



CHINA CARE  
BROWN

# China Care Brown Bulletin

一切为了孩子。为了孩子的一切。  
*Everything for the Child. For the Child's Everything*

December 2006

Volume 2, Number 1

## Who Are We?

China Care Brown, established in 2004, is an affiliate of the China Care Foundation, run entirely by Brown students who are passionate about improving the lives of Chinese orphans.

## Our Mission

Our three-pronged mission includes:

- Working cooperatively with Chinese orphanages in order to improve orphan quality of life and to foster cross-cultural understanding.
- Supporting a network for local families who have adopted from China, with the goal of cultivating an appreciation for their child's Chinese heritage.
- Raising awareness of China's orphan situation both on the Brown University campus and within the local community.

## UPCOMING EVENT:

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Benefit Dinner:

MARCH 16, 2007

Stay tuned for more information!

## A Letter From the President

Dear China Care Brown Supporters,

Only three months into its third year, China Care Brown has already accomplished many new projects both on and off the Brown campus. We jump-started our year with a joint kick-off party with both the mentorship and the playgroup programs. Later in the semester, Jane Brown, MSW, gave an enlightening presentation on issues surrounding racial identity.

With regard to fundraising, I am pleased to announce that we have raised over \$40,000 this academic year, largely due to the amazing efforts of our new external fundraising coordinator, Andrea Ma '07. With the funds, China Care Brown has already sponsored one urgent surgery case that saved the life of a three-month old girl, who was abandoned because of anal atresia, spina bifida and other associated orthopedic problems.

While we have accomplished a lot this year, we are still facing many difficulties. Two immediate issues that we have recognized are maintaining long-term leadership and sponsor involvement with our organization. Due to the nature of a student-run organization, our leadership turnover is frequent. We are also facing the challenge of keeping our donors and sponsors informed about our current progress. To address these two problems, we plan to establish a formal advisory board, consisting of community members, faculty and sponsors.

Despite these challenges, the new China Care Brown Executive Board hopes to eventually transform China Care Brown from a student organization at Brown to a student-led non-profit organization. While the path leading to this transformation is long and difficult, with the many lives that we have touched and the many lives that have touched us, we have high hopes for ourselves and for the future.

Thank you for your support,  
Kevin Xu (CCB President '06-'07)

## Parent Reflection

“Are we going to see the big Chinese girls today, Mom?” my daughter Isabella asks me, referring to the Brown students at the China Care Play Group. When I respond affirmatively, she eagerly anticipates learning new Chinese songs, playing games and enjoying arts and crafts. Although the room is typically filled with other adopted Chinese children like my daughter, it is the “big” Asian students who interest her the most. “Some of them have accents, Mom,” she tells me. “I’m going to look like that girl when I grow up,” she states.

China Care provides my daughter with the unique opportunity for one-on-one interactions with Asian students. Seeing the same faces each month enables her to foster positive relationships with young adults who physically resemble her and share the same ethnicity, something so important as she grows older.

As a parent, I am thrilled with all China Care has to offer my daughter; however, I was unprepared for what I would gain as an adult. Having the opportunity to speak with other adoptive parents about issues ranging from discipline to the joys and challenges of international adoption, while my daughter interacts with Brown students, is invaluable.

As I count my blessings this holiday season, I will again be especially grateful for my moonfaced little girl whose “red thread” will forever connect our family to China.

-Regina Mercer  
Mother of Isabella Mercer Glennon Age 4

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## China Care Brown Mentorship Program

Large-group mentoring sessions are a new feature of China Care Brown’s mentoring program. This fall, the mentoring large-group sessions, which meet once every three weeks, have continued to be successful. Many more kids and parents from the Rhode Island community started to participate.

Our M&Ms, as the program is affectionately called, has had a total of three sessions so far this year and will have one more before the holiday season. At our first large-group session, mentors and mentees made friendship bracelets out of traditional Chinese knots. During the next session, we used white masks and markers to replicate Chinese opera masks. Our final session focused on Buddhism.

In every one of these mentoring sessions, it has been our aim to enrich and strengthen the personal bonds between the mentor-mentee pair. It is equally important for us to create a fun environment within the M&M group.



Ruo Mei Chua  
Mentoring Coordinator '06-'07

## China Care Brown Playgroup

China Care Brown’s Playgroup regularly brings together a group of enthusiastic students and a wonderful community of adopted Chinese children and their families throughout the school semester. On a semi-monthly basis, the parents mingle with each other, share their experiences in parenting, and encourage their children to participate in arts and crafts projects, sing Chinese songs and interact with student volunteers.

Throughout the course of the semester, we have begun to see more and more of the kids actively starting conversations with the students about how they occasionally use chopsticks at home, or how they’ve been practicing Chinese jump rope all week long. At first they cautiously repeat “ni hao” and “xie xie” as we try to teach them simple Chinese phrases; we listen carefully to them as they sing in a whisper: “dang wo wen tong zai yi qi” (The more we get together). But then, they never do cease to surprise us. Someone volunteers to sing the song by herself in front of the room and another girl declares she can

## Student Reflection

I can still remember his smiling face. When he first arrived at the orphanage we were all nervous about picking him up. Nathan was born with a condition that made his limbs extremely stiff. Whenever I held him up I was nervous that I was hurting him.

