

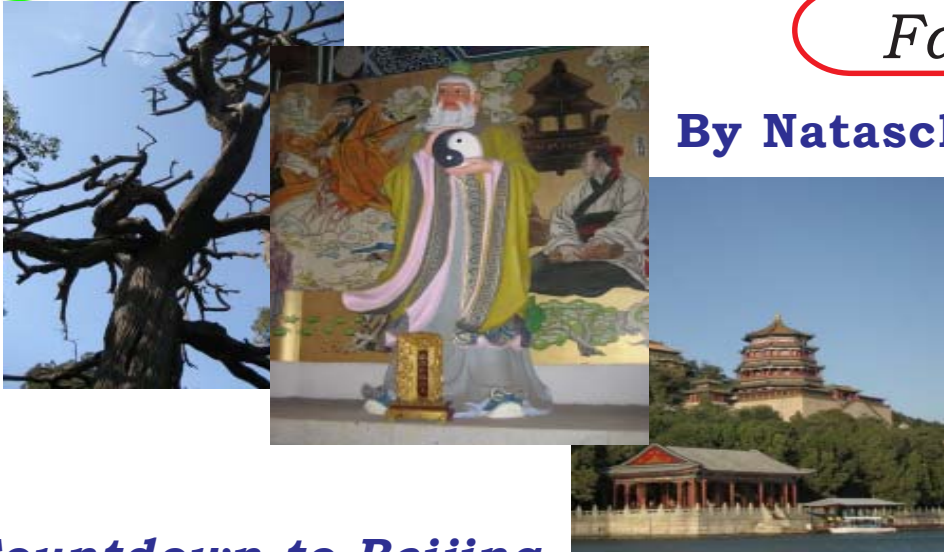


Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

Fall 2007

By Natascha Moore



Countdown to Beijing

It's China's time to shine and nothing will stop them, not even a few rain clouds. Several months ago, meteorologists began firing rockets to induce rain to clear the polluted air and clear out the humidity. All of this was done to ensure that there will be sunny skies for the Olympics. Even the city's cab drivers are encouraged to learn English, stop sleeping in their taxis and improve their dental hygiene (garlic is a key ingredient in Chinese cooking!)

Beijing is going green, at least for the 17 days during the Olympics. 1/3 of the 3.3 million vehicles normally driven in the city will be banned from driving during the Olympics. An attraction sure to impress is the massive 91,000 seat National Stadium, built to resemble a bird's nest. The stadium is constructed from a mass of twisted steel gliders, which forms a cutting edge design, molded with tons of sharp edges resembling silver twigs. However, nothing will compare to the bird's eye view that guests will take in, as they will be perched 300 feet above the Olympic Green.

China has spared no expense for the Olympics as \$40 billion has been dished out to repair roads, subways and the total image of Beijing. Thousands of residents are clamoring for a piece of the action, as well. So far, the volunteer staff is over a half million, which is one volunteer for every expected foreign visitor. China is attempting to ensure a spectacular event and beautiful location for the 2008 Olympics. Cost is not an issue because they know the financial return from the spectators and athletes will be even greater. China's transformation is not yet complete, and we will update you as Beijing continues its renovation into the city to signify "One World, One Dream".



From Hunan to Home

Meilynn's Story

By: Vicki Poma



This is the story of our journey to Meilynn Grace Shiyue. We are the Poma Family. Mike and I have been married for 27 years. Our daughter Kami is 25, and our daughter, Meghan, is 21. Last year we adopted Emma Sophia Mingjing from Qianjiang, Chongqing. She is 2 years and 2 months old and our newest daughter is Meilynn Grace Shiyue who is 2 years and 5 months old.

We started talking in November about adopting another daughter. In December, the CCAA changed many rules. The rule that would affect our adoption was age, seeing as I was turning 50 in July. Therefore, we knew that we needed to start the paperwork right away.

We began getting our dossier together in December after hearing about the new rules. While we were waiting for our homestudy to come in, I started looking at waiting children lists. We were just about ready to turn in our dossier when a friend told me to look at a new list that had just come out. I immediately looked at the list, and the first picture I saw I knew was our daughter. She was beautiful with the biggest, saddest eyes. I called and asked for her file to be sent to me. Mike was out of town and I couldn't get a hold of him. I wanted to call the agency and tell them right then that She Shiyue was meant to be our daughter. Finally, after phone calls, text messages, and voice messages, I was able to send the file to Mike. He said, "Call them and tell them she is our daughter." I called the agency and the next day we received She Shiyue's referral in the mail. We found out that she had been in foster care since she was found. This gave us comfort because we knew that being in a foster home would most likely mean that she could form attachments, but we were also worried about taking her away from the family to which she had attached.



We sent our Letter of Intent on March 1st and were on our way to China at the end of July. We decided that it would be important to take all of our children, even though we knew it would be difficult traveling with an almost two year old and a two year old. I now know that this was the best decision for our family. Having Emma along made the transition so much easier for Meilynn. The day we met Meilynn in the Civil Affairs Office was so sad. The director brought her in. She was very tiny and had mosquito bites all over her body. She had such sad eyes. She cried when the director tried to hand her over to us. I tried to console her with books, balloons, snacks, etc. She would not look at me and she would not stop crying. I finally took her out in a hall away from the noise of all the other children, and she seemed a little better, but was still crying. Mike asked questions to the director so that we would know as much as possible about her. Emma had fallen asleep on the way to the Civil Affairs office and didn't wake up until we left.

I know this had to be God's plan. It would have been so difficult to deal with both of them at the same time. When we left the building and got on the bus, she started looking out the window and quit crying. Emma woke up and met her new sister. The rest of the day, we took it easy relaxing in the hotel room and getting to know our daughter.

