



China Foster Care Programs

Families Thru International Adoption

Spring 2007

Changes, Changes!

Happy spring! Spring is often a time of renewal and new beginnings in nature as well as in the lives of many people. The same can be said of our foster care programs in China. We are experiencing change in our existing Hunan program and starting anew with another program in Hunan working with Hengshan Social Welfare Institute. Our foster care programs provide trained foster families who give children one-on-one care that would not be available at the orphanage.

FTIA began its first China foster care program six years ago in the Hunan Province. We have had a successful program with Changsha 1st Social Welfare Institute starting with just 25 children being fostered and growing to fostering 100 children. In our six years we have seen hundreds of children go from living in an orphanage setting to a warm foster family home where they received one-on-one care to help improve their overall health and development. In the past several months there has been a decrease in the number of children at Changsha 1st. This has meant a decrease in the number of children in our Changsha foster care program. FTIA saw this as an opportunity to make some changes. We will continue to support the children at Changsha 1st with a foster care program; however we are also beginning a new program in Hunan so we can maximize the benefit to the children in this province.

Hengshan is south of Changsha in Hunan Province. FTIA is partnering with the Social Welfare Institute in Hengshan to foster up to 30 children.

By Nikki Bilderback



Hengshan SWI, Hunan Province

The city is on the eastern side of the province and boasts one of China's Five Sacred Mountains, Mt. Hengshan (South Mountain). This program is still very much in its beginning stages. We hope to have more information in the coming months on this exciting new program.

Our Zhanjiang Foster Care Program continues to serve children in Guangdong Province. We are moving towards the first anniversary of this program later this year and have been thrilled with the advances the program has made. We have been able to provide foster families for 19 children from the Zhanjiang Social Welfare Institute. As the program grows we will share more information through our newsletters and website.



Cutie from Hengshan



Foster Parents

While FTIA cannot release specific information about foster parents working with our programs, I have put together some answers to some frequently asked questions about the foster parents we work with. FTIA provides extensive training to all foster families working with our programs in China.

Do the foster parents have other children in their homes?

Most families selected to be foster parents do not have children in their home, or have older children who can help care for the fostered child. Foster families typically only foster one child at a time.



Happy Foster Mother

Do the foster families tend to have pets?

A very small number of families may have pets in their home. From our understanding, pets in China are not given the same status as a member of the family as we do here, so the pets may not have been indoor pets.

What are the foster family homes like?

Each foster family has their own home. Families need to meet minimum income and household requirements to be foster parents. They have nice homes with adequate room to care for the child.

Is being a foster parent the Mom's job?

No, foster families are always two parent homes and both parents actively care for the child.

Do the foster families live close to the social welfare institute (SWI)

Yes, the children are brought back to the SWI each month for a checkup by a doctor and our staff meets with the foster parents at that time to get an update on how things are going and to take photos of the children.

Do the foster families get together with the other foster families (play dates)?

Yes, the foster families typically live in one community and will get together at one another's homes to visit and let the children play together.

Do the foster families take the children back to the SWI if they get sick or to the doctor?

For children in foster care, the orphanage is still responsible for the medical care of the children. The children would be taken to the orphanage to see a doctor for minor ailments, but if more extensive care was needed, they would be taken to a hospital approved by the SWI and the SWI would take over care of the child until they were well.

Do the foster parents take care of more than one child at a time?

No, unless there are twins or siblings placed in their care.

Do the foster parents seem to love and care about the children?

Very much so, they take these children as a part of their family for the time they are with them. They chose to be foster parents and give these children the loving individual care they would not receive at the SWI



Continuing Needs

Hunan

We ended 2006 with a total of \$15,479 received in donations for our Hunan Foster Care Program. The total cost of sponsoring the program was \$37,661 of which \$7,486 was administrative costs and \$30,175 was the cost of caring for the children in foster care.

For 2007 we have received \$9,719 in donations so far. We hope to get a little closer to having the child care costs covered by donations. FTIA will continue to cover all administrative costs of the Hunan Foster Care Program.

Zhanjiang

For the Zhanjiang Foster Care Program we ended 2006 with total donations of \$1,050. The total costs for 2006 were \$5,123 (the program got started in mid-2006). \$2,480 of the total expenses were administrative costs and \$2,643 went to child care. FTIA covers all administrative costs of the Zhanjiang Foster Care Program.

To date we have received \$200 in donation for 2007 for the Zhanjiang Foster Care Program. As this program expands we hope to see the success of the Hunan program!

Hengshan

As this program develops we look forward to bringing you more information on the children fostered through the program as well as donations and costs of the program. Like our other two foster care programs, FTIA will cover all administrative costs of the Hengshan program.

Please remember that monies donated to the China Foster Care Programs 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 programs.



Donate Online!

FTIA can now accept online donations thru Pay Pal for our China Foster Care Programs! Please go to <http://www.ftia.org/FosterCareDonationButton.asp> and click on the PayPal button. Under *Program Area* please select *General Donation* and in the comments section enter the name of the program you would like to donate to, either Hunan Foster Care or Zhanjiang Foster Care. This is a secure online site and your information will not be shared with anyone outside FTIA. **Please note if you are paying your donation using an American Express credit card, a fee of 2.85% is charged and will be deducted from your donation. This is only applicable to American Express credit cards.*

Fun Funding

A Quilt of Wishes - Teresa Werner, an adoptive parent, has written a beautiful tale about adoption. Her book is called *A Quilt of Wishes*. A portion of the proceeds from her book sales will benefit the FTIA Hunan Foster Program. You can learn more about the book and order it from the website www.aquiltofwishes.com. I want to thank Teresa for such a wonderful story and helping out the foster program!



Archer's Archives turns your adoption photos into beautiful DVD movies with music. 20% of profits from the DVD projects will be donated to the FTIA China Foster Care Programs. Please visit the *Archer's Archives* website www.archersarchives.com for more information.



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Contact Information



If you would like more information on the FTIA China Foster Care Programs, or would like to check to see if your child was fostered through one of the programs, please contact Nikki Bilderback by calling 888-797-9900 or emailing nbilderback@ftia.org.



Families Thru International Adoption is located at:
400 Bente Wes 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 China Foster Care Programs

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____

Email _____

Amount of Donation \$ _____

One Time Gift

Monthly Gift (Please check one)

Please let us know which program you would like to give to:

Hunan Foster Care

Zhanjiang Foster Care

Hengashan Foster Care