts, the mentees learned how to fold unique creations, from peacocks to flower baskets. Each project involved intricate steps and designs, making the activities very engaging.

All in all, mentors and mentees alike gained greater appreciation for the artistic and fun potential in a piece of paper, a pair of hands—and a community of friends.

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!
by Elaine Liu

This past December, Harvard China Care raised over $500 to support the overhead expenses for Bin’s cleft palate surgery costs.

The seven-month-old boy, who was abandoned at birth with a unilateral cleft lip and palate, previously had surgery to repair his cleft lip, a condition caused by an abnormal facial development that creates an opening in the upper lip between the mouth and the nose. Bin will soon have his cleft palate repaired, a relatively routine and straightforward surgery that will put him on the path to a normal life.

In support of Bin, HCC organized “Wrap for Cause,” a fundraiser that took place during the weekend before Christmas. HCC members partnered with the COOP bookstore in Harvard Square to wrap hundreds of presents!

BAOJI SPOTLIGHT: QING PING
by Elaine Liu

From HCC’s Children’s Home in Baoji, China, came exciting news this past December: Qing Ping has been adopted!

She arrived at the Home in November 2007 as a very premature baby weighing only 1.1 kg. Afflicted with a congenital heart disease, for months she frequently stopped breathing and needed stimulation to begin breathing again.

HCC is thrilled to report that the staff at the Home has nursed her back to health. A beautiful and healthy Qing Ping will now be cared for by a loving family!

(From Top Right) Qing Ping in November 2007; Qing Ping in December 2008.

BAOJI UPDATE
by Ann Chao

The babies at Baoji Children’s Home are enjoying their first winter and Spring Festival! The older children are learning to walk and talk, playing and sometimes fighting with each other, and delighting all the staff and foster parents.

In November and December, Baoji took in four children: Shao Hua, Jun Yang, Ren Zhe, and Li Ping. Shao Hua, Ren Zhe, and Li Ping were sent to Beijing for treatment for coughing fits, pneumonia, and spinal bifida, respectively. Jun Yang may have a heart defect, but needs further tests. Two babies have been adopted, including Qing Ping, a beautiful girl who had been near death upon arrival but was nursed back to health at the Children’s Home. Her adoptive family has sent
**YEAR IN REVIEW (CONT.)**

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**A Year of Culture and Celebrations**

Our Dumplings playgroup and Mentoring Program have both been as active as ever, welcoming new participants and members each year that we continue. The Mentoring Program is now an active community of both boys and girls, and the Dumplings Playgroup continues to serve up to 25 children on Saturday mornings. The creativity and hard work of our Harvard student participants and coordinators make these programs cultural, engaging, and meaningful for everyone involved.

The greater purpose of Dumplings and Mentoring is to provide a safe-space for the kids to establish a community between themselves and others of similar backgrounds. Each step of the way, HCC continually hopes to facilitate the building of these strong networks for families as a means of support and communication. We enjoy every minute of the journey and marvel at how far each child has come.

2008 was a great success for HCC! We appreciate your support for all of our programs and projects; the Year of the Ox will surely bring us more prosperity as an organization, and we look forward to sharing it with you!

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**MEDICAL COMMITTEE**

**FILM & LECTURE**

*by Marianna Tu*

“N**o one has touched that child this whole time,” one woman whispered to her neighbor, looking at the face of the toddler displayed on the large screen.

The child in question was Gao Jun, one of the many HIV positive AIDS orphans in central China who is featured in Thomas Lennon’s documentary, *The Blood of Yingzhou District*. This young boy faces social isolation and rapidly declining health throughout the film but audience members at the medical committee fall semester lecture learned that there was a happier ending to his story.

Speaker Eliza Petrow, Director and Founder of PATS (Pediatric HIV/AIDS Treatment Support), an organization providing treatment and support to the children featured in the film, spoke after the film about her work in central China.

Petrow’s talk began with an overview on the central AIDS outbreak, which originated from unsanitary blood donation practices, and government responses, then introduced audience members to PATS’ work.