It didn't take long before Meilynn started to open up. Each day you could see her start to feel more comfortable with us. We were amazed at her table skills. She could use a fork, spoon, and chopsticks better than Emma. She was a very neat eater, not wanting to get her hands dirty at all. She wanted us to wipe them with a napkin every time she got something on them. Developmentally, she seemed on target or above in most areas, except her gross motor skills. You could tell that she had not spent a lot of time running and climbing but had been spending more time with her fine motor skills. We were not worried about this at all because we knew that she would catch up soon. She was underweight, but this also did not worry us because she seemed to love to eat. The trip was the most amazing time, and it will be a cherished memory for our whole family.



When we were given Meilynn's paperwork, we were given a little notecard. It was from FTIA. It said that Meilynn had been in foster care sponsored through FTIA. The notecard contained a couple of photos and invited us to contact the FTIA offices to receive more information on the program and our child. I did this and FTIA sent me more photos of Meilynn. They are priceless treasures that I know she will cherish always. I often think about her foster family and wish that I could know more about them. I can see the care they gave in the way Meilynn loves us and plays. You could tell that she had been kissed and loved. She showers us with those kisses all the time. She is very loving with her babies, which tells me she was treated this way. She loves to tease us. Which tells me that someone played with her. You can even tell she was a little spoiled because she can be very dramatic and pour on the tears when she doesn't get everything she wants. I would love to be able to let her foster parents know how much we appreciate what they have done, and we know that they would want to know how Meilynn is doing, as well. We gave the director a locket with Meilynn's picture in it along with some other gifts to give to the foster parents, but that could never be sufficient to thank them for loving our daughter for us. We are thankful for the Foster Parents and to FTIA for making the Foster Program possible for the children in Hengshan, Hunan.

We have been home a few months with Meilynn now. She is gaining weight and growing. She is making great strides in all areas of development. Her language development is astonishing to us. She attends a Gymboree class and is making great strides in her gross motor development. She runs and climbs and participates in the singing and fingerplays.

Many people ask us why Meilynn was on a waiting child list and about her special need. We always answer, "Like all children, her special need is a family to love her."



湖南 *From Hunan*



Handsome Boy -Cai Ling

Cai Ling was born August 28th , 2005. He has been living in Changsha Foster Care since December 2005. For a brief time, he spent some time in an orphanage due to repeat illness and hospitalization. In May of 2006, he was sent to live with his new foster family. Under the delicate care of his family, he has grown to become a big boy that becomes more handsome each day! In fact, his foster family calls him handsome boy. Cai Ling likes to pose, so his family can take pictures of him. When he sees pictures of himself, he will point excitedly and exclaim "I'm a handsome boy".



湛江 *From Zhanjiang*



Zhan Wei Tuan, who resides in Zhanjiang Foster Care, can be a shy girl. If someone teases her, she gets fussy and will cover her face with her hands. She used to be afraid to look at people's faces, but because of the care and encouragement she has received from her caregivers, she is now an outgoing little girl. When she is happy, Zhan Wei Tuan will clap her hands. She can say the words "mom" and "dad". If you ask her for a kiss, she will lean forward for you to kiss her forehead. She is so cute!



From Hengshan



Zhi Jie was born on October 28th, 2005. She entered the Hengshan Foster care program in April 2007. Since she has entered the Foster Care Program, she is much more active. She always greets families with a smile. Zhi Jie is a very popular girl that brings a lot of happiness to her family. They have given her the nickname "Pistachio" (happy star). Her foster family recently received word that their daughter in law is expecting a child after previously failed attempts. They believe that Zhi Jie brings fortune to the family, she is the fortune star!



Continuing Needs

Zhanjiang Foster Care Program

There were 12 children in the program through September 2007. Six children were internationally adopted in July and August. As of October 1, 2007, 26 children were fostered, in which 13 children were adopted. There has been a total of \$200 donated this year.

Changsha Foster Care Program

As of October 1, 2007, 47 children were in our foster care program. Over five hundred children have been cared for in our foster program, and 177 foster families have been involved. Of these, over 400 children have been adopted internationally, in which 304 by American families, 23 by Spanish families, 4 by Danish families, 4 by Belgium families, 18 by Swedish families, 7 by Dutch families, 18 by Norwegian families, 11 by Australian families, 5 by Finnish families, 26 by Canadians, 2 by Irish and 4 by French. The total amount donated this year is \$17,619.

Hengshan Foster Care Program

As of October 1, 2007, there were 7 children in the program. Eleven children were adopted from July to September. Among them, 6 were adopted by France, 2 by America and 1 by Canada. Up to now, 30 children have been cared for in the program. Five have been adopted by America, 1 by Finland and 11 by France.



FTIA can now accept online donations thru Pay Pal for our China Foster Care Programs! You do not have to have a Pay Pal account to use this option. Please go to:

<http://www.ftia.org/FosterCareDonationButton.asp>

and click on the PayPal button. Complete the requested information on your name and credit card, enter the amount of your donation, and click the "Submit" button to complete your payment. This is a secure online site and your information will not be shared with anyone outside FTIA.



Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

Contact Information



If you would like more information on the Hunan Foster Care Program, or would like to check to see if your child was fostered through the program, please contact Melissa Haywood by calling 888-797-9900 or e-mailing mhaywood@ftia.org.

Families Thru International Adoption is located at:
400 Bentees West Court
Evansville, IN 47715



www.ftia.org

If you would like to contribute to help give a child a better start in life you may do so by completing the form below and mailing in a check or money order to the address above. It does not take much to help out. A donation of \$50 will provide food, clothing, and other necessities for a child for one month. A donation of \$350 can provide food for a child for an entire year! We appreciate your support!



FTIA Hunan Foster Care Program

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: ()

EMAIL: _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

ONE TIME GIFT

MONTHLY GIFT