

FCC Orphanage Appeal



Teens Make Good!

The journey of three girls back to their orphanage in Wuhan inspires this year's holiday appeal for contributions to the FCC Orphanage Appeal.

Dear FCC Members:

It was always the dream of Rita Guastella to build a bridge to China for her daughter, Zoë, to walk over. Rita created the first holiday appeals: for washers and dryers, for foster care, for surgeries, for school fees and for the smaller purchases that improve orphanage life. The FCC-New England appeals, initiated by Rita, have touched the lives of more than 1,000 children.

But Rita thought of our children, too. Would our children be proud of their parents' efforts to help the orphanages? Could our donations eventually open doors for our children to connect with their earlier homes? Rita and other members of our FCC-NE Board had a concrete dream: to help the children left behind. And they had a far off dream: to build a bridge to the past for our children.

Our cover story tells of the journey that Zoë Guastella, Nona Morse and Jenna Cook undertook to volunteer in their orphanage in Hubei Province. The photographs, alone, tell us about the connections these girls made with the children in the orphanage that was once their home—a connection that crossed language barriers and crossed the years that have elapsed since the girls were adopted. And the girls' words make real one adoptive mother's dream of a bridge, some 12 years after she wrote our first holiday appeal.

Now it is time for the next generation to dream. Zoë, Nona and Jenna carry in their hearts the needs of the children they came to know, and among them are children for whom medical treatment may transform their lives. With the approval of orphanage and adoption officials with whom FCC-NE has developed a working relationship in China, and in compliance with our clear guidelines, we will allocate funds from FCC Orphanage Appeal to be put toward the treatment of the medical needs of the children identified by Zoë, Nona and Jenna.

Many other needs have been identified from our ongoing work and, we hope, with your generosity that we are able to provide help for some of the following projects, in addition to various long-term projects in the girls' home province of Hubei.

Foster Care and Baby Formula: Every year we receive from China several inches of reports, including a detailed report on each child whom our funds serve, as well as letters from the orphanage directors. For example, we fund a foster care program in Jiangxi Province, and in past years the officials have not deviated from spending our funds exclusively on foster care. This year, however, their reports included a new item: baby formula and other food

items, such as fish porridge and "yolk porridge." They tell us that the baby formula has been upgraded from the type that the orphanage previously provided. We hope the new formula has been an improvement and by using it the orphanage has avoided problems with melamine that affected a lot of baby formula in China. In our correspondence with them, we will stress our commitment to providing toxin free, high-quality baby formula.

In Jiangxi, 180 children spent several months each in foster care with our support. About 80 percent of those children have been adopted, but 20 percent remain in the orphanages, and many of those who do are special needs children. Jiangxi Province officials share our goal of preparing children for permanent families in China or abroad. The officials write,

"Now, most of the orphanages of this province have a lot of disabled children living in the institutes. ...So, we plead with you to care for and support the children's welfare and help the orphans grow healthy and enter families sooner."

Your donations have funded foster care in seven orphanages in Jiangxi Province: Fuzhou, Guixi, Leiping, Ningdu, Poyang, Xuishui, and Yifeng.

AIDS and Children: Your donations have supported a program that helps children whose family lives have been devastated by AIDS in Anhui Province. Called AIDS Orphan Salvation Association of Fuyang (AOS), the program has expanded its services into Henan Province, which is among China's poorer provinces. Henan has been hard hit by AIDS due to large numbers of adults selling their blood as a way to earn money and being contaminated by the reuse of needles.

AOS helps to support remaining family members after a parent has died or fallen ill so that the children affected by AIDS are not sent to barracks-like "orphanages" in these rural areas that do not have even the services normally associated with non-AIDS orphanages.

Here are descriptions of two children whom your contributions support:

- Ren NanNan, whose extended family receives support from us, lives with her uncle and his family in Anhui

FCC Orphanage Appeal

Province. In the 7th grade, she works hard on her studies. She is in a class with her friends and in honors classes. Although she coughs at night, even with medicine to help her, her physical health is generally good.



Kay Johnson, right, with two seven-year old boys, each of whom is receiving drug treatment for AIDS from AOS while living with other orphans in an apartment in Fuyang, Anhui with two foster grannies.

