

# SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear COCOA supporter

When we look back at the last 15 years of COCOA, we are amazed at the changes in China. Equally, orphanage conditions have improved vastly in some places, but a visit to one of the older facilities serves as a potent reminder of how desperate the needs remain. This summer we are asking for your specific help to fund two projects in China. You can read below how your donations have already helped and why we need to continue supporting these projects.



UK charity number 1049321

## HUNAN BABY AND TODDLER UNIT

The baby and toddler unit provides care and nurture for 45 infants and toddlers with special needs. With therapy some of the children are able to be adopted - 34 so far.

It is such a happy place, full of laughter and cute little ones toddling around. It is clear that the carers here are genuinely fond of their 'charges'. The nurture given is allowing each child to rediscover their capacity for play and happiness. Access to therapy, education and medical services ensures that each child is able to realise their fullest potential.



Excellent foundations have been laid but now we need to be able to offer more appropriate levels of salary in order to retain our well-trained staff. Ongoing maintenance of the premises will provide a safe and well-maintained environment for the children.

## HUNAN BABY AND TODDLER UNIT



This project started in 2010 but already we have seen amazing progress. The 29 youngsters in this unit all have disabilities and/or health problems and need increased nutrition and support services in order to maximise their potential. The previous staff ratio of 1:20 has been strengthened to 1:5 trained staff, which has made a demonstrable difference to the children. We expect to receive between 15 and 30 new admissions in 2011.

To support the provision of care-giving staff, nutrition, therapy, education, staff training and medical support costs £36 per child per month. Please help us to keep our support going with any donations you can give to COCOA.

## OTHER PROJECT NEWS



Who could resist this adorable little face? After being diagnosed with a brain tumour, Jonathan came to the Butterfly Home for end of life care. He was an extremely sick little boy, without the strength even to eat. As an abandoned child, he had nobody to fight his corner. However, it turned out there was no tumour but he had a massive infection which was squeezing his brain. After two operations to drain the infection, weeks in hospital and some major antibiotic treatment Jonathan is recovering and has a second chance at life. We are so excited to see how he will grow and learn.

Children's Day in China is a day for celebrating all children. At our therapy centre there is a celebration with the foster families with a performance and a meal together. The singing included a performance of The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round in Chinese - Qi che de lunzi zhuang ya zhuang! This was followed by a story called A Walk in the Woods with exotic animals, and Chinese nursery rhymes. It is a real celebration of all that the foster families achieve with the children and the support the centre can offer thanks to the support and funding of COCOA.



### THANK YOU !

**Linda Anderson** and her twin sister celebrated a significant birthday by asking their party guests to make a donation to COCOA, and raised nearly £300!

**Millie and Charlotte** raised a stupendous £870 with a sponsored silence!

Thank you to **Cranbrook School** for their continued valued support as well as **Haileybury School** for making COCOA one of their chosen charities to benefit from their recent fashion show.



### GO GREEN AND HELP COCOA SAVE MONEY TOO

We are planning e-mail editions of our future newsletters which will help reduce the impact of rising printing and postage costs.

If you are happy to receive future newsletters by e-mail, please e-mail us at [cocoalon@aol.com](mailto:cocoalon@aol.com) or include your e-mail address on the donation form, to be added to the e-mail list.

We will only send receipts for donations if requested on the donation form.

Thank you for your support and understanding!