Night of Jazz a Success
by Dianne Xiao

Featuring an evening of spirited American jazz and nostalgic Shanghai tunes, displaying a silent auction of over forty packages, and raising $21,000 for special-needs orphaned infants in China, Harvard China Care’s 5th Annual Fall Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction was a night to remember!

Spontaneity and Romance

Held on the evening of November 16th, this year’s benefit dinner combined the spontaneity of American jazz with the nostalgia and romance of old Shanghai. The night began with a glimpse of “Happiness,” a traditional Tibetan dance performed by the Boston dance troupe Dance Revelasian. Following their performance was Harvard’s Mainly Jazz Dance Company. Dressed in brightly-colored, sparkling costumes inspired by 1920s flappers, the dancers performed a sassy dance routine to Julie Andrews’ “Le Jazz Hot.”

The night closed with a performance by acclaimed jazz vocalist Le Zhang. Dressed in a classic red qipao and accompanied by fellow New England Conservatory-trained pianist Brian Friedland, Le captivated the audience with her renditions of classic Chinese songs and traditional American art and romance of old Shanghai.

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Surgeries Updates
by Daphne Xiao

Harvard China Care and the Jenzabar Foundation’s special care nursery unit, which opened in April 2010 and provides care for medically fragile orphaned infants, has been bustling and active these past fall months. Zhuangzhuang, who has been in our care since April and whom you may remember from our summer newsletter, just recently celebrated his first birthday. Previously, he had suffered from both anal atresia and a heart defect. This past September, he underwent surgeries treating both conditions, and is now recovering well and making good progress. He loves playing with stuffed animals and listening to music! In addition to familiar faces like Zhuangzhuang, the special

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jazz tunes. Her voice was sultry, light, and effortless. Included in her set were Chinese songs such as “Tears of a Lover” and the popular favorite “The Moon Represents My Heart,” as well as jazz tunes like “But Not for Me.” While members of the audience may have been unfamiliar with a few of the Chinese songs she sang, all were touched by the strength and emotion in her voice.

A Healthier Future

This year’s benefit dinner celebrated the one-year anniversary of HCC and the Jenzabar Foundation’s Special Care Unit at the China Care Home in Beijing, a project funded by the proceeds of last year’s benefit. The unit provides a warm and nurturing environment for medically fragile orphaned infants both pre- and post-surgery. Since its founding, 44 infants have passed through our special care unit, many of whom are now on their way to recovery. These infants smiled brightly at HCC’s guests on the night of the benefit dinner, their pictures and stories displayed throughout the Lenox Dome room.

Included among these faces were infants like Zhuangzhuang, who suffered from anal atresia and a heart defect; Yinbo, who suffered from hydrocephalus; and Jiajun, who had spina bifida. All three have successfully undergone surgery under the care and attention of the home’s professionally trained staff. Thanks to your support, these children have been given a second chance at life and an opportunity to live a healthier future.

We are excited to announce that with the proceeds from this year’s benefit dinner along with the Jenzabar Foundation’s continued and generous support, we will be able to continue funding this worthy cause until November 2011.

Connecting Hearts, Bridging Oceans

This past November 16th was a night of entertainment, a joyful celebration, and a fundraiser for an important cause. It was also a chance to bridge a vast distance—a chance to connect HCC’s donors and supporters with the work they are funding overseas.

During the silent auction, guests were transported to China through photographs taken by Kane Hsieh ’12, a previous HCC summer intern. A black and white image of Luoyang’s Old District, taken during Hsieh’s internship, offers a view of the city by a volunteer who came to love both it and the orphans who lived there.

As dinner began, the guests were again reminded of the impact of their support as they viewed pictures of infants who have stayed at our special care unit. Some of these infants are currently recovering from their medical conditions while others are still waiting for their surgeries; all are under the loving, watchful care of nannies at the China Care Home in Beijing.

HCC’s mission overseas rests on a simple, basic cause—to provide care for infants who would otherwise have none—a cause that touches the hearts of many. These past five years, HCC’s supporters have raised over $185,000 through our annual benefit dinners. Thank you all for your continued support.

(Clockwise from Above) Jazz singer Le Zhang and pianist Brian Friedland; Attendees of the 5th Annual Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction; Silent Auction room; Performers from Dance Revelasian; “Le Jazz Hot” by Mainly Jazz.
Trick-or-Treat for China Care!

by Kai Fei and Dianne Xiao

This past Halloween, Harvard China Care brought together over 35 volunteers from across Harvard’s campus to trick-or-treat for a cause. These volunteers, who included Harvard China Care board members, mentors and mentees in our XiongDi JieMei mentoring program, as well as general Harvard undergraduates and alumni, knocked on doors in neighborhoods throughout the Boston-Cambridge area to raise funds for the cleft lip surgery of a young infant at the China Care Home in Beijing.

The night was a success and was great fun for everyone involved! The costumes were creative and incredibly diverse—there were witches, tigers, magic eight balls, gypsies, and even mad scientists present, all brought together on Halloween for one common cause.

All this work culminated on the night of Halloween. The volunteers were split into ten groups, some going into downtown Boston, others to Cambridge neighborhoods, and a few into neighboring suburbs such as Arlington. Many of these dedicated volunteers gave up most of their evening for Harvard China Care.