- Li Pei Yan's life has been dramatically affected by AIDS, though she is healthy. Her mother passed away from AIDS, and she lives with only her sister and father. Her father, who is a garbage collector, has AIDS. The family is very poor. Li Pei Yan looks forward to the visits by the AIDS worker and is becoming less shy, expressing the desire to travel to the city with her assigned AIDS worker to get a glimpse of a future life, one less affected by the shadow of AIDS. Even healthy children of parents with AIDS often experience prejudice and sometimes are excluded from school and other normal childhood activities. AIDS workers intervene to halt a downward spiral for these children.

While Li Pei Yan dares to hope for a future at all, Zoe, Nona and Jenna have inspired us to think about the future, too. It is a milestone for FCC-NE that the next generation is speaking up on behalf of the children left behind. Our hope is that other teens will join Zoe, Nona and Jenna in their efforts to help the children still in China's orphanages, probably in ways we have yet to imagine.

Will the girls' experiences lead to opportunities for other FCC children to volunteer in orphanages? We don't know. Perhaps, like the first foster care program we sponsored or the first surgeries we

funded, this experience will pave the way for other, larger scale programs. We let our activities be known through the media here and in China. In addition to The Boston Globe's article, this fall a Wuhan television station broadcast stories about the three American teens.

The members of the orphanage staff were thrilled to have their girls back for two weeks. Once babies given to American parents with hope and trepidation, the girls returned as lovely, compassionate young women. They found their own way to build the bridge dreamed about by their mothers, all members of the founding FCC- New England Board.

Teens make good! Their parents, too.

With best wishes for a joyous holiday season,

Shanti Fry
President, FCC-New England

P. S. Please use the enclosed red envelope to give generously to the FCC Orphanage Appeal. We fund the most cost effective ways to make a positive difference in a child's life. Not one penny goes to overhead.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

FCC-NE Summer Picnic Lasts for Hours

Eighty FCC-NE members gathered at Lars Anderson Park in Brookline, MA to wish summer a fond farewell with games, barbeque and a Kool-Aid punch strictly for adults whose contents had FCC-NE president Shanti Fry asking for refills and wondering why it didn't taste or feel the least bit like the Kool-Aid she remembered from childhood. Many thanks to **Jenny Oliveira**, **Bruce Hain** and **Ann Caulfield** for reinvigorating an FCC-NE tradition. A sunny sky and the perfect location enticed families to stay for up to seven hours, far exceeding the original time frame and making our enterprising volunteers feel terrific about the response from our families. Contact Ann Caulfield (at johncaul@comcast.net) if you would like to volunteer next year.

Two Sold Out FCC-NE Events: Film Showing and Sleepover at the Aquarium

Despite never having done an event like this, **Jackie Robbins**, FCC-NE's video librarian, took the bold step of organizing a screening of "Long Wait for Home," a deeply moving film about

Chinese birth parents and adoption from the point of view of Chinese people. More than 200 FCC-NE members attended, selling out the West Newton Cinema performance.

Our thanks also extend to **Melissa Ludtke**, for proposing the idea, **Phil Robbins**, for supporting Jackie's efforts, **Diane Gill**, **Kim Brown** and **Stacie Elliot** for registration, set-up and clean-up, **Michael DeLanzo**, **Susan Avery** and **Janice Litwin** for publicizing the event, **Bruce Hain**, for payment and other assistance, **Emily Curran** for suggesting the West Newton Cinema, **David Bramante** of West Newton Cinema for his assistance on site, and **Martha Voleker**, for setting up a thank you dinner. Our deep appreciation goes to **Dr. Changfu Chang** for having the vision and perseverance to make this film and the generosity to share his insights with us. Finally and most importantly, our profound gratitude goes to the birth families who spoke on camera about their heartbreaking experiences.

This DVD and Dr. Chang's other DVD's are available to borrow, free of charge, from Jackie Robbins at jackier@fccne.org. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity from FCC.

Thanks to **Jenny Oliveira** for organizing another sold out event — the family sleepover at the Aquarium, and to **Michael DeLanzo** and **Susan Avery** for publicizing it.

