



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM CHINA CHARITABLE FUND

*Ensuring brighter futures for children
in China's orphanages*

Community Update

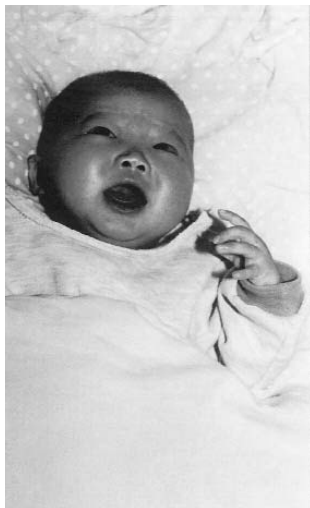
Autumn 2004

Welcome to the first Community Update issued by the Families with Children from China Charitable Fund (FCCCF). It is designed to help keep you informed about our recent charitable initiatives in China, and to recognize the generosity of our donors across Canada.

FCCCF has funded surgeries for more than 60 children in Chinese orphanages to date through the Amity Foundation, an independent Chinese voluntary organization that operates programs in the areas of education, social services, health, and rural development across China. The medical treatment funded by your donations to FCCCF can make dramatic changes to a child's health. Sometimes there's another beneficial side effect - movement from life at an orphanage to a long-term foster home or even to a forever family through adoption. Here's a recent success story about one of those children:

Liu He was born in December 2001 with a serious heart problem. In 2003, she underwent open heart surgery arranged by the Amity Foundation and paid for by FCCCF. Now she lives with a foster family and - like any healthy child - can run, play with friends and ride a bike. In the words of the Amity Foundation's Xie Ying, "*Liuhe is not adopted yet, but she is enjoying a happy family life in a foster care family under sponsorship through Amity. I attached her photo with this mail and you can see how she is improving her health and how happy she is in the family. She is now 90cm high and 11kg weight.*"

FCCCF recently heard from Xie Ying, of the Amity Foundation, that several other children whose medical treatment it funded have moved into foster homes, "*although they haven't got a chance of adoption. Family environment helps them very much both in physical health, intelligence, and psychological development.*"



Liu He before her 2003 surgery (left) and now (right), in her foster home.

Reaching Out to the Chinese Canadian Community

A new relationship has been forged between FCCCF and members of the Chinese Canadian community. The new **FCCCF Advisory Committee** will help build awareness and support of FCCCF's work among Chinese businesses and individuals, and expand our base of support to enable us to increase our charitable initiatives in China.

The FCCCF Advisory Committee (AC) will be co-chaired by Ada Lee and Ron So, two prominent members of the Chinese Canadian business community and longtime supporters of FCCCF. Ada Lee is President of Women Entrepreneurs of Canada and Founder and President of Adan Group Inc., which consults internationally in the pharmaceutical field. Ron So is President & CEO of Creative Art Glass, and Past President of the Richmond Hill Chinese Business Association. They have both demonstrated a very strong commitment to community development and philanthropy, and we look forward to working closely with them to develop new links between FCCCF and the Chinese Canadian community.

Smile China Kicks Off Another Life-Changing Expedition by Penny Rintoul

Catherine Bickley and I were honoured to attend the Smile China 2004 Pre-Mission Dinner on June 16th, 2004, and present a \$10,000 donation to that mission from the Families with Children from China Charitable Fund ("FCCCCF").

Smile China is a registered Canadian charity founded by Mississauga plastic surgeon and ear/nose/throat specialist Dr. Joseph Wong, focusing on cleft lip and palate repairs in poor, remote areas of China. The children Smile China helps would not otherwise receive treatment, because the normal cost of the surgery in China is many times more than their families' annual income. The Smile China team also teach the latest repair techniques to Chinese health professionals, enabling them to continue this work in China long after the mission is concluded.

What was clear from the videos and other presentations at the dinner was the importance of Smile China's work to these children's lives. In addition to the obvious cosmetic issues, which lead to taunting and bullying and resultant poor self-esteem, left unrepaired, cleft lip and cleft palate cause an inability to swallow properly, unclear speech, and hearing loss. I was struck by hearing that one of the children Dr. Wong operated on during his first mission to China in 2001 was thirteen years old; the standard of treatment here in North America is to start repair when the child is less than three months old!



L-R, Dr. Joseph Wong with FCCCCF Board Members Penny Rintoul and Catherine Bickley during the cheque presentation

Although not all of the children Smile China treats come from the social welfare institute (SWI) system, the FCCCCF Board felt strongly that this donation met our mandate. Those of you who have read Kay Johnson's book "Wanting a Daughter, Needing a Son" are aware that her research shows that the children who end up in SWIs in China are only a fraction of the total number of children abandoned by their birth families in China. Many abandoned children are instead found and informally adopted by other Chinese families. Many of the children helped by Smile China were abandoned by their birth families when they were born cleft-affected, and have been informally adopted by parents who then find their way to Smile China and Dr. Wong for help. By enabling birth families to see a possible way to obtain a repair for their cleft-affected child, we may prevent his or her abandonment in the first place, and we can certainly help those parents who have informally adopted a cleft-affected child to give that child a better life in China.

Funding Initiatives 2003/2004

In 2003 the Families with Children from China Charitable Fund supported children through the Amity Foundation. FCCCCF contributed approximately \$40,000 to Amity to fund open heart surgeries, brace changes (for club feet), back surgeries and teratoma (tumour) removals, primarily in Jiangsu province.

In 2004 FCCCCF contributed \$10,000 toward this summer's Smile China Mission, which took a team of eight medical professionals to the City of Lanzhou in central China's Gansu Province. Supported by local medical staff, the team performed 44 surgeries on children and young adults ranging in age from infants to 25 years old. In addition to this donation, more than \$30,000 has been sent through the Amity Foundation to fund additional surgeries in Chinese orphanages, and thanks the very generous support of our donors we anticipate sending another donation to China later this year.

Did you know...

- Since its inception in 1999, FCCCCF has funded life-changing surgeries for more than 60 children in Chinese orphanages.
- FCCCCF has nearly 300 donors, many of whom have supported our projects since our inception.
- FCCCCF is run by a volunteer Board of Directors, and has no paid employees. This keeps costs very low and ensures that donations received can be used to fund projects in China, rather than high administrative costs.

The Families with Children from China Charitable Fund (FCCCCF) is a national volunteer organization founded and run by Canadian parents of adopted Chinese children. FCCCCF is dedicated to improving the lives of children growing up in Chinese orphanages, primarily through supporting medical interventions.

For more information or to make a donation please contact us at: FCCCCF, Box 808, Station F, Toronto ON M4Y 2N7
Email: cbickley@idirect.com

FCCCCF is a registered charitable organization (charitable registration #88537 2243 RR0001). All donations over \$10 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

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