



Boxes of Love Jan 2010

Boxes of Love 2010 & 31 January 2010 - Lao Wang Orphanage Visit

To all of you who participated in the donating and or the making up Boxes of Love for Orphan's Chinese New Year presents, wasn't it amazing!! I was always taught that it is better to give than receive and there is so much joy in giving, it is wonderful. The Boxes of Love project and the taking part in it, certainly shows you this.

A big thank you to Carmen who asked, "are we doing the Boxes of Love project again in 2010?"

January 2009 had been the launch of Boxes of Love project, giving a small decorated box filled with presents to an Orphan as a Chinese New Year Present. With a lot of door knocking and hard work we achieved 584 +- boxes and delivered them as far as Suzhou.

In December 2009 Lao Wang's Orphanage in Anhui had been included in the Giving Tree Project and because of this we had not planned to send out Boxes of Love for 2010 Chinese New Year. When the email arrived from Carmen, I thought of all the other orphans who would not be receiving presents for Chinese New Year, those who did not know there were people out there, like you, who wanted to show their love and send a Box of Love to them. So that was it, we would do the Boxes of Love project for 2010 Chinese New Year and touch as many hearts with your love as we could. I am glad to report that we topped 2200 Boxes and these were delivered to 19 orphanage's all over China. These were the recipients:

- Tiger Hill Suzhou
- ShanYang
- Nanjing Disable Centre
- Anhui Fu Nan
- Anhui Dandelion
- Jiangsu Gaoyou
- Kaifeng Henan
- Zu Madian City Fountain of Love
- Home of Love
- Xi'an City Egg Granny
- Shanghai Huge Grace
- Wuxi Welfare Home
- Shanghai Home Sweet Home
- Sunqiao Helena Home of Hope
- Lao Wang's Children Anhui
- Ru Zhou City Jin Kang Hospital
- Nan Yang Home of Love
- Shanxi Green Harbour
- Harbin Silk Road of Love

A huge thank you to all those that took part, including, the parents or staff at the following companies:

- Fortune Kindergarten
- Holiday Inn Pudong
- InfoSys
- Intercontinental Hotel Pudong
- Intercontinental Shanghai Expo Hotel
- KeytronicEMS
- Nexans
- SAP
- Trayton Furniture
- WWWins Consulting

plus loads of other individuals and organisations too numerous to list.

Thank you for those who shopped, filled and decorated their boxes and also to those who, although very busy, gave donations so that we could shop for you and fill your boxes. Thank you Diane, Dot, Katja and Sangita especially!!!!

As we approach the 2010 Chinese New Year I can report that all 2200+ orphan children have received their presents ISN'T IT AMAZING !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! MiFan MaMa as an organization is very humbled by the outpouring of your hearts for these children.

Judith's children at Home of Love were the first to have their boxes delivered and Silk Road of Love in Harbin were the last, receiving theirs Friday 5th February

I have been so privileged to have been able to personally deliver many of the boxes.

First, Diane and I traveled to the Tiger Hill Orphanage in Suzhou, MiFan MaMa has a very good relationship here and after loading the boxes in the car and leaving home at 6am we arrived outside the orphanage at 8.30am. We had been asked to be there for 9.00am so we had a 30 min wait. Then we were warmly greeted by the Orphanage Director and my friend Molly who is a



teacher there .The car was reversed into the grounds and in we went. There were very excited staff and children and we all started to unload the boxes into the ground floor classroom. About eight older children had followed us into the classroom and each had already decided which box they wanted by looking at the outside decoration.

Children opening their Boxes in Suzhou

Then it was off to see the babies and toddlers and into the playroom to help

the smaller ones open their Boxes. Diane and I were a bit worried they would be sick seeing what they were eating so early in the morning. One little girl who had been in her cot when we went through her room en route to the playroom held out her arms for Diane to pick her up and bring her with us to the playroom which she did very willingly.



Picture of the Babies in Suzhou with their Boxes of Love.

The next day Dot and I loaded the car and headed for Wuxi, again we started out at 6.00am. When we arrived the children were so excited and they were ready to start their school day. Dot and I were treated to seeing them do their exercises to music, it was so contagious and we were soon trying to join in. Thank you, they were so happy with their presents. It really makes a difference to their lives.

