

Registered charity No 1049321

Summer 2010 Newsletter :



Dear COCOA supporter

We were delighted to meet some of you at our Chinese New Year event back in February. Thanks to some fantastic auction lots and prizes, combined with some very active chequebooks, we raised a total of £7,000, and you can read in this newsletter how the money has been put to good use to make life so much better for the children in our projects.

We're pleased to say that our new DVD is available, with footage of some of our projects. We're sure you will find it interesting and uplifting to see just what your support has achieved over the last 14 years. At the same time the stories illustrate just why we need to continue our work. Please contact the office by e-mailing cocoalon@aol.com or phoning 020 8752 0643 to request your copy.



CHILDREN'S DAY IN CHINA

June 1st marks Children's Day in China - here is how this special day was celebrated in one of our projects, a physiotherapy and recreational centre for infants and toddlers in central China.

"We wanted our celebration to reflect how we support the children in our care, and to put on a performance with children from 1 to 6 years old. We decided to use signing and do our singing and dancing with yellow and red ribbons on sticks. We age-grouped our performance items but on the day most wanted to join in with everything. All the children wanted to be facepainted whether they were animals in our performance or not. Sadly the balloon burst for our story of the little red balloon but our walk through the jungle was a complete success although our lion refused to be scary and the crocodile came over all shy! The dance was wonderful -



everyone joined in - and was a suitable finale for Children's Day. The point of Children's Day for us is that it is a celebration of each little life despite

the circumstances of their birth - that each life is valid and there are people who care for and love these little ones, are committed to their wellbeing and celebrate their existence."

GET SOME DIM SUM IN !

Thanks to Chinese food specialist Sam Pan who are donating 10% of the profits from their new dim sum range to COCOA. The range is currently exclusive to Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge Fifth Floor Foodmarket



NEWS FROM OUR PROJECTS

HUNAN BABY AND TODDLER UNIT

Over the last year there have been lots of changes at the baby unit we fund in Hunan - and all of them for the better! 13 children have been adopted and 14 new children have come into this nurturing environment.



Two new features are a programme of Conductive Education for the children with Cerebral Palsy, and a special circle time for toddlers with Down's Syndrome.

We're also now funding a unit for 36 disabled children on the same site, so that the children who need our support beyond toddlerhood are guaranteed a loving long-term home where they can build on their progress in the baby and toddler unit. We'll bring you more news on this unit in our next newsletter!

THE BUTTERFLY HOME IS OPEN !

The hospice now has 6 beds open and has so far provided care for 12 very sick children. For some of the children this has been their last home; for others who were extremely ill



their lives have been turned around and against all the odds they now have the prospect of a happy healthy future.

Phase 2 of the renovations is now underway which will increase the number of beds to 24.

NEW ! BABY MILK PROGRAMMES

We take safe baby milk for granted, but many of you will have been aware of various scandals in China regarding tainted baby milk formula. The Chinese Government provides an allowance for cows' milk for orphans but up to the age of two it is better for these vulnerable children to receive enriched milk formula - which is often very expensive. COCOA has been funding the provision of guaranteed safe, healthy formula milk in a number of projects feeding about 250 children in different parts of the country. As a result, babies are bouncing all over China !



This little cutie was abandoned at 3 days old and would not have survived without a plentiful supply of fortified formula milk.

CLEFT PALATE HOME EXPANSION

The cleft palate home is growing as fast as its little residents. There are now 55 babies and we have been able to fund brand new cots, bedding and high chairs, and kitchens. Recently a medical mission visited from Europe and carried out a number of corrective surgeries, in co-operation with the local hospital.

Many of the children go on to be adopted after surgery, so it's great news that further missions are planned to transform more little lives.

These babies are taking a break from the heat of the Chinese summer!



IT'S OFFICIAL COCOA has the best supporters ever. We are constantly amazed at your effort and imagination (not to mention the physical agonies you endure) in the name of raising money for us.



Merci beaucoup! David Cox ran the Paris marathon and raised a staggering amount for COCOA.

David Keniston flew the flag - literally - cycling 300 miles along the Great Wall of China.



Gernot and his colleagues from University of Nottingham Ningbo stretched their legs in Hong Kong.

It's always particularly good to hear of young people doing their bit to help others - so thanks go especially to the pupils of Thornden School and St Francis of Assisi College who have all raised fantastic sums for COCOA. Meanwhile the Y5 pupils at St John's Primary in Stoke on Trent who were learning about China held a beetle drive to raise money for orphans. Thank you all!

STOP PRESS! Paul Jacques is cycling 320 miles from Hull to Hammersmith on 18-19 September, at the time of the Moon Festival, to raise money for COCOA. Please help his pedal power at www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/hulltohammersmith.



Huanying ni lai Zhonghua! (welcome to China!)

Robyn and Wenny, who bought the holiday to Shanghai at our fundraising evening, wrote to tell us about their trip.

"We spent our days walking around the various districts of Shanghai, hitting the tourist spots early in the morning to avoid the crowds, having lunch in a restaurant, where we invariably had no clue what we were ordering, sometimes finding the odd marshmallow filled dumpling on our plates instead of the chicken we had expected. Dinner tended to be safer as we followed the guide book to some great restaurants, despite the constant unexpected appearance of chicken feet in our dishes, and even to a spectacular world-famous circus which included 5 women crawling out from a flower pot and 6 motorbikes doing loops, nose to tail in a cage.



But what turned out to be one of the most unexpected and amazing things about the trip for us was the people we met. It was at first one of the biggest shocks; small elements of cultural differences are noticed so quickly. But after the first day, the people in China became one of the greatest appeals of the city. We began to realise the difference a smile can make. Our Chinese was not extensive but we began to realise that in China you don't actually need to talk that much. A big smile, some hand gestures and a couple of words were enough to get by in a place where everyone is willing to try and help you work your way around the busiest city in the world."

SPONSOR A CHILD AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE !

We still have lots of children waiting for sponsors.

Please e-mail us at cocoalon@aol.com or return the form below for information on child sponsorship.

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!



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).

COCOA CARE OF CHINA'S ORPHANED AND ABANDONED
14A MILL HILL ROAD, LONDON W3 8JA TEL 020 8752 0643 FAX 020 8752 0642
E-MAIL cocoalon@aol.com WEB www.cocoa.org.uk www.buy.at/cocoachina
UK REGISTERED CHARITY 1049321