



FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM CHINA CHARITABLE FUND

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

Community Update

Fall 2005

Expanding FCCCF's giving in China with your input

Since 1999, FCCCF has focused its giving in China through its partner the Amity Foundation, a well-respected Chinese voluntary organization now in its 20th year. Donations from across Canada have supported Amity's medical projects, providing surgeries and medical equipment to children in the social welfare institute (SWI) system. However, recent announcements by the Chinese government about the way medical services will be delivered/funded have inspired us to think about expanding our areas of giving to match changing needs. This is a wonderful opportunity for us as a community to reflect on how best to direct our future giving to the children living in China's SWI system.

In June 2004, the Chinese Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) launched The Tomorrow Plan, a program that will provide corrective surgeries for 30,000 special needs children in the SWI system over three years, at a cost of approximately US\$72,000,000. The CCAA is actively soliciting donations to this initiative from adoption agencies and parent support groups. While the impact of this program is still unknown, it seems likely that there will be at least some reduction in the number of children in the SWI system requiring surgery, but we believe that there will continue to be a significant gap between the need for medical services and the capacity of Tomorrow Plan to adequately meet these needs. Amity has accordingly changed the focus of its medical projects to caring for the children who will not be helped by the Tomorrow Plan, so that no child "falls through the cracks."

We are already responding to this initiative by diversifying the charitable work FCCCF supports. We have made substantial donations (\$10,000 in 2004, and \$15,000 in 2005) to Smile China, an organization that sends volunteer teams to perform cleft lip/cleft palate repair surgeries in poor, remote parts of China (see page 2 for more information).

The FCCCF Board is, however, seeking your input on other charitable causes within the SWI system that you would like to support. Some suggestions are:

1. Amity's program to provide poorer SWIs with basic daily needs. This would include such things as formula, blankets, incubators, washing machines, playground equipment, walkers, and rehabilitation equipment.
2. Amity's foster care program, which enables SWIs to place children with foster families.
3. Amity's education program, which pays school fees so that children in SWIs can attend local schools.
4. Amity's "hugging grandmas" program, where older retired women assist the SWI staff in caring for the children, and provide extra stimulation and nutrition.

We have Board meetings scheduled for October 24 and November 28, and wish to achieve consensus on a resolution for diversifying our giving in China before we make our next donation to Amity at the end of 2005. Please contact Penny Rintoul at rintoul@rogers.com to provide your comments, which will be presented to the Board at our upcoming meetings. Thank you for your input!



Participants in Amity's "Hugging Grandmas" program in Yangzhou

Massey Dinner a continued success

On May 12, 2005, FCCCF hosted its third fundraising dinner at Toronto's Massey College. Attendees enriched their knowledge of Chinese-Canadian history, and donations and ticket sales from the dinner raised \$9,700 to assist children living in Chinese social welfare institutes.

Our speaker was Dora Nipp, director of Under the Willow Tree: Pioneer Chinese Women in Canada and CEO of the Multicultural History Society of Ontario. Dora led us on a whirlwind tour through photographs from the family albums of early Chinese-Canadians. These photographs offered images richer and more diverse than the traditional clichés of Chinese-Canadian railway worker and restaurant or laundry owner.

Many thanks to Charles Pascal, Massey College, Pelee Island Wines, Pegi Dover and Susan Abbey --- and our wonderful speaker, Dora Nipp.

Plans are already underway to land an intriguing and informative speaker for next year's Massey Dinner. See you there?

Smile China to return for another life-changing trip with the help of FCCCF

The Smile China team, led by its founder Dr. Joseph Wong, is returning to China in November for its fifth volunteer mission to provide life-changing cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries to children in some of China's poorest rural areas.

This mission will take the team to the Jin Jiang mountains in the province of Jiangxi, one of the poorest regions in China. The goal for this trip is a record 50 surgeries to be performed by a team of six doctors. The team will also train local physicians in surgical techniques, to ensure that a greater number of children will be helped in the future.

In Canada, cleft lip and palate deformities are corrected shortly after birth and children are able to lead normal, healthy lives. Sadly, this is often not the case in China, especially in rural areas, where treatment is unavailable, and many of these children's lives are altered dramatically by these correctable birth defects.

We were very moved by the success of last year's mission to Gansu Province, and recently approved a gift of \$15,000 toward this upcoming mission to Jiangxi. Many children's lives will surely be changed thanks to your generosity, and we look forward to reporting back to you when the work is done.

Raffle, Raffle, Raffle!

Each year FCCCF holds a fund-raising raffle in conjunction with FCC Toronto's Chinese New Year celebrations. Tickets will be distributed in advance via various FCC newsletters and also available at the Toronto Chinese New Year events on January 22, 2006. You do not have to be in attendance to win.

Past prizes have included gift certificates for restaurants and travel, dolls, books, CDs, toys, computer equipment and more. Already confirmed for the 2006 raffle are Teletubby DVDs and Mulan Barbies.

If you can donate a prize or help out with raffle logistics on January 22, contact Catherine Bickley at cbickley@idirect.com or 416-461-6468 (home)/416-314-8630 (work).

Did you know...

- Our donors represent six provinces and our Board of Directors and communications are expanding to be more national in scope.
- Fall and winter are wonderful times for potluck dinners. It's easy to combine socializing with friends with fundraising for FCCCF. Contact Darby Crosby at 2darby@sympatico.ca for a free copy of FCCCF's six-minute video, "Making a Difference: One Child at a Time." Darby can also be reached at 905-640-7401. The video is a wonderful tool for sharing with friends, describing the impact that our donations are having on children's lives.
- FCCCF is run by a volunteer Board of Directors with no paid employees. This keeps costs very low and ensures that funds raised are used to fund projects rather than administrative costs.

The Families with Children from China Charitable Fund (FCCCF) is a national volunteer organization founded and run by Canadian parents of children born in China. FCCCF 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:
FCCCF, Box 808, Station F, Toronto ON M4Y 2N7
Email: cbickley@idirect.com

FCCCF 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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