



FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN FROM CHINA
CHARITABLE FUND

visit our new website at
www.fcccf.ca

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

Community Update

Spring 2005

Creative giving comes from the heart

This year the FCCCCF Board has heard from a number of supporters who have found creative ways to spread the word in their communities about the work we're doing for children left behind in China's orphanages, and to encourage friends and relatives to donate. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to sharing some of those ideas with you, and perhaps inspiring some grassroots creativity of your own.

In December 2003 adoptive parent and journalist Denise Davy interviewed children's author Deborah Ellis about the potlucks she held to raise money for education in Afghanistan, an issue close to Ellis' heart. Davy was moved by the impact of these events and decided to hold a potluck dinner to raise money for the FCCCCF. In April 2004, she welcomed 52 people into her home (about half of them children) armed with food and donations. A Chinese portrait artist sketched pictures of the children, while the adults mingled and learned more about the FCCCCF from Board Chair Catherine Bickley, who provided tax receipts and information about the way the gifts would be used in China.

Recounting the details of the event, Davy said "I think it's really important that people remember the kids left behind, especially those that need medical help." Gifts ranged from \$5 to \$150, the dinner raised a total of \$700, and awareness was spread within our community.

A few other potlucks have been held since then, and they've been very successful - they don't demand much work, and are a great way to get to know other adoptive families who share our desire to help our children's peers left behind in China's orphanages.

If you or perhaps a member of your family would like to host an event at your home (or if you have other great ideas you'd like to share), we're happy to offer our support through our new video describing the history and focus of our gifts, brochures and community updates, and an FCCCCF Board Member to help out (distance permitting). Those seeking advice about holding an event are welcome to contact Catherine Bickley at cbickley@idirect.com, and Denise Davy at ddavy@thespec.com.

Massey Fundraising Dinner to feature human rights activist/ ethnologist/ filmmaker Dora Nipp

The third annual FCCCCF fundraising dinner will be held at Toronto's Massey College on Thursday, May 12th. We are very fortunate to have Dora Nipp, director of *Under the Willow Tree: Pioneer Chinese Women in Canada* (National Film Board of Canada, 1997), as our speaker for this special evening.

Dora is an eloquent and knowledgeable speaker on Chinese-Canadian history, with a particular focus on women. Through words and images (many from family photo albums of the 19th and 20th centuries) Dora will increase our knowledge of the Chinese community in Canada.



Dora Nipp at the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, where thousands of audiotapes hold the life stories of Canadian immigrants.

The Massey Dinner has raised more than \$20,000 over the past two years. Tickets to the event are \$400 each, or \$600 per couple.

For more information contact Susan Abbey at susan.abbey@sympatico.ca

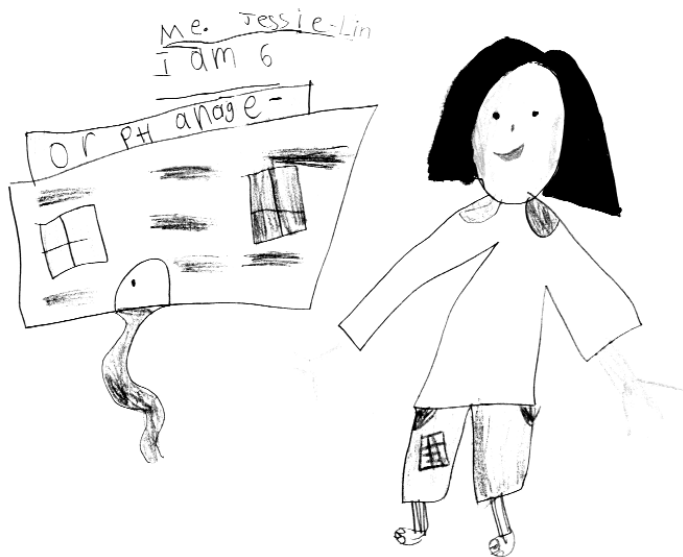
Children giving back

One of the goals of the FCCCF is to strengthen the link between our children and the children left behind in China's orphanages. As our children mature, they are starting to get more involved in the work of the Charitable Fund.

Nancy and Mike Rose are generous supporters of FCCCF. They've attended both annual Massey College fundraising dinners and made annual donations. When their most recent donation arrived, it was accompanied by another cheque - from four year old Tia Rose. While Tia's cheque was not as large as her parents', it represented the entire contents of her piggy bank. When asked why she chose to send her money to the Charitable Fund, Tia said "I just wanted them to be happy. I wanted them to have money to get their operations and buy things they need. I want everyone to be happy."

When six year old Jessie-Lin Caplan's parents made a recent donation, they also sent three drawings expressing Jessie-Lin's desire to help, one of which is reproduced below. As parents, it's very moving to see expressions of love by children this age for their peers in China.

Sarah & Elizabeth Bickley-Gardner get involved in a very practical way - sticking on stamps and return address labels for the year end appeal. They made their own donation in 2004 as well, with proceeds from a lemonade stand. Sarah has asked "what will the Charitable Fund do when there are no more children in the orphanages?" A very good question ... but, unfortunately, it will likely be many years before that time will come. In the meantime, we are committed to continuing our work so that some of the many children needing medical care will have the opportunity to lead happier, more normal lives.



Drawing by Jessie-Lin, age 6. Her mother attached the following quote by Jessie-Lin: "China is the country that I was born in and I should help them since they helped me."

New video profiles FCCCF's work in China

FCCCF's new six-minute video "*Making a Difference: One Child at a Time*" is now available as an educational and fundraising tool. The central theme is the ongoing connection between adoptive families and the many children still living in China's orphanages. Footage of children who have benefited from the generosity of our donors is featured. The video also includes adoptive families talking about why they support FCCCF and Ada Lee, co-chair of FCCCF's Advisory Committee, in a very special interview.

Our thanks to the staff at China Syndrome Productions in Markham, as well as our generous production sponsors: Ada Lee, Ron So, April Chan, Golden Communications, Pierre Laurent Montres, Jenny Wong Beauty Group, Tour East Holidays (Canada) Inc., and Sutherland Chan School Inc. We are also grateful to Sonja Smits for narrating the video.

To obtain a copy of the video for your potluck, church function or other fundraising event, contact Darby Crosby at darby@sympatico.ca or 905-640-7673.

Did you know...

- In 2004 our donors gave more than \$38,000, an increase of 20% over the previous year.
- In 2004 we partly funded a Smile China mission that performed 44 cleft palate surgeries on children and young adults in Gansu Province, and paid for several surgeries for children in orphanages through the Amity Foundation.
- 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 adopted Chinese children. 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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