The China Connection

“Thank you” is woefully inadequate to express our appreciation for the work that **Melissa Ludtke** has done for the past seven years as editor of *China Connection*. She, with designer **Sara Harper**, has put together an outstanding journal, unique in the annals of adoption publications. No one has thought more deeply about how to strengthen our understanding, nor been more devoted to sharing complex information. Her success in choosing relevant topics is evidenced by other FCCs circulating special issues of the journal to their members, most notably the Learning Issues edition, which reached more than 7,000 FCC members nationwide.

Melissa has earned the respect and affection from all those who have worked with her, most notably the members of the FCC-NE Board. Her integrity and the way that she has worked with other FCCs and with the journal's many authors have earned her an unparalleled admiration in the FCC world. She will continue to work with FCC to support some of her favorite initiatives and will be involved with planning for the proposed joint journal with FCC—Greater New York.

Linking Traditions to Help Earthquake Victims in China

In celebration of her Bat Mitzvah, Alexandra ‘Ming’ Lewis set up an earthquake relief fund as a way of doing ‘something that combined my Jewish religion and my Chinese heritage.’

By Alexandra “Ming” Lewis

On May 12, 2008, a horrible earthquake struck Sichuan Province, China. It devastated the lives of millions of people. Buildings toppled over and many people lost their lives or they experienced the deaths of friends and family members. When I saw stories in the newspapers and on TV, I really wanted to help the Chinese people rebuild their communities. At the time, I was preparing for my Bat Mitzvah. In addition to studying the torah, I had to think of a special project, called a mitzvah project.

A mitzvah project is a project that helps the community or makes a difference in the world. I wanted to do something that combined my Jewish religion and my Chinese heritage and I felt that helping the earthquake victims in Sichuan Province was a good choice. My heart went out to the people that were affected by this terrible tragedy. My mom and I traveled to this area of China the year before and it was one of our favorite parts of the trip. I was sad to see it fall apart and the people be so desperate.



Ming Lewis raises money for earthquake victims.

I decided to start my earthquake relief fund so I could spread Tikkun Olam in China. Tikkun Olam is a term used in Judaism to express rebuilding the world. So far I have raised more than \$1,200 through the generosity of family, friends and a refreshment stand I set up during the South End Garden Tour in May in Boston. These donations have been sent to Our Chinese Daughter's Foundation, which volunteered to help pass the money I raise to people in China who are buying supplies to help rebuild Sichuan Province.

My Bat Mitzvah is in April. I am looking forward to telling people about the kindness of others and how good it feels to give. I will continue to raise money for this amazing cause. I hope to spread the word around the world about my mitzvah project. It would be great to know that people care about making a difference in China. ■

If you'd like to make a donation, please go to www.ocdf.org/orphansupport on the OCDF Web site.

FCC Orphanage Appeal

FCC Orphanage Appeal Donors

To those who donated to the 2008 FCC Orphanage Appeal, gratitude is expressed in so many ways by those in China who benefit from your contributions to this campaign. The words of thanks that FCC-NE receives from the orphanage directors and children who are served by your donations are heartfelt – and with them bridges of enduring friendship are built and strengthened.