Friday I had a break from delivering and it was time again for Diane, Dot and I to prepare the boxes to go out on the Saturday, it was a lot of work and midmorning Katja phoned to ask how we were doing. The next moment she had come out of work and was at my house giving us a hand. For Saturday we had ordered a truck, as we had 530 boxes for two destinations in Anhui, we also had food and other donated children's clothes and toys. The truck left and we would catch up with it on Sunday at Fu Yang. The next job was to pack more boxes in the car that we would

deliver to Nanjing disable home. Tony, Roy, Duan Duan, Dot and I climbed in the car with our clothes and snacks for the journey.

The Nanjing Disable Centre was amazing, the children had been waiting since early morning for us and welcomed us with singing. Helen showed us around the facility which she is very proud of, the children showed us their works of art and crafts and then we gave them their presents. Thank you, they were so happy to receive them it was a joy to see.

Sunday Morning saw us catching up with the truck and here we were at the Anhui Dandelion centre, it was very difficult to find down all the narrow back streets of Fu Yang. How our truck had got down there I will never know. Dandelion is home to 16 disabled children and a day centre for another 304 disabled children that are living in the surrounding counties and Mr Ma at Dandelion looks after them. One boy remained there all others had returned to whatever home they have for the holiday period. This young man followed Dot everywhere, wanting her to share his Box of Love with him. It never ceases to amaze me that wherever we go these children who have so little want to share what they have with others. Isn't life wonderful, it certainly makes you feel this way when you experience their giving. We left clothes, food and rice for the children's return and have agreed to supply 4 x 2.5kg bags a month to help with the feeding of these children. They are also in need of books and as they have none, this was their wish.

Next it was on to Fu Nan to deliver 210 Boxes of Love for children scattered across 4 counties. Here we discovered that they run a self help program where you can sponsor a duck or chicken to start small farms. We are very excited to return to this area and see what else we can do to help. A huge thank you from these children, now they know you care.

Monday was a rest day and make up more boxes with Diane, Dot and my ayi, Sun Xi.

Tuesday my driver and I filled the car with boxes and off we went to Gaoyou to deliver your presents and love to the children. After getting stuck in the traffic, we finally arrived 7 hours after leaving home. This was an amazing visit the children were so excited with their boxes, I meet up with a young lady who works in Home Sweet Home(Shanghai) she was back at home in the Orphanage for the holidays. We had lunch together with the Orphanage Principal then it was back to visit with the children. The child that touched my heart was a little girl of 8 who can't see, talk or hear. What a pretty girl, now trapped in her own world, she only has her connection through being touched, it is so important to connect with these children. Thank you, she was so happy with the Box of Love you made especially for her.

Friday morning arrived and then so did our truck and trusty drivers to put boxes on pallets and then cling wrap, along with the address where they would be delivered to.

These are the boxes that we could not deliver personally as they are so far away, but the photos of the recipients will be circulated when available. Friday we also put boxes in the car and traveled to Home Sweet Home for delivering to the young adults there, who are also Orphans and as now older, have left the comfort of the Orphanages and would end up on the

street through no fault of their own. Home Sweet Home and the staff are amazing people who give these older Orphans a family and a home and a job. They were very happy with their boxes and the love you sent them, thank you.

Saturday arrived and Terry from Helena Home of Hope arrived as he thankfully always does to help us load the truck with the Boxes of Love, food, toys and clothes for Lao Wang's children in Anhui. Firstly we gave Terry the Boxes of Love for the Orphan children that stay at him and his wife Jessie. Thank you for sending your Love to them.

What an exciting weekend, we took a bus with 30 seats and for the 27 passengers that joined us to deliver your Boxes of Love to Lao Wang's Orphanage what a wonderful trip. By 10.45 we were all aboard the MiFan MaMa bus delivering Boxes of Love. Tony had banners made saying this and our bus driver was very proud to be part of our trip and greeted us very warmly as we boarded the bus. George our SAP MiFan MaMa volunteer and the person in charge of our trip marked us in as we boarded and counted to make sure no one was left behind. George did an amazing job throughout the whole weekend and therefore a thank you from all to George for everything you did.



