

Registered charity No 1049321

Winter 2010 Newsletter :

Dear COCOA supporter



At the end of 2010, we're pleased to say that this year we've given more funds to support more projects than ever before. Even better, many of these are new projects, which means that we are now reaching children in areas where little help was previously available.

Of course all this takes money. We know that these days there is often not much spare cash so we've included some fundraising ideas which we hope won't break anybody's bank! And we're very excited about our fashion show in co-operation with top Hong Kong design house Shanghai Tang in March. Please check out the website and Facebook page for details as they become available.

Thank you for all your support this year and best wishes for 2011 from all at COCOA.

BUTTERFLY HOME OPENING CEREMONY

The Butterfly Home has been open since the spring, and in October an opening ceremony was held to celebrate the end of the second stage of the renovations. Our man on the spot sent us this report. 'A disused part of the old building had been renovated to become a very clean, well decorated suite of rooms. These rooms include the high dependency unit funded by COCOA. Since April, 20 children have been lovingly cared for.



Throughout the visit I was impressed by the way the children were handled - with love and care. There were bathrooms, toilets, a kitchen and a room where nurses could be on hand for very sick babies overnight.

All the areas were renovated to a high standard and I really liked the colourful bright atmosphere of each room. The organisation of the equipment already installed was impressive as were the plans for the further development of the hospice. The opening ceremony was an



auspicious occasion with speeches by local dignitaries and Directors of the Home emphasising the co-operation between the Home and orphanage to open this new venture. After the unveiling of the

commemoration plaque and the cutting of a ribbon symbolising the opening we were allowed to inspect the hospice itself. Again I felt the excitement that sick and dying children will receive a high standard of care in a place that values dignity, love and respect for the individual.'

MORE NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS

YOUNG DISABLED CHILDREN'S UNIT

One of the projects we're supporting for the first time is home to 36 young disabled children. These children have a range of disabilities including cerebral palsy, developmental delay, autism and intellectual disabilities.

The children are cared for in several different groups, according to their age and needs. They are housed in care groups or group homes of between 8 -10 children. Their carers are assigned to their group, build relationships, and give consistency of care for the children in their group. The focus is on providing for the physical, emotional and social needs of the children and improving their quality of life.

A group of training therapists provide one-on-one therapy to most of these children several times a week to assist with their development and improve their quality of life.

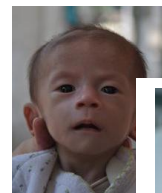


NEW! Henan Province

We're supporting a new project in Henan province, a co-operation with the Social Welfare Centre to improve the survival rate of the infants and toddlers entering the welfare centre and provide a more enriching quality of life for the children and young people growing up there. Essentials like good quality nappies are very expensive in China so the budget for these is a whopping £4,000 a year which will be paid by COCOA. In addition there has been no facility for preschool education in the orphanage so COCOA is specifically supporting this initiative in the new project. We'll bring you more news in our next newsletter as this project gets up and running.

TODDLER AND BABY UNIT

As well as a long-term home, our Toddler and Baby Unit provides immediate care to new arrivals at the Welfare Institute. This little chap was severely malnourished but with love, care and a few pounds he has recovered, and we do not think he has any illness or disability.



GUIZHOU PLAY AND THERAPY CENTRE

This centre continues to provide essential support to the foster families as well as to the handicapped children they look after. Little Ben came into care at the age of 3 following abandonment. He has spina bifida with a large meningocele (lump) on his lower spine, and his legs are paralysed. He is bright and aware of everything that has happened to him. He is becoming more used to living with his foster parents but often has a wistful look and his foster mother says he is afraid of being left behind. At the play centre he can temporarily forget about his sadness and have fun with the toys, other children and yummy snacks! Now he is being taught to use a 'belly board', a little wooden creation on wheels which he can sit on and scoot with his hands. He is enjoying racing his teacher across the floor! New possibilities are opening up for Ben as we are looking into the possibility of surgery for his lump; he may get a self-propelled wheelchair and even go for adoption and find a for-ever family.

Music for China's Abandoned

Please join us on December 10th 2010 at the Emmanuel Centre, London for a benefit concert featuring the world-renowned Singaporean violinist Ning Kam (www.ningkam.com).

Ning has performed in concerts all over the world and will be joined by pianist Carole Presland from the Royal Academy of Music.

Tickets are available now at www.chinaconcern.org/concert, priced at £15, and all proceeds will go to support abandoned and handicapped children in China.



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

You may remember Paul Jacques who was intrepidly cycling all the way from Hull to Hammersmith (around 220 miles) in aid of COCOA. We're pleased (and relieved) to report that he and his friend Martin Solway made the journey in two days with few problems apart from one rather too close for comfort encounter with a truck and aches in pretty much every muscle! There's even talk of another challenge next year. Thank you guys, you are stars.



FUNDRAISING IDEAS THAT WON'T BREAK THE BANK

- Meet your friends at home instead of at the coffee house and send the money you all save to COCOA
- Whacky tie or sock day - ask your colleagues to pay £1 to wear a crazy tie or socks - or a forfeit of £2 not to!
- Mufti day at school - all pupils pay £1 not to wear uniform for the day (and the teachers wear uniform instead)
- Hold a cake sale in your street or at work (you can do a sponsored slim afterwards as well!)
- Promises auction - auction your or your friends' services as lawn mower, car washer, baby sitter, dog-walker ...
- Get a collecting box and put all your 1p and 2p pieces in it - they soon add up!
- Have an unwanted presents sale with your friends and colleagues after Christmas and send us the proceeds

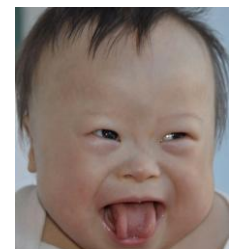
Look at our website www.cocoa.org.uk for more ideas!

UPDATE DVD - COCOA visits China

Don't forget to ask for your copy of the DVD showing some of COCOA's achievements in China over the past 15 years - and why we still need your help. Contact the office on 020 8752 0643 or e-mail cocoalon@aol.com.

SPONSOR A CHILD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We really appreciate our sponsors and their commitment to their sponsor children. We still have lots more children like Xia Nu awaiting sponsors. Sponsorship costs £18 per month and you can choose to sponsor a boy or a girl. Why not give a gift sponsorship for Christmas ?



DONATION FORM



I would like to help with a donation of

£

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Please make your cheque/ postal order/ Charity voucher to COCOA. Or you can debit your debit card or credit card

Card number _ _ _ _ _

Card Expiry date:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Please send me information on Cocoa's sponsorship programme

First Name:

Surname:

Signature:

Date:

I would like all donations I've made since 6 April 2002 and all donations in the future to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer.

To qualify for *Gift Aid*, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must at least equal the amount we will claim in the tax year (currently 25p for every £1 donated).

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