

Registered charity No 1049321

Winter 2009 Newsletter :

Dear COCOA supporter

As 2009 draws to a close it is time for us to look back at what we have achieved this year, and we hope you will enjoy the positive stories in this newsletter about places where COCOA is helping to make a real difference to the lives of abandoned children and babies in China. With your help we are now supporting more long-term projects than ever before.

We will shortly have a new DVD available showing the excellent work you are helping to fund, and it will be available to view on our website too.

We passionately believe that every life we are able to save is well worth the effort, so we will continue to fundraise and continue to help where we can. We hope you will join us in that effort.



VIRGIN ATLANTIC UPDATE

We were thrilled to be able to provide £49,000 towards kitting out the new home in Henan, raised from the Virgin Atlantic on-board appeal.



The home is now up and running, with currently 66 babies and 96 trained nannies looking after them and awaiting further arrivals. The home's Chinese staff surgeon has even been able to perform some minor surgeries in its new state-of-the-art operating theatre, and with the help of one of the trained in-house nurses.

COCOA was fortunate to be selected for Virgin Atlantic's *Change for Children* programme, so huge thanks to the generous passengers of Virgin and to Virgin themselves for helping fund this wonderful project.

MORE NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS

BABY UNIT - HUNAN PROVINCE

COCOA has committed over £30,000 over two years to support the infant and toddler unit in a Hunan orphanage. The unit is home to 36 children from 0-2 years, with 24 caregivers and two kindergarten teachers who run playgroups and help the children with life skills.

Little Xu came into the unit on August 5th undernourished and weighing less than 5 lb - look at the difference just a few weeks made to him!



July 20

August 17



October 10

Niu Niu is a premature baby who is now thriving under the love and care of her devoted caregivers. She only weighed 1.2kg when she came to the unit but is gaining weight and the other children in her baby room really love her and know to be gentle with her.



SHAANXI BABY UNIT

This new unit continues to provide loving care for babies with remediable medical conditions awaiting adoption. Most babies live at the home until they are around 18-24 months old.



Currently there are 48 babies and toddlers, cared for by 27 aiyis (nannies). The nannies work regularly with particular children so that they create a bond and encourage the children's emotional health so that they can settle well into their new for-ever families!

GUIZHOU FOSTER AND PLAY SCHEME

The play centre supporting the Guizhou foster scheme goes from strength to strength. Children are coming from all across the province and their progress at the play scheme is encouraging orphanage directors to support the foster network and place children in foster families rather than institutions.



NEW ! HUNAN CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

We are excited to be supporting a new project, the first children's community hospice in China - the Butterfly Home, to be opened in Hunan province. Many babies are abandoned because they are dying and the parents do not know where to get help or cannot afford the help. Often it is clear the babies have been loved and they are left with a personal note and small amounts of money, in a desperate attempt to ensure the child will be cared for.

With proper medical care around half these babies can be saved - some have curable conditions and others have chronic but manageable conditions. The orphanage has donated the space so now the aim is to convert this



..... to this



WATCH THIS SPACE !

VIRGIN MONEY FUNDRAISING PAGES

Following our successful cooperation with Virgin Atlantic, we have teamed up with Virgin Money Giving to help you set up individual fundraising pages for your events. Go to www.virginmoneygiving.com and let them reclaim the gift aid for you too!

THANK YOU !

Thanks to the pupils and staff of Cranbrook School and Wycombe High School, who both presented us with bumper cheques recently.

We are grateful also to the children, parents and staff of Holmwood Nursery in Oxford, and the staff at Astute Ltd in Bournemouth for their wonderful support.

SPONSOR A CHILD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

We were delighted at the response to our appeal for sponsors in our last newsletter, and now lots more of you are making a difference to your sponsor child's life. BUT there are still many, many more waiting for sponsors.

Please e-mail us at cocoalon@aol.com or return the form overleaf for a sponsorship pack. Why not join up with work colleagues or friends to sponsor a child between you? Or for those awkward people who you don't know what to buy for Christmas, how about a gift sponsorship for a year (it makes a change from a book token)?



Sponsorship enables us to plan for the long-term future of the children in our care. Please make a difference to a child's life!

CALLING ALL BRIGHT SPARKS! CHILDREN'S DAY 1ST JUNE 2010

Children's Day is a BIG deal in China, with children getting presents and having parties. We would like to get in the spirit of the day in a BIG way with a fundraising event and would love to hear your ideas - please write, call or e-mail us with your suggestions!

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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