



# Hunan Foster Care Program

## Families Thru International Adoption

**Summer 2008**

**By Melissa Haywood**

### Countdown to the Olympics

#### What is the Olympic Program?

The "Olympic Program" is the Program of sports, disciplines and events decided by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the Summer and Winter Games. The Summer Games must contain at least fifteen Olympic sports. No such minimum exists for the Olympic Winter Games, which are reserved for sports practiced on snow or ice.

#### Who decides?

The IOC ultimately determines which programs will be included or excluded from the Olympic Games.

#### Basic criteria for events

To be included in the Program for the Olympic Games, an Olympic sport or discipline must fulfill the following criteria: for the Summer Games, only sports/disciplines widely practiced by men in at least 75 countries and on four continents, and by women in at least 40 countries and on three continents may be included; for the Winter Games, only sports/disciplines widely practiced in at least 25 countries and on three continents will be included.

The competition of the sport /discipline results in a ranking. Based on those rankings, an award of medals or diplomas will be given. For an event to be included it must be recognized internationally in both numerical and geographical terms and have been featured at least twice in world or continental championships.

#### Timing

Generally, the sports and disciplines are finalized seven years before each Olympic Games, and the list of events is finalized four years before the Games.

Upon agreement of the International Federation and the Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, the IOC may depart from these time limits in order to include a discipline or event in the Program.

*The 2008 Beijing Olympics will officially kick off on **8/8/08**. Here are some facts about this year's events:*

Total number of Sports--**28**      Total number of events--**302**

Total number of Gold Medals--**302**

Total number of Athletes--**10,708**

Total number of Competition Venues in Beijing--**31**

Total number of Competition Venues outside Beijing--**6**

Total number of Olympic Games Volunteers--**70,000**

Olympic Games Opening Ceremony--**August 8**

Olympic Games Closing Ceremony--**August 24**





*From Hunan to Home*

# *Kaziah's Story*

*By: Wilma Shaffner*



Kaziah (Kazie) was found December 4, 2003 in the outpatient waiting room of a hospital in the residential area of Changsha. They estimated her birth date to be about November 25, 2003. She was taken to the local police station and then transferred to Changsha Social Welfare Institute where she lived until October 2005. She then went to live with a wonderful foster family sponsored by FTIA. There she was integrated as part of their family and lived happily with them. On Monday, March 3, 2008, she was greeted by a “new mama” in the Civil Affairs Office in Changsha.

She grieved heavily for her beloved foster “mama” and “baba”. From the tears she shed, it was obvious how much she was loved. Our guide spoke with her and she understood, but the loss was heartbreaking initially. I had brought with me purple sunglasses and bubbles for when we would first meet. She quickly warmed up to those gifts!



## *From Hunan to Home continued*



I will be forever grateful to the foster parents who so wonderfully prepared her for her life today.

She came home with signs and behaviors of a loving foster family and being well cared for. She is very familiar with both giving and receiving love. She is also very smart. In addition to knowing the numbers 1-9, she had been trained to make her bed, set the table, bathe and brush her teeth. She knows a few little Chinese dance routines and loves story books. She loves being cuddled and rocked.

She has adjusted very well and her English skills continue to increase daily. She is such a joy to our family.



## *Continuing Needs*

### **Changsha Foster Care Program**

As of May 31, there have been a total of 517 children fostered in our Changsha Program. Currently, we have 22 children in the program. We have had a total of 483 children adopted out of our program. Four hundred and fifty of them were adopted internationally. The top 5 country breakdowns are: US-313 children, Spain-29, Canada-26, and 18 to both Sweden and Norway. We have had a total of 177 foster families involved.

### **Hengshan Foster Care Program**

As of May 31, FTIA's Hengshan Foster Care Program has fostered 34 children. There are 3 children currently in our program. Twenty seven of the 34 have been adopted. Among those, 20 were through international adoption. Eleven of those children were adopted to families in France, 8 to US families and 1 to a Canadian family.

As of June 2008, our Hunan foster care program has received over \$13,000 in donations. Thank you to everyone who has given a donation to our programs.

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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.