Fran Aikman	Serena Chang	Daniel Finkelman & Nancy Tentindo
Durelle Alexander	Ann Chechile	Richard Fisher & Judith Epstein-Fisher
Charles Allen & Anne Strong	Lynn Chesler	Susan Flegenheimer
Jane Amara	George & Mary Chin	Denise Fleming
Grace Ames	Janice Chung	Joel Freedman & Ann Risso
Donald & Joanne Anderson	Donald & BarbaraAnne Clark	Jeffrey Fried & Eve Berne
Gregory & Marina Apsey	James Clark	Shanti Fry
Meg Arbo	William and Janet Clifford	Maryjane Fryer
Marie Armentano	Raymond & Angela Cohen	Nancy Gaden
Suzanne Atwood & Carolyn Ryan	Al & Anne Commito	Simeon & Sally Gagnon
Susan Avery	J. Paul & Susan Condrin	Joelen Gates
Frank & Regina Azzolino	Margaret Cook	Michael & Julaine Geldermann
Linda Baker	Robin Costa	Karen Gentis
Patricia Baker	Sarah Cullen	Elizabeth Germano
Kristin Ball	Ruth Culleton	Andrea Geyling
Louise Barribeau & Kara Cheek	Kathy Cumella	Give With Liberty
Timothy Barrett & Michelle Sterk Barrett	Emily Curran	Marc Goldring
Leslie Barrows	Daniel & AnneMarie Dangler	Patti Goldstein
Marlene Beggelman	Diana Daniels	Joan Goodman
Nathan Bekemeier & Alice Brewer	David & Nancy Dashcund	James & Christine Goodreau
Perry Belfer & Michele Parker	Concetta Daurio	Margot Goodwin
Jack Belkin & Patricia Szube	Michael & Evemarie Davis	Gorton's
Christopher & Courtney Belknap	Jean DeJong	Kenneth Grant & Carolyn Paczkowski
Jonathan & Ellen Best	Nancy DellaRocco & Ellen Mills	Leslie Grant
Daniel & Janet Billings	Christine Dellas	Samuel Graves & Florence George Graves
Debra Birenbaum	Patrick & Pamela Denny	David & Cindy Greeley
Donald & Priscilla Bizer	Edward Derman & Deidre Downes	Linda Greenberg
Elizabeth Blake	Beverly DeWitt	Janet Griffin
Thomas Blumenthal & Leslie Stebbins	Lisa Dias	Ronald & Mary Lisa Griffin
Joel Blumstein & Judith Eskin	Mary Dillon	Keith & Angela Haenel
Hester Blumstein	Charles & Diane DiPirro	Eileen Haggerty
Barbara Boches	Daniel & Karen Dodd	Bruce Hain
Lola Bogyo	Bruce & Mary Donald	Stephen & Aggie Hale
David Borden	Elizabeth Dorgan	Angela Healy
Lawrence Boxer	Jeannine Doyle	Laurie Heineman
Rex Bradford & Elizabeth Krafchuk	Monica Doyon	Kevin & Mary Hensley
MaryAnn Bray	Paul Dryfoos & Cynthia Rodgers	Donnamarie Herman
Richard Brescia	Julie Duncan	Christopher & Kathleen Hern
Laura Brody	Natalie Eldridge & Elizabeth Ingram	Abbe Hershberg
Kim Brown	Amy Ellentuck	Theodore & Patricia Heuchling
Phillip Brown & Sheila O'Keefe	Richard & Allison Enright	Rita Hibscheweiler
Steven & Monica Bushnell	Mary Erdei	Eileen Hickey
Donald Button & Martha Bestebreurtje	Amy Etherington	Oakley Hoerth
Michael & Adrienne Canning	Douglas Fambrough & Kimberly Moy	Thomas Hoke & Diane DiCicco-Hoke
Daniel Carroll & Laurie Brown	Bernard & Jacqueline Farrell	Michael Holdowsky & Marcy Levine-Holdowsky
Robin Carton & Meredith Smith	Gretchen Felopulos	Margaret Homans
Richard Caruso & Joyce Tavon	Rachel Fink	Susan Horowitz

