Harvard China Care is pleased to present its 7th Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction, held once again in the beautiful George Washington Ballroom at the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Harvard Square. The black-tie affair will take place on Saturday, December 1st, from 7-10 PM. Put us in your calendars – we hope you will join us for a lovely, entertaining evening devoted to helping orphans in China!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...TO PUT ON A SILENT AUCTION
Before sitting down for the catered three-course meal, begin the evening by perusing our silent auction packages. This year’s auction features donations from popular hangouts and high-end retailers such as J.P. Licks, Wagamama, and Vineyard Vines, to world-renowned student groups, such as the Dins & Tonics, Harvard Radcliffe Orchestra, and Radcliffe Choral Society. The businesses and organizations represented at our silent auction is essentially a microcosm of the city; we are proud to see diverse members of the greater Boston area support our cause every year. It is a testament to how much China Care’s mission has become a part of the community.

A STAR-STUDDED EVENING
Past benefit dinners have featured exciting dance groups, fashion designers, and singers as the event’s talent – this year is no exception! We are happy to announce a star-studded line up for the evening: Sheryl WuDunn, Joe Wong, and the Jubilee Project.

Sheryl WuDunn, the first Asian-American reporter to win a Pulitzer Prize, is a business executive, lecturer, and best-selling author. She is co-author of Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, a New York Times best-selling book about the challenges facing women around the globe. Her book has been on The Oprah Winfrey Show, The Colbert Report and other network television shows. Ms. WuDunn also helped launch the development of the Half the Sky multi-media effort – creating a thoughtful, effective philanthropic strategy that includes an online social media game and a documentary series. Her work inspires and empowers not only Asian Americans, but also young girls and women from all backgrounds.

Joe Wong is a former biochemist turned stand-up comedian. Several high profile gigs include appearances on the David Letterman Show, Ellen DeGeneres, and the annual Radio and Television Correspondents Association Dinner, where he roasted Vice President Joe Biden. Joe was crowned Boston Comedian of the Year and the Great American Comedy Festival winner in 2010. At the dinner, he will be performing a short, yet hilarious, segment of his stand-up routine.

The Jubilee Project represents a new age of philanthropy – using 21st century platforms to raise money for a good cause. After their Youtube video on the earthquake in Haiti raised $700, Eric, Jason, and Eddie formed the Jubilee Project, whose vision is to produce entertaining content that will empower, enable, and inspire others to do good as well. Eric Lu will be giving us sneak peeks of several upcoming

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videos—including one featuring Jeremy Lin—at the benefit dinner.

Finally, to represent the younger generation of Asian Americans, the Harvard Asian American Dance Troupe will recreate their magical 2011 presence by performing two dances. The evening will also feature HCC’s very own mentees in the Xiongdi Jiemei Mentoring program. These girls will be hosting the event alongside HCC members.

MAKING AN IMPACT

All proceeds from the evening will go towards the Special Care Unit at the China Care Home in Beijing, allowing the unit to operate for one more year. The Special Care Unit provides lifesaving pre- and post-operational care to the most medically fragile orphans. Since its founding in 2009, the unit has cared for over 70 infants, who face medical conditions such as hydrocephalus, cleft lip, and spina bifida. Last year’s benefit dinner raised $20,000 for the Special Care Unit, saving the lives of 28 infants. With your help, we hope to do even more.

Please visit our website at www.hcs.harvard.edu/~care/benefit2012/ for more information and to purchase tickets. Even if you cannot make the evening, we hope you make a donation or bid on a silent auction package. Thank you in advance for your support – we can’t do this without you!