The sky was dark and menacing as we were departing Shanghai but for all of us on the bus our stomachs were filled with butterflies we were all so excited to visit the children and spend and share this special time with them all. For the majority of the people on board the bus it was the

first time visiting the children but by the end of Sunday I was sure it would not be their last. Katja and George started on the microphone by welcoming everyone on board and then letting each one introduce themselves and say why they were on this trip. It was lovely meeting such a mixed group of people all with loving, caring hearts all on this trip to bring the gift of giving and love to these children. Most of them had seen our photos of previous trips but found it hard to imagine what they would find on their arrival. Katja and George proceeded to give details of MiFan MaMa, the Boxes of Love project and all about Lao Wang's Orphanage. It was agreed to take rest breaks every two hours and the time went very quickly and soon we were on the outskirts of Hefei. We were booked into three different hotels depending on preference. We checked into our hotels and then got back on the bus and proceeded to the restaurant that George had managed to book us all into. We congregated around two large tables and shared our food and thoughts on what the next day would bring. The weather was still bad and raining quite heavily.

After dinner some of the younger group headed for the KTV bar whilst the rest of us went back to our hotel rooms, we knew the next day would be a very long and emotional one.

Dawn broke on Sunday and the sun was shining it was a glorious day. We all boarded the bus on time and departed Hefei and on the road to Fu Yang in no time. George and Katja again manned the microphone and we started deciding what games we would play with the children. SAP also had thank you cards for the children to draw on for us to give to the people who had donated the Boxes of Love but as we all know things do not always go as we plan.

When we were about 10 minutes from the Orphanage we phoned ahead to ask them to put up the tables (which they usually do) so that as soon as we arrived we could unload the Boxes of Love and the fruit and start to distribute them to the children.

When we arrived the courtyard of the Orphanage was full, there was our truck and there was another coach. This coach had brought the most wonderful group of ladies and men who were a cancer support group from the Red Cross and had also traveled a long way to bring gifts and their love to these orphan children.

We eventually got some order and got the tables up and the volunteers from the bus proceeded to hand the children their Boxes of Love, fruit and traditional red envelope. The children were all so excited although for some it was a lot to hold in their small hands. The Boxes of Love were so brightly coloured and the children were so happy with the box and not only the content. These boxes would be treasured long after the content had been eaten as somewhere to store their meager possessions .THANK YOU EVERYONE you really made Chinese New Year Special..

We crossed the courtyard and climbed the stairs so not to forget the disabled adults on the second floor. We peeled oranges and helped them, they were so happy to see us. It's good to catch up with the man who waves from the window, he is always very happy and smiling. The caring staff that work with these adults are very special people indeed.

Next it was time to unload the rest of the truck so that the very patient drivers could leave and have sometime with their families who live in Anhui before their return trip to Shanghai. This time we especially thank Fruits HS and Sufi for all the boxes of clothes and wonderful donation for food for the children and thank you to all the Fruits HS website readers who contributed.

A big thank you to Moira and the parents at YCIS for their kind donations, everyone was so happy with the things that had been donated. We are so lucky that we do not have to think where our next set of clothes will come from or that our shoes have a hole or are too small and how do we get another pair. With your help these children and the Mummies and Daddies (these are their carers) don't have to worry now either.

Of course the children all look for the toys as these are a real luxury and this time we had taken three outgrown bicycles, these are also things that may be of no use to your children who have grown but they give immense pleasure to those that hardly ever see a child's bike.

Then it was off the truck with the food & milk powder. Thank you to Lillian, Anna and the sisters. The rice and the flour sacks are a bit heavy and the flour sends those that carry it very white: ask Tony! I saw some youngsters carrying two bags on their shoulders. These sacks are taken to the store room and we are told how, thanks to your support these children now have a decent meal every second day (they eat every day) when it used to be every second week. This is what consistent support brings, security to make their life better and Lao Wang is able to use other money to buy other food and improve things for the children.

I spoke to Effie and to Feddy and they both commented how the children have grown in the two months since their last visit, I notice how well they look in comparison to the previous January. YOU HAVE ALL MADE THIS DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THESE CHILDREN; I THANK YOU ON THEIR BEHALF.