After a cold night of walking door to door, our volunteers were able to raise well over the amount needed to fund the cleft lip surgery—and some even snagged a few candied treats in the process! Volunteers were also successful in spreading the word about China Care’s mission around the greater Boston area. All proceeds will be donated to fund the cleft lip operation of Qi, an adorable five-month-old baby boy. Thank you for all your support!

Implications for Post-Adoptive Life

by Emily Liu and Dianne Xiao

Harvard China Care’s medical committee fall speaker event, held on Monday, October 25th, featured distinguished guest Harvard Medical School Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Dr. Lisa Albers Prock. An attending physician at the Children’s Hospital in Boston, Dr. Albers Prock is an expert on developmental behavioral pediatrics, with a special focus on the health and psychology of children who have experienced either adoption or foster care. She has also traveled the world to learn more about the global adoption process.

While Dr. Albers Prock is familiar with both the international adoption process as well as the state of child-care institutions abroad, her talk focused on issues a little closer to home: namely, the impact of adoption on families here in the US, where an estimated 2% of families include an adopted child.

Dr. Albers Prock noted specific developmental behavioral issues in adopted children, such as attachment disorders in young children and questions of identity as they reach adolescence. She specifically noted family and community support, as well as the beneficial presence of role models who either look like them or share their experiences, as particularly helpful to raising adopted children. This was an enlightening event, especially for the Dumplings volunteers and mentors in the audience.

“Every child deserves a family,” Dr. Albers Prock concluded at the end of her talk. While adopted children and their families may face certain developmental issues, she reminded the audience that, whether through birth or adoption, creating a family is “a leap of faith and lots of work.”
DUMPLINGS LEARNS ABOUT ART AND FOOD

by Eden Liu

Dumplings playgroup ended a magnificent year with exciting performances from several Harvard student groups and a delicious scallion pancakes and egg tarts cooking session. We hope Dumplings participants left our last playgroup session with a better understanding of Chinese culture and a mastery of Chinese dance, martial arts, and cooking!

Building on an earlier playgroup highlighting Chinese acrobatics and games, the following session featured captivating dance performances by Alice Li ‘14, a member of the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe. She performed several traditional dances from different regions of China. After her amazing dance performance, Alice brought out a variety of dancing costumes and props, including sparkling handkerchiefs and long, flowing ribbons. Using these props, she showed the children and parents how to hold their hands in a graceful manner, and even taught them part of her handkerchief dance routine. At the end of the day, the children made their own paper ballet slippers and fans.

The next playgroup featured an action-packed performance by members of the Harvard Wushu team. After demonstrating impressive kicks, spins, and flips, they taught the children several basic martial arts stances. After the performance, the children also had a great time making their own martial arts wheel and Kung Fu Panda-inspired paper animal puppets.

The last Dumplings playgroup of the year ended with a grand celebration of the Dongzhi (Winter Solstice) Festival. After making tasty scallion pancakes and egg tarts, the children watched a skit demonstrating the importance of cooking. The morning ended with a snowflake and ornament-making extravaganza. We look forward to seeing everyone in the new year!

Mentoring Program ends year of Tiger

by Robyn Thom

It is difficult to believe that another semester has already passed and that we are already halfway through this year’s mentoring program! November and December have been fantastic months for our mentoring program. Our new mentors and mentees are now well-integrated into the program, and all our mentor-mentee pairs are continuing to build strong friendships.

The focus of our November session was animals, wildlife, and biodiversity in China. The children glimpsed the wide array of biodiversity that can be found in China and also learned about a few endangered species, such as the giant panda and golden monkey. Following this presentation, everyone had fun making adorable animal puppets. Puppets ranged from panda bears to elephants to golden monkeys. For December, we shifted from an environmental to a cultural focus. The session featured a dual theme, highlighting both the significance of colors in Chinese culture as well as the Dongzhi (Winter Solstice) Festival. This year, we have also been incorporating mini-Chinese lessons into each of our events. All the children should now know how to say (and write!) a few Chinese words related to each of our themes. We hope that all the mentees are keeping track of our handouts in the red folders they decorated at our October kickoff event!

Finally, we’d like to extend a warm thank-you to all the mentoring families for their continued support of Harvard China Care. We wish all mentees and mentors a relaxing holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you all at our February event! Happy holidays, and see you in the Year of the Rabbit!
This fall, our special care unit also saw many new faces. One six-month-old baby boy, Jianxi, who suffers from a heart defect, arrived at our special care unit this past September. Jianxi’s health was poor, and he battled pneumonia for over two weeks. He has since made a full recovery, and as soon as he is older, doctors will perform his much-needed heart surgery.

Along with our special care unit, HCC has also funded three other surgeries this year: Siyu’s cleft lip surgery, Li’s cleft lip surgery, and a prosthetic leg for Xiaomei. Both cleft lip surgeries were successful, and Xiaomei can now walk on her own with her new prosthetic leg. We are also excited to share that both Li and Xiaomei have been matched for adoption!

With funds raised through our Halloween fundraiser, we will also be able to sponsor the cleft-lip surgery of Qi, a five-month-old baby boy. We look forward to updating everyone on his progress in our next newsletter! It is because of your continued support that stories like these are possible. Thank you.