FRESHMAN REPS RAISE OVER $300 IN HALLOWEEN FUNDRAISER

“T”his Halloween—want to send a scarily cute rubber ducky to a friend?...lover?...enemy?...yourself?” This year’s catchy hook raked in sales for the 2012 Halloween Fundraiser, organized by the five HCC freshman representatives: Hursuong Vongsachang, Phebe Hong, Vivian Hua, Jack Huang, and Patrick Liu. The frosh reps decided to take a different route from past years of trick-or-treating in Cambridge neighborhoods. This year, China Care took to the Harvard campus and sold personalized candy grams, complete with Halloween-themed rubber duckies (which ranged from witch duckies to ghost duckies to pumpkin duckies!) and loaded with candy. This large bundle of Halloween-themed sweetness was packaged, tied together, and then hand-delivered by HCC board members to the doors of the recipients right before Halloween night. These grams turned out to be the perfect gift to send out during the Halloween and midterm season—many students, proctors, and members of the Harvard community were eager to surprise their friends (and enemies) with a surprise hand-written message delivered right to their doorstep! Tabling at Annenberg and knocking on freshman dorms also allowed the frosh reps the chance to not only publicize the logistics of this event, but also raise awareness about Harvard China Care’s causes and the conditions of these orphans in China. In total, $345 was raised within a week of sales, with all proceeds going towards the cleft lip surgery for a baby Chinese boy named Qing Shan. The frosh reps could not have put together this successful fundraiser without the help of the upperclassmen in tabling and packaging and delivering the candy grams, and, most importantly, the support and general enthusiasm of the Harvard student body. In the end, the Halloween Fundraiser was definitely both an exciting challenge and meaningful accomplishment.
SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2012: HCC SENDS 11 INTERNS TO CHINA

By Hurnan Vongsachang

Harvard China Care sent a total of 11 interns to China as a part of our annual summer internship program. This special program allows interns to realize the broader mission of Harvard China Care: providing love, care, and attention to the orphaned children abroad. The summer interns were sent primarily to two locations, Dalian and Beijing. Dan-Dan Li ’15, Julie Chang ’14, Julia Glenn ’12, Calvin Chin ’14, Chisom Okpala ’15, Hurjane Vongsachang ’16, Greer Gardner ’15, and Hursuong Vongsachang ’16 all travelled to the Dalian Children’s Village. Meanwhile, Shelun Tsai ’13, Edna Wang ’13, and Isabelle Dortonne ’12 ventured to the Bethel Home in Beijing, a facility caring solely for blind children.

Responsibilities of the interns during the summer internship included, but were not limited to, teaching English, carrying out playgroup activities, taking the children out on excursions, and assisting with administrative tasks at the orphanage. To prepare them for their experience, the interns attended three on-campus workshops before beginning their internship. These workshops covered a variety of topics, such as medical conditions of the orphans, orphanage logistics, international/domestic travel, Chinese culture and etiquette, and daily life in China.

The Harvard China Care internship program allows students to truly influence the lives of orphans and experience China from a unique angle. At the annual summer interns’ reunion lunch, the interns spoke fondly of their shared time in China; it was truly a one-of-a-kind experience for the interns. In fact, summer intern Greer Gardner is revisiting the Dalian Children’s Village in January 2013 to further cultivate the new friendships she has built during her time in Dalian.

Furthermore, the Harvard China Care internship program is proud to announce its collaboration with Harvard Stories for Orphans. Interns from Dalian this summer noted down the hobbies and interests of each child at the Children’s Village. Members of Stories for Orphans are currently working on creating and publishing a personalized book for each child, featuring the child as the protagonist. The winter interns this year will be responsible for bringing back these beautiful stories to the children in Dalian.

Finally, please refer to the beautiful piece one of our summer interns, Chisom Okpala, has written regarding her experience in Dalian this summer. It is the enthusiasm and compassion of individuals like Chisom that Harvard China Care is able to maintain its strong and meaningful impact both domestically and internationally.
MENTORING : WHAT’S NEW?

By Dan-Dan Li and Doris Chiang

Harvard China Care’s XiongDi JieMei Mentoring Program aims to foster continued interest in Chinese culture in children adopted from China. The program matches adopted Chinese children with mentors who have similar interests and personalities and act as positive role models and friends. Mentors and mentees spend time together at least once a month through the planned monthly get-togethers. In addition, mentors and mentees are encouraged to keep in touch and get together on their own at least once outside of these events. These activities can include ice cream dates, going to a museum or movie, ice skating, and bowling. The mentoring program is a family for all of the mentors and mentees. Mentors usually regard the mentee’s family as their second family in the Boston area because mentors are usually invited to the mentee’s family events, such as dinners or birthday parties. Mentors are big sisters or brothers to whom mentees can turn when they need someone to talk to. The relationship and friendship between the mentors and mentees usually last long after the mentees graduate from the program. The monthly group gatherings’ themes are usually related to Chinese culture and festivals. This year, we had several themed events, including Chinese New Year, Chinese Lantern Festival, Dim Sum Outing, and Chinese Moon Festival. On Saturday, November 3rd, Harvard China Care held its first mentoring sleepover. Mentors and mentees played games, watched movies, and slept in a Harvard common room. During the sleepover, we had a recycled fashion show. We used newspaper and some recycled products to make pretty dresses and decorations. We then watched two movies The Parent Trap and Matilda. Saving lives, one child at a time.