One year of continuous support has brought about a big change in their lives LET'S CONTINUE TO GROW TOGETHER WITH THESE SPECIAL CHILDREN.

We are soon all heading towards the dining room where we hear music and as I strain to see over the top of heads I see two of the girls who are about 10 or 11 dancing with the Red Cross support group. As the music stops, Katja and I are grabbed and persuaded to sing for the children: we do our rendition of 'heads, shoulders, knees and toes' along with the actions and then we join the support group and everyone else with the Chinese Happy New Year to You. It was wonderful, not a dry eye in the house, this is proving to be a very emotional day. No sooner had the music stopped and every one of the children are lining up for lunch. This is a very special lunch and one we can thank you our supporters for, as we, with your help have donated money for this special meal, which we all shared together as one very big happy family. After lunch it was time for MiFan MaMa to give red envelopes to the Mummies and Daddies on your behalf, what better way to let them know we really appreciate all they do on a daily basis for these children.

During all this time there wasn't much time for game playing or painting with the children but the people from our bus were busy visiting those children that cannot get out of bed, those who stare at four walls and a ceiling all day and never complain. Thanks to King Koil these children are comfy in the mattresses they have especially made for them. We then had a time of exploring and getting to know the children and where they live; a very precious time. These children have come to accept us as their family as have their Mummies and Daddies. Communication is always a small problem, just a feeling of small frustration on our part but love soon shows us there are no barriers - everyone wants a hug and very soon get it.

Everlasting friendships are forged, just as all from our bus will not forget these wonderful children; the children will never forget them and their love and kindness.

We all pose for photos - everyone wants to capture this very special moment.

Jane and her team from WWWins Consulting are making a video for us about this trip. We hope to use this video to enlighten school children and adult groups in Shanghai about less fortunate children, to show however poor they are, they always care about others and share what they have - what a shining example to us all.

SAP also had photographers: I am using some of George's photos for this report. We hope to share as many photos possible with you all, after the New Year

The volunteer from the Red Cross tells Katja and myself about a family who are all very severely ill. We agree to supply food for this family as they have no money and their plight has already been shown on Chinese TV. (Roy has already investigated this, so we know there is a real need). We give the Red Cross Volunteer enough money to buy this family rice, flour and oil for 6 months. In addition we are able to give them a bag of rice, flour and a bottle of oil from Lao Wang's supply. The man from the Red Cross asks that we deliver these items personally on the way home: he assures us it is on our way. So we agree and he joins us on our bus with 3 volunteers for our return journey.

All too soon it is time to say goodbye to everyone and lots of tears are shed on both sides. Although we will be back in one month and these children and everyone here has a place in our hearts it is still so sad. One of the Mummies is hugging me crying and thanking us for all we do. I tell her it is us who thank them as they are the ones who look after these children 24 hours a day, everyday. They are the one who teach these children love and caring by their example, how lucky these children are for although their possessions are few their hearts are bursting with LOVE and CARING and SHARING. We have the privilege to have been a part of this, to have experienced this, even if only for a short time.

Then we get on the bus some passengers are leaning out of the window sharing a last handshake with these wonderful people. Soon we are driving down the road, we wave, and they wave, and soon are just dots in the distance. The bus is silent: we have all had different experiences on this visit, each of us has our own treasured memories to take away until we visit the next time.

We now have the Red Cross volunteer and his helpers on the bus, but on further investigation we find it will take us an extra 5 hours to make this visit to this family. Unfortunately this is not possible, as lots of people on the bus must get to work the next day and even now we will not arrive home until 12.00 midnight. We agree to sort the Red Cross team out another car and further down the highway we stop and there is another car waiting, we all exchange hugs and greetings for this family, and then we part.

What a journey this has been, This BOXES OF LOVE journey started in early December and lasted until 5th February when the last boxes arrived. All these 2200 ORPHAN CHILDREN received their gifts thanks to YOU and YOU and YOU.

LET US DO IT ALL AGAIN FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR 2011 AND WE WILL DO 5000 BOXES.

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!