



# Hunan Foster Care Program

## Families Thru International Adoption

*July 2005*

### A Trip to China

Happy Summer! I hope everyone has been enjoying the season and has had the vacations and rest you all deserve!

I got to take my first trip to China this June! It was such a wonderful experience. I traveled with a group of 10 adoptive families and got to see Gotcha Day for the first time in person. It is one thing to hear about this spectacular moment and a completely different thing to actually be there to witness it!

We started our trip in Beijing which was a fun, we enjoyed a lot of sight-seeing. We then traveled to Changsha in Hunan province-a city I am sure most of you are familiar with! There the families received their beautiful little girls.

None of the children were in the Hunan Foster Care Program, however I did get to meet the director of the program and about ten foster mothers and the children they are currently fostering. I met them in the home of one of the foster families and was told they often get together there so the families can visit and the children can play with one another. Due to our agreement with Changsha 1st to protect the privacy of the foster families, I was not able to take pictures, but it was an experience I will never forget! All the children looked happy and well cared for.

**By Nikki Bilderback**

After Changsha the newly formed families and myself flew to Guangzhou to finish up the paperwork for the children's visas. By this time all the girls seemed to fit perfectly into their families. It was so wonderful to see them bloom into being a part of their families!

The Hunan Foster Care Program began in the Spring of 2001. The program has now supported over 300 children during their time in foster care with approximately 60 children in foster care at any given time. To date we have been able to provide almost 100 families with photos and information on their child.

If you or anyone you know has adopted from Changsha 1st Social Welfare Institute in Hunan, please feel free to contact me to see if your child was part of our program.



*Here I am on my trip with Genie, one of our China FTIA staff members*



## 湖南 *Hunan News*

### Our Lovliest Guest

*This story was sent to us by a neighbor of a foster family. It describes how loved the children are in their communities while in China.*

He Li Rong lives next to us with her foster parents. She is a very pretty little girl with features that make her look like a doll.

She is a frequent guest to our home and she is most welcome. Everyone enjoys playing with her and holding her. She makes herself right at home.

Li Rong loves the telephone! She never tires of trying the buttons. She often dials a non-existent number. When the voice comes on and says “this number does not exist,” she listens carefully then hangs up. She seems to know that this means she dialed wrong.

My son likes to try to keep Li Rong away from the phone. He will pretend to make a call on the phone. Li Rong is so smart, she does not get upset. She simply waits. Sometimes she will play with another toy while keeping a watchful eye on my son and the phone. As soon as he puts it down she is at the phone playing with it! My whole family finds this very amusing. We are very impressed with her intelligence.

We learned Li Rong is to be adopted and are all very happy she will have a family of her own. We hope she will have a happy and healthy life with her new parents.



*Li Rong in January of 2005*

*FTIA Note: Li Rong was adopted at the end of January of this year. The picture above was taken just a few days before she was placed with her Forever Family. Please see the “From Home to Hunan” section of this issue for more on her.*



## *From Hunan to Home*

### **From Samantha's Mother (formerly He Li Rong)**

Samantha is very smart and a bit mischievous, as the character Er Rong from last quarter's newsletter. She is learning English words quickly, and we still refer to milk as "na-na." This is Samantha's version of the Chinese word niu-nia which means milk (we learned this from a child's picture book we got at the White Swan in China). She would always say this phrase from the time we returned home with her. When we finally figured out it meant milk (and all food to her) she was very excited!

Samantha has an older brother named Adam. They have been close from the time they met at the airport. Adam had spent the better part of the two years prior to us going to China praying he would get a little sister. This was definitely a deciding factor for our choice to adopt again (Adam is adopted also)!



### **Sarah (He Yong Mei)**



*One month old*



*June of this year-Happy at home in Ireland*



## Two Hunan Sisters

Deciding to adopt my two daughters has been the best decision I have ever made. In my two daughters, I have found love like no other and joy beyond measure. As a teacher at an international school in Shanghai, it is an added blessing and honor to raise my girls in China, surrounded by loving Chinese people, their heritage, and their culture.

In April 2003 in the midst of the SARS crisis and after over a year of working through the necessary hoops of adoption, I received the referral for six month old Zhang Ting Yu, now named Janna Mei Ting Yu. She was at the #1 Social Welfare Institute in Changsha, Hunan. When I picked up Janna Mei three weeks later, she was a happy baby, but had significant health and developmental needs. She made quick and steady progress developmentally and is a beautiful, healthy and curious two-year-old today. I am thrilled to share my life with this energetic and loving child whom I love more each day.