PATS currently employs community health workers and partners with a local NGO, the AIDS Orphan Salvation Association to provide over 50 children with drugs and support.

With PATS’ support, today Gao Jun is a happy and engaged young boy! This film and lecture event resonated with many audience members, who spoke with Petrow after the film, asking how to support PATS’ important work.

For more information on PATS or Petrow, please contact mtu@fas.harvard.edu.

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**NEW YEARS’ AT BAOJI (CONT)**

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pictures and gifts to the staff at the Children’s Home. Every one is very grateful that she now has a loving family, but her sweet presence is greatly missed.

Two of the older girls, Cai Ping and Yu Yan, are often the center of attention with their lively antics and sharp intelligence. Cai Ping can now call out to her friend, shouting “Yan Yan!” to get Yu Yan’s attention.

She has also gotten sick of her old toys and once climbed on the rocker by herself, rocking it like a swing and causing the nannies to panic. Yu Yan is quite a busybody as she is eager to help her nannies with physical therapy for other babies, trying to lift their legs for diaper changing. She is keenly observant of everything around her, and easily gets jealous when other babies have different food or more interesting looking toys.

With the Chinese New Year upon us, the staff and the children have been celebrating. They have put couplets over the doors with messages of fortune and good health. The children are adorable dressed in red!
DUMPLINGS CELEBRATES THE SEASONS
by Dianne Xiao

What a wonderful semester it has been for us at Dumplings! We kicked off with our traditional Mid-Autumn Festival playgroup, where we ate mooncakes and watched a hilarious Powerpoint slide version of the legend of Chang'e, the lady on the moon. The children were all giggles, and even the parents couldn't help smiling! Two weeks later, we learned about another Chinese folk tale. This time it was the legend of the Butterfly Lovers, Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai, two lovers who turn into red butterflies in order to be with each other. In the following playgroups, we went halfway around the world, and visited the Great Wall and the Forbidden City. The Harvard Wushu Club came and gave an incredible performance, filled with amazing jumps and graceful movements. The children got a chance to practice martial arts (and work out their quadriceps!) as the Wushu team taught them a few stances.

Dumplings ended 2008 with a blast at our annual Winterfest playgroup. Celebrating the Dongzhi/Winter Festival, we made egg tarts, scallion pancakes, and tangyuan. Tangyuan are small round balls made with glutinous rice flour on the outside and sweet filling, such as red bean paste or black sesame paste, on the inside. They are often eaten at family get-togethers, such as the Winter Festival and Chinese New Year's.) The children were excellent cooks! And extremely fast too—the dough for the pancakes and egg tarts was finished in no time, and the rest of the playgroup was spent enjoying the fruits of our labor. The egg tarts were the most popular—they came out tasting and smelling heavenly, the perfect treat on a cold winter afternoon!

Daphne and I will continue as Dumplings Co-Coordinators for 2009, and we are looking forward to another wonderful semester with everyone!

A sneak peak at the themes of the 2009 playgroups: Chinese New Year, the love story between Zhinu and Niulang (Chinese Valentine's Day), and 1980s and 1960s Chinese cartoons!

AN EXCITING NEW DEVELOPMENT:
CCF’S PARTNERSHIP WITH HALF THE SKY

Along with the arrival of the New Year comes exciting news from China Care Foundation (CCF): in an effort to strengthen its impact on the lives of special needs children, CCF will be partnering with Half the Sky, a non-profit organization based in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Berkeley, California.

Both CCF and Half the Sky are extremely excited about this opportunity to link their respective and complementary approaches to helping these children. This partnership is a natural extension of the work each organization currently promotes—while CCF aims to save one child at a time by providing him or her with the stepping stones to reach adoption, including medical attention and loving foster care, Half the Sky focuses on adapting the welfare system in China to implement more nurturing and sustainable programs in orphanages. This partnership will involve the expansion of Half the Sky to include a fifth program, The China Care Program, which will specialize in providing medical attention and foster care for these kids.

As the development of this partnership reaches crucial milestones, we look forward to sharing with you developments in this process. Harvard China Care in particular is excited to continue and extend its contributions throughout this partnership with Half the Sky!