Robert & Anne Hughes	Julie Michaels	Shixian Sheng
James Hurst & Susan Damon	Jeanette Millard	Raymond & Colleen Sherman
Bernard Husser & Heidi Lake	Laurie Miller	Selma Shure
Peter Ickes & Laura Gomez Ickes	Timothy Mitchison & Christine Field	Martha Sibert
Amy Ignatius	Anne Mock	David & Julie Beth Siegel
Cynthia Induni	Jane Mosier	Christopher Simon & Tina Wang
Debra Jacobs	Donna Moy Bruno	Greg Sinay & Barbara Lynch
Beverly Jones	Janet Moyer	Margaret Singer
Larry & Brandi Jong	Timothy & Tammy Murphy	Thomas & Edith Sisson
Francis & Karen Josbacher	Patricia Murray	Gary Skomro & Carina Campobasso
Mark Jurman	Casey Murrow & Meredith Wade	Gail Smith
Laurie Kalb Cosmo	John & Joan Nagy	Lorraine Sousa
James Kaplan & Phyllis Sawyer Kaplan	National Grid	Bob & Nancy St.Martin
Jack Kasahara	Doug Neet & Julia Lannen	State Street
Peter & Meg Kassen	Larry & Beth Nelson	Donald Sutherland & Laura Davis
Katherine Keaney	Emma Nesson	Elliot Swan & Lisa Hicks
Michael & Marilee Kemsley	Bruce Neumann & Patricia Moyer	Hertha Sweet Wong
Eileen Kern & Caroline Minsky-Hern	Miller & Cheri Newton	William & Virginia Taylor
Margie Kern	Ellen Nicosia	Mary Martha Thiel
Claude & Nancy Keswani	Richard Nisenson	Claudette Thompson
Herbert Kitschelt & Leslie Madison	Patricia Norman	Edward Toland
Howard & Gail Klein	Nicholas Noyes	Jill Totenberg
Ally Klinck	Timothy & Karen Ocain	Patricia Trebino
Joyce Klinck	Toby O'Leary	Robert Treiber & Betsy Milas Treiber
Nancy Klug	Jose & Jennifer Oliveira	Marjorie Trombley
William Knowlton & Deborah Finnerty Knowlton	Connie Orcutt	Jonathan Udis
John Kohler & Sylvia Mignon	James & Suzin Osborne	Robert & Lorri Upton
Julie Kopsler	Julie Palmer	Michael Ureneck & Rosanne DiMaggio-Ureneck
Robert & Pamela Koskovich	Lori Paporello	Kristin Van Dine
Maria Kulsick	John Patterson & Michele Demarest	Steven & Susan Varner
Sharon Kurtz	Kerry Pearson	Sowaroas Vasiknanonte
John & Patty Lahaise	Candace & Lily Perry	Frank Vicidomina & Lisa Haydel
Cynthia Langer	Nancy Peterson	Lydia Volaitis
Alan Larue & Pamela Wolfson	Phoenix Emergency Physicians	James & Martha Volcker
Patrick Steven Leiker & Nina Schwarzschild	Patricia Pietrasik	Dean & MaryBeth Wagner
Edward & Susan Leonard	Diane Piktialis	Lawrence Wald
Diane Leone	Kathy Pillsbury & Cindy Marshall	Erika Waly Bourne & Rhonda Bourne
Charles & Heather Leveque	Robin Pinto	Sheila & Janabeth Ward
Ellen Levin	Cricket Potter	JoAnn Warren
Li Li	Albert & Frances Poulson	Mary Waters
Lynn Li	Tina Proffitt	Larry Weathers & Kathleen Coleman
Richard Lindo & Christine Wolff	Mary Ann Prunier	Paula Webster
The Lipson Family	Cynthia Purmort	Julie Weigley
Janice Litwin	Charles & Joyce Putnam	Dano Weisbord
David & Mary Locke	Seth Rafal & Mary Pantuhova	Liane Welch
Wan Yuan Lu	Sharon Reif	Leonard Weldon
Kellie Lucy	Chantal Rhind	Barbara Wiedenman
Melissa and Maya Ludtke	James & Nancy Richards	Jodie Wigren
James & Susan Lunn	Riverstone Resources	Claire Wilcox & Joan Rosazza
Linda Lutey	Eric & Susan Rober	Mark & Myck Williams
Alison Luxner	Michael & Carol Roy	James Wilson & Margaret Hauprich-Wilson
Elaine Lyte	Noelle Rubel	Peter Wison & Susan Lapides
Donna MacFarlane	William Rus & Regina Bianucci Rus	Warren & Joanne Wolfeld
Michael Magnuson & Patricia Curran	Barbara Saint Andre	Carol Young
Sharon Manuel	Saint Gobain Corp.	Robin Young
Faye Maris	Ava Sarafan	Kristen Zens
Frank Mark & Lydia Lowe	David Schildmeier & Christine White	Kimberley Zieselman
Frank & Nancy Markowitz	Lorraine Schuft	Jim & Julie Zigo
Calvin & Connie Marr	Johanna Schulman	Andrew & Jean Zinsmeyer
Nancy McChesney	Barbara Scripps	Deborah Zonghetti
James McCreight & Marie Manna	Alison Seevak	Nina, Chris & Steve
Donald & Ruthanne McCunn	Nancy Settle-Murphy	
Kevin Meuse & Susan Wong	Barry Shapiro & Suzanne Claus	