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Volume III

Chi Heng Foundation: Project for Children Impacted by AIDS NEWSLETTER



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About Chi Heng Foundation

Chi Heng Foundation is a registered charitable organization based in Hong Kong. Over the last three years, we have been providing help to people with HIV/AIDS and their children in central China. Our orphanage education project sponsors the education of children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic, as little as HK\$250 can sponsor a child for a year, while HK\$50,000 can sponsor an entire village of children.

A special thanks to...

- **Goldman Sachs** for its donation of HK\$80,000 to sponsor a village of students for a year.
- **Lindmark Group** for selecting us as a beneficiary of its fundraising event at Intercontinental Hotel. Two checks of HK\$100,000, one from the company and one from the chairman, were presented in front of 400 guests.
- **RTHK** for creating a documentary about Chi Heng Foundation's work. Please visit www.rthk.com
- **INVOSPAN** for helping us to translate this newsletter!

Providing Education and Beyond...

Now in its third year of providing support to children affected by AIDS, Chi Heng has increased its sponsorship to over 2000 children spanning four provinces in China (Henan, Shandong, Guangdong and Anhui). Chi Heng has nearly doubled the number of children it is sponsoring from 1200 last semester. In addition to increasing educational sponsorship, Chi Heng is now moving towards providing comprehensive services beyond education. These include:

- **Vocational training:** We are looking for training opportunities for sponsored students to help them acquire job skills, in addition to an education. Several students have now been trained in Guangdong factories.
- **Psychological care:** A memory book project has been started to help children deal with the grief of losing their loved ones (see details on next page). CHF plans to hire and train counselors for schools and orphanages. Our Art Therapy program is also continuing.
- **Summer programs:** This summer, we hope

to host a camp and study tour program. The summer camp will focus on psychological development for our students, including self-esteem building and healing through group discussions. The study tour will take students to visit cities in China and witness life beyond their villages. We hope this will serve as a motivational tool for students to progress in their studies.

- **Material provision for HIV positive people:** CHF is providing blankets, clothes, food, and nutritional products to 250 children infected with HIV. We are also supplying nutritional products to adults taking ARVs in order to enhance their adherence under a Direct Observation Therapy program co-developed by Chi Heng Foundation and the local health authority.

[SPACEHOLDER: Get Picture]

Chi Heng Foundation Begins Initiatives in the U.S.

- CHF's work was recently selected by Give2Asia, an affiliate of the Asia Foundation, to be featured as an example of its sponsorship in Asia. CHF was extremely honored to be one of two groups selected among the numerous projects supported by Give2Asia to be shared with its friends and supporters. Chairperson Chung To spoke about CHF's projects with audiences in San Francisco and New York in October.
- CHF is in the process of registering as a non-profit entity in the U.S. Our new U.S. Directors include **Lora Sabin**, an Assistant Professor at Boston University's Center for International Health and Development. Dr. Sabin carries out applied research and policy planning activities in the areas of child health and the economic impact of HIV/AIDS. In addition to teaching applied health economics, she is involved in developing new training programs on managing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Asia. **Joan Kauf-**

man also joins us as a new Director. Dr. Kaufman brings with her over 10 years of experience in China, working with the United Nations and the Ford Foundation. She is currently Director of the AIDS Public Policy Project at the Center for Business and Government at Harvard University and a lecturer in social medicine at Harvard Medical School. She is also a Team Leader of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and a Senior Scientist at the Schneider Institute for Health Policy at Brandeis University. Welcome to our new Directors!

Summer Interns at CHF

Last summer, three interns from the U.S. joined CHF. **Bella Liu**, a sophomore at Swarthmore College, created a Memory Book for our sponsored students (more details on next page). **Jack Shao**, a senior at the University of Florida, helped CHF in both Hong Kong and Shanghai with a stationary and winter clothing drive. **Keane Shum**, a third year at Yale University, also joined us in Hong Kong. A huge thanks to all three interns! If you are interested in interning with CHF, please contact us for further details.

China Memory Book Project

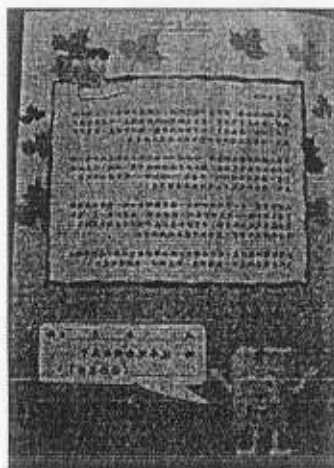
Over the summer, Chi Heng Foundation launched a Memory Book Project, led by Swarthmore College student Bella Liu. Memory books are printed "activity booklets" to be in which children can explore, record and come to terms with their personal histories, emotions, and dreams.

The purpose of these books is to help children cope with loss, stigma and other hardships; in addition, they preserve memories for the children that might otherwise be lost in the tumult

of AIDS. These books have been adopted by many AIDS stricken countries around the world, particularly in Africa. While they have traditionally been made for sick or dying parents, the China Memory Book Project is unique in that it is child-centered, letting the children themselves make the books.

1,500 copies of the original memory books will be printed and distributed to orphans and schools in Chi Heng Foundation's Central China operating

areas. Thanks to Colour Max for subsidizing the printing and designing and to Popular Bookstore for providing each child with a pack of crayons!



A page from the China Memory Book

Art Therapy helps students cope with loss

CHF provides materials for sponsored students to draw sketches and write essays about their hopes and dreams, as a form of therapy to help them cope with traumatic experiences. Below is an excerpt from one of these essays.

We all know what the word "hope" means. Different people may have different understandings of the term and may have different hopes for themselves. My hope is to become a doctor, to save the many people who are facing death. Whenever I talk about my hope my eyes fill with tears. My father died of that incurable disease. Whenever I think of AIDS I hate it to death. I hate

it because it has taken away the lives of my Dad and many other young people. AIDS is as cruel as a heartless person. It is a pity that current medical technology can't save those who should be saved. After my father passed away, our family was in very difficult position. I could not afford to go to school. Uncle To then helped me go back to school. I don't have much to express my

gratitude to him. I can only study hard and become a doctor and save people's lives, so as not to let him down. I know that once the hope is set, I should strive ahead, and consider it as my life-long mission.

- Rui Hong, 13 Years Old, Grade 5, (Father died of AIDS, Mother diagnosed with AIDS)



Rui Hong's drawing of the doctor she would like to become.

A student gives a thousand word of thanks

Dear Sponsors,

Good Day! I was lost like a little bird without direction, at the times I felt so lonely and helpless, you brought me hope and I am thankful to you from the bottom of my heart. I will be strong and return your love by getting good grades. Whenever I see other kids having the love of their parents, I wipe my tears away and tell myself to be strong again! You are my anchor, though we are not able to see each other, I am always thankful to you in my heart and I look up to you as my parents. Your love is like a warm river running through my heart, I can feel the blaze going through my body. Though both my parents have died, I can still go to school with your help. At the most lonely and hopeless time of my life, you came offering your help with warmth and comfort. Let me assure you that I will study hard. I will not let you down and I have written a poem to you.

Parents died leaving a pitied child, The helpless infant bird needs love. Only when my helpless self thinks of you, The feeling of love fills my heart.

I know the poem is not written well, but since it is my first poem, please do not laugh at me. A thousand words could not describe the words from my heart.

"...you brought me hope and I am thankful to you from the bottom of my heart."

- CHF sponsored student