When I decided to adopt for a second time, I was hoping to be given a second daughter from Hunan Province. When the referral came for He Yin Ling in March 2005 I was elated to find she was also from the #1 Social Welfare Institute in Changsha. I immediately phoned a friend of mine in Hunan and learned that He Yin Ling, now named Jolene Fei Yin Ling, was in foster care. I was given her current weight, height and clothing sizes, which was such a blessing. I must admit that I was worried about the transition and grief issues that my new daughter would face after being moved from the foster family, with whom she had spent the three months prior to referral. I began researching attachment and bonding in order to be better prepared for my new daughter. I was prepared for the worst, but happily, I was given the best. Jolene Fei made a very smooth transition to her new family. She came to me developmentally on target with no delays whatsoever. She was strong, healthy, and I feel,

unknowingly prepared for the transition to her new Mama and sister. It was wonderful to receive Jolene Fei's photos and developmental reports from FTIA from her time spent in foster care. In those photos, I see a baby who is happy, smiling and content. This information is priceless; both to me as a parent and to Jolene Fei, especially when she gets older and can better understand her life story.



*Jolene Fei Yin Ling in Foster Care*





## Two Sisters Cont...

Both of my daughters are loved beyond measure. It is my honor to be their mother and share my life with them. They both came to me from the same city and province, but with different backgrounds. I can give evidence of the wonderful foster care program that FTIA sponsors in Hunan Province. I know first hand of the benefits the foster families provide the waiting children in Hunan. Thank you, FTIA!

Cathy Sue

Shanghai, China



## Letter from a Father

Thanks so much for the pictures and the additional information. It gave us a little more insight on our little girl (Celina) on her early childhood. Both me and my wife feel very fortunate and lucky to have Celina come into our lives. She has made us very happy and proud parents. She steals the spotlight every time she is out in the public. When we look back at the whole adoption process duration, the paper work, interviews, background checks, it was all worth it.

Celina is doing very well. I think her foster family did a wonderful job taking care of her. Her mental development stage has been above normal thus far. FTIA should be given credit for that because some couples that we came in contact with which they adopted in china through an orphanage, their child developmental stage is not as advance as they would like. So I'm not sure what the selection process is in china when they pick a child for the adopted family, but I'm very happy that they paired us up with Celina. She has been with us since Dec. 2004 and it has been a pleasure to watch her grow and develop into a lovely little princess. Thanks FTIA. -Victor and Linda





## Evie (Zhang Xue Zhi)



*Shortly before being adopted*



*Forever Family*

In each issue of the Hunan Foster Care Program newsletter I would like to share stories and pictures of children who have been adopted and were in our program. If you have adopted a child who was fostered in our program, please feel free to send me stories about your adoption experience or about how your child is doing now that they are home. I will try to feature 2-3 stories and pictures in each newsletter. The *From Hunan to Home* section is really a sharing place for families!

## *Continuing Needs*

For the 2004 calendar year the Hunan Foster Care program incurred expenses totaling \$33,449.18. Families Thru International Adoption directly sponsors the administrative costs of this program. For 2004 the administrative costs totaled \$4,798.26. We received a great response for family donations in 2004 and received a total of \$19,499.63. FTIA covered the remaining expenses of \$9,151.29.

Our 1st quarter total for 2005 donations was \$2,807.15. Our 2nd quarter total is \$1,568.00. These numbers are down from last year's total at this time. Hopefully the last two quarters of this year will bring in more donations for the Foster Care program.

Please consider the Hunan Foster Care program when deciding on a cause to give to. Please remember that monies donated to the Hunan Foster Care Program are completely separate from other adoption related expenses. Also note that 100% of all monies donated to foster care go directly to the care of the children as FTIA covers all administrative costs for the program.



# 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 Nikki Bilderback by calling 888-797-9900 or emailing [nbilderback@ftia.org](mailto:nbilderback@ftia.org).

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



[www.ftia.org](http://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!

*Donation*

### *FTIA Hunan Foster Care Program*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: (     )

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE CHECK ONE:

ONE TIME GIFT

MONTHLY GIFT