DUMPLINGS UPDATES

By Michelle Chang

Harvard China Care had a great time with Dumplings this fall semester, and we hope the parents and children enjoyed it as much as we did! This semester was Michelle Chang’s last semester as coordinator, and she had a fantastic time getting to know all the children and their families. We started out the semester with a celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, where the children learned about mooncakes, the legend of the moon festival, and worked on fall crafts. Following the first Dumplings, there were five more Dumplings events filled with fun interactive crafts, activities, and cultural lessons. We had a great time together learning Chinese, playing traditional games, and even learning how to dance Gangnam style with the Asian American Dance Troupe! When it came to crafts, the kids showed how creative (and how messy) they could be! Together we worked on papercutting, sand art, dragon puppets, leaf rubbings, and panda masks. Some other highlights include racing our homemade dragonboats, watching a performance from Wushu, and playing the traditional Handkerchief game. The volunteers had quite a bit of fun every other Saturday morning too and loved the chance to relax and get in touch with their inner kids! Even in college we love the chance to jump around on the big blue mat and goof around with the children. We have one remaining Dumplings event in the semester, the celebration of the winter solstice, where we will be making egg tarts and scallion pancakes. Look out for the dates and the new coordinators for next year’s spring semester!
If you’re looking for a mixture of strength and perseverance, happiness in the midst of life-changing difficulty, and daily triumph in spite of challenges, look no further than the children at the Dalian Children’s Village. Each and every one of those kids is a shining role model to their generation on how to not just survive but thrive and flourish no matter the odds.

The journey that led me to what has become one of the most amazing summers of my life began when I learned about the Harvard China Care Program. I’ve always loved working with kids, which is why when I heard of the Harvard China Care Program, I leapt excitedly at the opportunity to work with the kids. Getting accepted into the program and getting my visa and tickets to China arranged marked the start of the journey that has led to this wonderful experience at the Dalian Children’s Village.

I can never forget the excitement, politeness and intelligent questions with which I was welcomed to the children’s village. Despite being a stranger at the time, the children and staff made me feel at home the moment I stepped foot in the orphanage. I derived fulfillment from just being a part of the zeal and utmost sense of enthusiasm with which the kids carry on their daily activities. A typical day for the children began with a well-articulated prayer before breakfast followed by light chores, which included cleaning and washing the dishes, and school.

Interestingly, my experiences at the children’s village were impacted by the fact that I was the first African and black person most of the kids had met. I never expected kids as young as eight, ten, and thirteen who have lived in a largely homogenous country to be so open-minded. The kids were eager to learn about a new culture, just as much as I was about coming to the great country of China! Six weeks later, I can say that it has truly been an amazing exchange between the kids and me. I’ve learnt as much from them as they’ve learnt from me!

My experience at the orphanage would not be complete without giving honor and appreciation to the people they are due. I give great credit to the directors and facilitators at the children’s village. Their father, Wang Gangyi, who they affectionately call “Wang Baba” is a wonderful force in their lives. He gives the kids the love, attention and care they need to experience a normal childhood. Also, as kids who are still maturing and have adolescent tendencies, it is very important that they have a motherly figure in their lives to show them love, while at the same time making sure they are taking the right path. “Wan Mama” is the wonderful mother to the kids, and because of her, I am sure the kids would grow into responsible, disciplined and useful members of the society. There is also Shiu Siu Mama, an extremely nice and wonderful woman who visits often with her generous husband, Ma Gu. And of course, Wang Peng, one of the funniest, most awesome people I’ve met, who tries to make sure the kids have a fun childhood. Finally, there is Ah-yi, the lady who cooks delicious food to keep the kids healthy. These are individuals that inspire me through their relentless work to make life great for the kids.

I left the Dalian Children’s village touched by the motivating stories I’ve heard about the kids, grateful for the opportunity to come here and work with children, and reassured of my ability to make a change in the world. I would like to use this chance to inform everyone that we all have a responsibility to help the less-privileged members of the society. It’s up to us, not just the other person- to play our part in improving the lives of others. It shouldn’t just end with identifying problems and acknowledging that we could help- the time to act is NOW!
Thanks to money raised from the Chinese New Year Calendar, Children’s Carnival, and other online fundraisers, Harvard China Care sponsored surgeries for three orphans last spring: YiXuan, BoRong, and Ming. We are happy to report that all three children are doing very well!

