



Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

Winter 2009

By Melissa Haywood

Chinese New Year-The Year of The Ox

This year will be the Year of the Ox. The Ox is the sign of prosperity through fortitude and hard work. A person born under this sign is a born leader, being quite dependable and possessing an innate ability to achieve great things. As one might guess, such people are dependable, calm, and modest. Like their animal namesake, the Ox is unswervingly patient, tireless in their work, and capable of enduring any amount of hardship without complaint.

Traditionally the people of China will travel back home to be with their families during the New Year. Red couplets (red scrolls with good wishes written on them) are put up around doorways. Other preparations include cleaning the house before the New Year begins. No sweeping is done on New Year's Day for fear of sweeping away good fortune. No sharp instruments or scissors should be used because it might cut or divide your good luck.

Legend has it that an evil monster named "Nian" comes out to eat people on New Year's Eve. The only way to scare him away is with loud noises and the color red. This is why you will see people in China wearing a lot of red during this time. New Year's Eve parades feature firecrackers and drums to also scare away Nian.

On New Year's Eve all the members of the family will gather for a meal. If a family member cannot be present, they will leave an empty seat to symbolize that person's presence. At midnight after dinner, the younger members of the family are expected to bow and pay their respect to their elders. The children are given red envelopes called Lai-See or Hong-Bao. The envelopes will have 'lucky money' in them to symbolize luck and wealth.

On New Year's Day, people will visit friends bringing oranges as gifts to symbolize wealth. No meat is eaten that day to ensure long and happy lives. In more ancient times, the people of China did not recognize individual birthdays, but instead considered the 7th day of the New Year as everyone's birthday. Everyone was considered a year older on that day. Long, uncut noodles were eaten that day to ensure long life.

On the 15th day of the New Year, the celebration concludes with the Lantern Festival. At night, people will carry lanterns out to the street and watch a parade highlighted with a dragon dance and lion dance. This last day sends a message of harmony, order and unity to remain for the rest of the year.



From Hunan



No longer shy

She Zhi Lan is a very adorable girl. When we first went to take her picture, she was very shy. She did not like to face our lenses and smile. She stayed in her foster mom's arms and would peep out at us between her fingers. She did take some time to warm up to us. One day, we showed her the picture we took for her. When she saw her image in the picture and heard everybody saying "What a beautiful girl", she gave a very satisfactory and confident smile. She liked her picture. From then on, she never tries to avoid our camera. She loves taking photos. Sometimes when we are taking pictures for other children, she will squeeze in and try to get the limelight.





From Hunan



Very Helpful

Cai Wu is a boy who always likes to help. When a child falls down, he will go and assist that child to their feet. When a child cries, he will go to comfort them. He is a very loving child. Recently, when a representative from the orphanage was trying to take a picture of another child, the representative had to ask the children around Cai to leave her alone so she could take a picture of only her, but the children around her were making a lot of noise and no one could hear the representative. Cai Wu helped again. He stood in front of the children, waved his arms and shouted: "This is not a group picture. Please stand aside. Only her now." The children heard him and started to break up. The funniest thing was that when the children dispersed and the representative was ready to take the picture of the little girl, she saw through the lense that Cai Wu was standing next to the little girl, happily, with one hand on her shoulder. They both posed for the picture together.



Continuing Needs

Changsha Foster Care Program

With the changes of the Hengshan and Zhanjiang Foster Care Programs, the money donated goes directly to our Changsha Orphanage. The average monthly cost to maintain this program is about \$2400. We want to thank everyone who made a donation in 2008.

Currently, there are 28 children in our Changsha program. As of the end of January 2009, 541 total children have been fostered and 493 were adopted. There have been 314 children adopted to the US. We have had 179 foster families involved.

Hengshan Foster Care Program

As of March 1, 2008, FTIA is no longer sponsoring a foster care program in Zhanjiang. Pearl River Outreach has now taken over the program. If you would like more information or to continue donating to this program, you can visit www.pearlriveroutreach.org. We appreciate all that you have done for this program and have full confidence that the training and development of this orphanage will continue.

In 2008, we received just under \$18,000 in donations for our Hunan Foster Care Program. We want to remind you that 100% of these monies will go to China to provide direct aid to children in our China Foster Care Programs. Every donation helps to make a difference for these children! We work hard to ensure the children receive the benefit of your kindness. Every dollar of a contribution will be used to pay for foster care and nutritious formula for the children. FTIA continues to pay all administrative expenses associated with the maintenance of our Foster Care Programs.

FTIA does accept online donations thru Pay Pal for our China Foster Care Program! You do not need 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.

