



April/May Report 2011



Lao Wang orphanage visit

Little Ones with Big Hearts:

Article by Rachel from Shanghai Centre Preschool: Under the theme of Charity, Shanghai Centre Preschool held activities to allow the children to learn about sharing with the less fortunate ones. We talked about how blessed we are to have Daddies, Mommies and Grandparents who gave us good food, warm clothing and plenty of toys to play with. Julie from Mifan Mama came by to share about the children in the orphanage and what we can give and share with them.

To make it fun for the children, the school organized Mini Flea Markets to raise fund for Mifan Mama. We encouraged the parents to help their children to select toys, books, etc which they no longer need and sell them off at 10 Kuai each. The children 'managed' the stalls and they chanted '10 Kuai, 10 Kuai!' Parents, families and friends were invited to browse the stalls and spend generously. So far, we had two flea markets, once during Christmas, and once in spring, and we managed to collect a total of 2000 Kuai! Though the value is not a lot, but it has been a really meaningful and valuable lesson for the class.

In addition to the proceeds from the flea market, the parents also donated many items, such as rice, milk powder, baby food, clothing, bikes, scooters, strollers, crib, etc. We hope that all these will come in handy for the children in the orphanage.

Julie says: What an amazing way to start the month. It is never too early in life to learn to help Love and Care about others.

Thank you to Rachel, the parents and especially the children. It was such a privilege for Tony, Faith and I to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Curves:

We are delighted to report on the second anniversary of Curves Shanghai and their customers organising and donating food for the children of Lao Wang's Orphanage in Anhui. Big thanks to Kim and Jaclyn and the team.

Mifan Mama is so lucky to have the support and be a part of this wonderful venture that Curves worldwide does every April to collect food and donate to those in need.

Their customers give food instead of paying their monthly subs. for slimming and exercise. How wonderful is this that while getting fit they give back to those needing food. This year they collected rice, nappies, milk formula, baby food, flour, toilet paper, and many other items. Terry very kindly volunteered to go to the different Curves locations with the truck to collect everything prior to our distribution - we nearly needed two trucks this month to do the deliveries!

A group of 16 ladies led by Jaclyn left Shanghai on Saturday 7 May to meet up with the Mifan Mama group at Lao Wang's Orphanage the next day to help with the unloading and distribution of the food and donated items. We had a difficult start on a very hot day, but the joy that these ladies brought to the children was wonderful. The orphanage now has enough food for a few months. Thank you to everyone from Curves who helped with this project.



Diebold Inc.

Mifan Mama is pleased to welcome and extend our thanks to a new corporate sponsor, Diebold Inc., who design and manufacture automatic teller machines (ATMs). This month Diebold sponsored an employee community service project to benefit Mifan Mama in their outreach to orphans.

Through the generosity of Diebold's Shanghai associates, Mifan Mama has received:

Books: 184 pieces Wash powders + wash liquid: 52 bags Diapers: 8 bags Milk powders: 6 cans Soap: 47 pieces Shampoo: 4 bottles Body Care Stuff: 7 pieces Pens: 22+2 boxes Water Bottles: 1 Thank you, Diebold, for caring for many precious orphans!

Marks & Spencer:

Marks & Spencer Shanghai have been amazing by giving us various donations in the last few months, from new clothing and toiletries to lots of other items. These were shared amongst the three orphanages that received support this month: we sent a truck full of donated items to Jiangxi, Fuyang, and Lao Wang. Thank you M&S for your generosity and support.

Santa Fe

Thank you to Sam and the team from Santa Fe who are supporting us. When you relocate back home using Santa Fe, you can donate items you no longer want through them, which is wonderful. We pass these on to those in need, so we are now able to spread our help.

The Phoenix Shop at Concordia

Thank you to Suzy, Fawn and all the other parents for their donation of new 24 boxer shorts, 72 pyjama bottoms, 21 short-sleeved t-shirts, and 2 long-sleeved t-shirts, as well as 200 ink pens on lanyards. These will be delivered to the children at Lao Wang's Orphanage during our visit on 4/5 June.

Some background information which you might like to know: Six years ago a group of parents at Concordia decided to start a school spirit shop. The Phoenix Shop is parent-run and not funded by the school. For the previous 5 years, any profit made by the Phoenix Shop was directed back into the Shop to buy additional merchandise. This year the Phoenix Shop was finally able to "give back" and Mifan Mama was one organisation that benefitted.

Thank you to:

□ Dr George, Ying Ko and the Staff of the Shanghai United Family Hospital

□ The 'Dashing Divas' ladies cycle group, who did two sponsored bike rides, the proceeds of which have been donated to Mifan Mama. A fun way to raise money!

□ Australian Women's Social Group

□ RefComp

□ Mai and her team

□ Anna and the sisters

□ SCF Church in Puxi

And to all of you who donated this month: we can't do it without you. We really appreciate everything. Every one of you is special - thank you.

Book Launch:

Look out for Anna Willett & Mifan Mama's Book Launch Party on 16 June 2011. We hope to put details of the launch on our website soon, or more information can be obtained by emailing mifanmama@gmail.com. All proceeds of our book will go to our orphans' education fund. We hope you will support this project by buying the book.

Other News:

We had a wonderful trip to visit Lao Wang's children on 7/8 May. We were very lucky to have many people travelling with us for the first time. I always feel it is very important to visit and see how you are making a difference and what you can do to help. Dr George and his team gave up their time to travel with us and check on the sick babies and children to see where Mifan Mama and the Shanghai United Family Hospital can help. They did a wonderful job and a few of the carers asked for Doctor George's help as well. Three children have been identified as needing our immediate help and they will be brought back to Shanghai for check-up and treatments when we visit over the weekend of 4/5 June.

We also visited four babies who were in the local hospital who need our help. There will be more news on these children in the next report.

Since writing the last report, we now have baby James staying with us. He is three months old and is from Egg Granny in Xian. He will need surgery, but this can only be done when he is one year old, so he will stay with us until then. He is a lovely little boy, always smiling and very content. Faith now has a baby brother: she is very curious about him. Her sight seems to be getting stronger every day. Tony and I feel we are so blessed to have these wonderful children in our lives and to be able to take care of them in any small way we can.

Project Shining Star:

We have formed a project team for this and are all busy with our allotted tasks. We will travel to Beijing on 31 May to visit a blind village, which we hope will give us a better understanding of how to help these precious children. To those of you who have already donated to this project, thank you from the bottom of my heart. We still have a very long way to go to achieve our goal, but we **will** make this a reality.

Website:

Recently Stephan and Gabi have relocated back to Germany. Not only have we lost our friends, but we have also lost valuable volunteers. Stephan has been running our website for the last two years. We are now in desperate need for someone to take this on for us. If you are able to help, please contact us on our email mifanmama@gmail.com

Volunteers:

We are always in need of volunteers: if you can help in any way, please contact us at mifanmama@gmail.com

We need: Project Leaders Volunteers: to join us on the trips to the Children Volunteers: to visit babies in hospital. Volunteers: for our craft programme Volunteers: to help at the warehouse. Volunteers: to help with the collection of donated items. Volunteers: to help with fundraising activities.

And many more opportunities

Always remember: every gift from the HEART is worth more than a thousand lottery wins to you, and especially to those that receive.

The photos on the following pages were taken during our May visit to Lao Wang's Orphanage.

We hope these, and this report, give you an understanding of the work being undertaken, with your help, by Mifan Mama for these precious children.

Love & Happiness to you all

Julie Martens

Mifan Mama President