YiXuan suffered from Spina Bifida, a disorder caused by the incomplete closing of the embryonic neural tube. YiXuan had a successful spina bifida surgery in the late spring of 2012. During her pre- and post-operational care at the China Care Home, she was a real delight for her nanny. YiXuan is intelligent and her eyes are very expressive. She loves to play peek-a-boo and laugh. After two months of recovery, YiXuan was sent back to her home institution.

BoRong was born with a unilateral cleft lip and palate, a birth defect that occurs when the tissues of the upper jaw and nose do not join properly during fetal development. BoRong had cleft palate surgery in late May 2012 and then spent time recovering at the China Care Home. After fully recovering, he was sent back to his home province. BoRong loves to play with toys and is now of a healthy weight.

Ming was also born with unilateral cleft lip and palate. We are happy to report that Ming had a successful lip repair surgery on June 15 and is now recovering at CCH. Since his surgery, Ming’s appetite has increased and he had put on some weight. He sleeps soundly each night, and will be ready to go back to his home institution very soon.

The Special Care Unit, sponsored by the Jenzabar Foundation and Harvard China Care, has also been busy saving lives. Since June of 2012, the unit has cared for 28 infants. The unit’s success stories include Qing, who came to the China Care Home with spina bifida when she was only two months old. A medical check at the home revealed that she also has hydrocephalus. Both surgeries were done in the middle of March. She is currently in the China Care home for post-operative care. She can now smile, eat, and sleep well and will go back to the institution soon.

HCC’s annual benefit dinners raise money that covers the annual operational costs of the Special Care Unit. We would like to thank our donors who have made the lifesaving caretaking possible. We are excited to continue supporting the lifesaving operations of the unit for one more year through the funds raised from our 7th Annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction!

UPCOMING MED COMMITTEE STUDY BREAK WITH DR. MULLIKEN

This semester, medical committee organized a study break of various Chinese pastries and snacks to spread word about the J-term orphanage winternship to the student body. The event was well-attended and was a great opportunity for undergraduates to learn about the internship program first-hand from past interns. There is also a speaker event with Dr. Mulliken coming up on Nov. 26th open to the students and parents of Dumpling/Mentoring participants. Dr. Mulliken is a world-renown craniofacial surgeon from Children’s Hospital Boston who is well experienced in cleft palate surgery for orphans. He is coming to Harvard to talk about his work with orphans and also some of the more challenging surgeries he has come across in his career. Also, medical committee is planning a new holiday fundraiser this year to gather donations for funding a surgery. We are contacting the entire student body and House staff for help to reach our goal to cover a cleft palate surgery.
On October 19-21, Harvard China Care members attended the National China Care Clubs Conference, hosted by Boston University China Care. The eventful weekend drew over 70 members from all over the nation and featured workshops and panels such as “Issues in Institutional Care Internationally”, “Careers in Nonprofits”, “Interclub and Interorganizational Collaboration”, and more. Saturday morning’s events kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Wen Zhao, Senior Professional Development Director at Half the Sky and also featured a surprise appearance by Matt Dalio, founder of China Care Foundation. Club members were then able to mingle and meet other China Care clubs at various panels and over meals. Some attendees also attended the screening of Somewhere Between, a documentary that followed the lives of four adopted teenage girls. Harvard China Care played a role in the conference by hosting eight high schools students on Harvard’s campus and leading the Dumplings Playgroups and Mentoring workshop. On Sunday morning, Harvard China Care sponsored a Children’s Activities Fair at the SOCH penthouse, where China Care members picked up new arts & crafts activities and fundraising ideas they could bring back to their own clubs.

HCC learned a lot from the conference, including ways to improve the mentoring program and the dangers of prolonged institutionalization. Members also met the founder of China’s Children International, an adoptee-led organization that uses social media to get in contact with other adoptees all over the world. We ended the panels with a discussion on possible intercollegiate collaborations in the future. Thank you to Sarah and Austin at Half the Sky and Richard and Claire at Boston University for spearheading the fun and informative conference! We look forward to working more with other China Care clubs in the future!

Happy Holidays from Harvard China Care!