



Hunan Foster Care Program

Families Thru International Adoption

March 2005

By Nikki Bilderback

Hello Friends! I just recently started working with the Hunan Foster Care Program sponsored through FTIA. I have really enjoyed having families contact me to see if their child had been fostered through our program and being able to send pictures and information to them if their child was in the program.

As some of you may have heard, FTIA experienced some extensive water damage at the end of last year due to some broken water pipes. While it does not seem we lost any foster care information, when I came to the program, the files were in disarray due to having to be laid out to dry. Putting files back together became my main focus. I am happy to say the files are all back in order!

My focus the past two weeks has been redesigning the quarterly newsletter. This is my first attempt at writing the newsletter and I am hoping you will all enjoy the new format and can offer me feedback on ways to improve it for upcoming issues.

I have incorporated two main features into the newsletter: *News From Hunan* where I will share stories we receive about the children currently being fostered and *From Hunan to Home* where I plan to feature stories and pictures submitted by families who adopted children foster in our program.

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 75 families with photos and information on their child.

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



Hello From Hunan!



湖南 *Hunan News*

Rong Er and Her Brother Jing

He Li Rong joined her foster family when she was 30 days old. When she first met her foster family Li Rong was a tiny little girl. She seemed to be a bit undernourished. Her foster family quickly began giving Li Rong the loving care she needed. Her health quickly improved.

Li Rong's foster family quickly learned what a smart little girl she is. She is currently 10 months old and is able to walk by leaning on something. Her foster family loves her big, bright eyes.

In her community Li Rong is a star. Everyone likes her, adults and children alike. Parents in the community like to get all their children together so that they may all play together. Li Rong is one of the smallest children in the community, but is also said to be one of the smartest and bravest. She is often able to get the best of some of the boys who are several months older than she.



One boy, Zi Kang is four months older than Li Rong. Zi Kang's grandmother calls her grandson "Brother Jing" and she called Li Rong "Rong Er" as nick names. Even though Li Rong can be mean to her Brother Jing and sometimes makes him cry, he still likes to play with her. If Brother Jing is not allowed to play with his Rong Er he will cry until she is with him. They are very special to each other and play together happily.

FTIA Note: Rong Er and Brother Jing are the hero and heroine in a Chinese famous novel and film; they love each other very much. Rong Er is very smart and naughty. Brother Jing is very simple and honest. Brother Jing is a great hero in people's hearts.



Li Rong when she 1st entered foster care



A mischievous look



Happy Li Rong

From Hunan to Home

Brotherly Love

Dear FTIA,

My name is Caleb Kanomata. I am 7 years old. My family just adopted my little sister, Abigail, from China.

My little sister Abigail was able to be in FTIA's foster care program. So for my birthday I raised money instead of receiving gifts. At my Birthdya celebration I did a presentation about the FTIA foster care program for my guests.

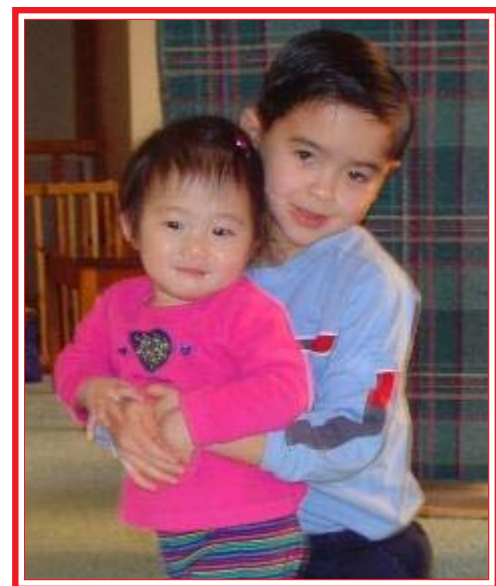
I had a poster and lots of information that Nikki sent to me about the foster care program. I raised \$432.15!! I am sending my birthday money that I raised to the FTIA foster care program because I want to help more orphans have a good home.

Sincerely,

Caleb Kanomata



Abigail (He Jian Mei)



Caleb and Abigail



Rylee Ann (He Yan Zi)

My husband and I knew that we had a lot of love to give and knew that a little girl from China would make our family and life complete. We received the referral for our daughter in July 2004 along with a picture of a beautiful baby girl. The information that we received stated that she was 13 months old and was in Changsha SW1. We left for China to adopt our daughter Rylee in October 2004. While in China our guide said that she would check to see if our daughter had been in foster care. Time did not permit us to follow up and check to see if she was in foster care. After returning home to Tennessee we still wondered if she had been in foster care and decided to do some research. I was told to contact FTIA to find out if they could assist us in finding out if she was in foster care prior to us adopting her. FTIA was able to help us find out she was in foster care for 12 months and they were able to send us more wonderful pictures of her 1st year.

Since we have been home Rylee has grown so much. She is so smart, curious, and loves music. Rylee lights up the room when she enters. She is a beautiful little girl that loves to smile and laugh all of the time. We can have a bad day at work and when we pick her up from her grandparents she is smiling and giggling and it makes us forget about having the bad day. She loves animals and playing with her cousins. We cannot imagine our life without Rylee and look forward to her growing up and sharing our life as a family.



Early picture of Rylee



Rylee Today



Sydney (He Jia Jia)



Sydney Today

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 Home to Hunan* 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.

For 2005 we have all ready received \$1,275.00. Our goal is to have the care of the children in program covered by donations while FTIA covers the costs of running the program.

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.



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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.

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