But I soon realized I was only increasing his happiness. Every time he was picked up or played with, a huge smile came over his face. It was a face that could make my heart melt. He simply loved being around people.

But not all of the children were as open to us as Nathan. With many of the babies it took a while for them to get used to us. At the beginning, they used to cry when we held them. But soon, they became comfortable with being held and loved.

By the end of my time there, the babies would cry if they weren't being held. All of them began to smile when we were singing or dancing.

The smile of Nathan, along with many of the other babies, are images still frozen in my mind. While the images remind me of the fun we had in Weifang, they also remind me of why my involvement with China Care is so important.

- Miriam Gordon, '08, Weifang Volunteer

### China Care Brown 2006-2007 Executive Board

President: Kevin Xu, '08

Vice-President: Janet Lee, '07

Secretary: Amanda Le '08

Internal Fundraising: Holly Snyder '09

External Fundraising: Andrea Ma '07

Public Relations:

Miriam Gordon, '08

Hannah Furst, '08

Controller: Yoon Seok Ham '08

Internship Coordinator: Peter Peng, '08

Playgroup Coordinator: Chao Deng, '08

Mentorship Coordinator: Ruo-Mei Chua, '09

Events Coordinator: Bonnie Wong '09

Webmaster: Nhut Tran '09

## Cost Impact Analysis

sing the same song in English, Italian and Chinese!

Our playgroup is always aiming to inspire the kids to come out of the familiar zone of their parents' laps and have fun building friendships with less familiar faces. We strive to teach the children about their ethnic heritage through Chinese games, food, culture, geography, music and art. In addition, the playgroup is an essential link between the local community and our larger China Care fundraising efforts. We continually receive helpful input from the parents and are grateful that they are there to support us!

Chao Deng

Playgroup Coordinator '06-'07

## Brown Students Go to China

For the second summer in a row, Brown students have volunteered at the Weifang Orphanage in the Shandong Province of China.

Although China Care Brown's relationship with the orphanage started off small and humble, the impact we have made is immeasurable for both the children and the summer interns.



This past summer, the number of interns was nearly triple that of the previous year with a total of eight students, including Andrew Krupansky '08, Peter Peng '08, Holly Snyder '09, Rob McCartney '08, Miriam Gordon '09, Jen Fallon '09, Rajiv Jayadevan '09, and Sandy Trinh '09.

While the days at the orphanage were draining, the interns slowly grew to love the babies as they fed, bathed, changed diapers and played with the orphans. At night, the interns enjoyed sight-seeing, dining and even shopping at the local Walmart.

Once back at school, the interns came together again to give back to the Brown community and the greater Providence community at-large. In an hour-long presentation in November, each of the interns shared his or her memories and heart-wrenching stories. The speeches included topics ranging from the close friendships that were formed, bonding with the babies and cultural identity issues.

We are currently working on small changes to the program to make it even better for next year's interns.

Peter Peng

Internship Coordinator '06-'07

- \$40 a month: For the cost of one latte a day, China Care Brown can remove a disabled child from an orphanage and support them in a loving foster family.
- \$200 a month: Provide an orphanage with a nanny, toys, and food to ensure that each child receives stimulation and a healthy meal each day.
- \$500: Give a child a cleft lip surgery that will make them healthy and adoptable.
- \$1000: Remove two sick children who would otherwise perish, and sponsor their recovery in the China Care Children's Home.
- \$2500: Provide a waiting child with much-needed heart surgery.
- \$30,000: Renovate an orphanage, bringing sanitary conditions, vital developmental stimulation, and medical care to all of its children.
- \$70,000: Construct an orphanage building with top quality conditions.

Please Send Donations To:

China Care Brown  
Box 1930  
Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912

Checks can be made out to  
China Care Brown.

All donations are 100% tax-deductible

Email: [chinacare@brown.edu](mailto:chinacare@brown.edu)

[www.brown.edu/students/ChinaCare](http://www.brown.edu/students/ChinaCare)

## 2006-2007 Financial Review

During China Care Brown's second year, we successfully raised over 17,000 dollars. On behalf of China Care, I would like to thank you for your generous donations. Because of your financial assistance, the Weifang orphanage in China can now support its foster care program and purchase various goods for orphans.

In the summer of 2006, China Care Brown interns once again visited the orphanage. The number of orphans in the foster care program has increased significantly from twelve to forty one. In the program, each family receives 325 RMB (approximately \$45 U.S.) per month on average. Annually, the foster care program requires roughly \$20,000 U.S. A significant amount of this cost is financed by approximately 80% of your donations (\$13,950 U.S.) and subsidies from the Chinese government. We believe that a foster care family's loving environment is critical for an orphan's mental, physical and psychological development. The rest of the donations (\$3,050) were spent on a dryer, rash cream and baby powder.  
Yoon Seok Ham  
Controller '06-'07

We would like to express our deep appreciation to all of our donors and give special recognition to:

### Platinum Sponsors

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