



## Report March 2011

Dear Mifan Mama Sponsors, Supporters & Volunteers

March was another busy month for Mifan Mama - thank you all for your continued support and encouragement. I hope you enjoy reading our latest news.



Kids at Lao Wangs

### **1. Shining Star: Mifan Mama Foster Home for Blind Orphans**

Amanda launched our Shining Star project with a wonderful fund raiser at her home - a Greek lunch with Greek music - she raised 4100rmb. Shining Star will be ready to go by September 2011. We ask those of you who would like to be involved in this project to contact us. We need sponsors for the monthly rental and utilities, as well as the salaries of the carers.

Shining Star will be a home for blind orphans from birth to 8, when they can attend Government blind schools and then it will still be a home for them to return to in the holidays from school. This is a long term project. The home will be located in Shanghai and house up to 10 children in a loving environment. Shining Star will be fully funded by donations and volunteers' time. The home will be a stepping stone for these children on their journey in life and give them the ability to reach their full potential. Please contact us for more details: we can't achieve this much needed facility without your help and support.

**2. Mary**, our school project leader, came back from a trip to Peru in February and was straight away fund raising with her friend Shiva in yoga style, at Raja Yoga Studios. A big thank

you to them and to Kazu who provided the food. Everyone had a wonderful day doing the 108 Sun Salutations and they raised 1575rmb for the children.

**3. Thank you to all those of you who came to our Concert fund raiser at the Shanghai Center on Saturday 26th March.** A staggering 224,000rmb was raised for the medical needs of Chinese orphans that we support. A big thank you to Bernadette and her Team; East Mandarin; Yingko & the Shanghai United Family Hospital; and Vina & her Team at ICS. There will be a separate report on our website about the concert in due course. What an amazing event, all done on a zero budget. Congratulations and a big thank you to all performers, sponsors and donors. Thank you everyone.

**4. Lao Wang brought Tang Da Zhe and Lydia (Xing Xing)** from the orphanage for us to try and help them with their eyesight. We took them to Jinghxi hospital but after many tests and MRI's, the doctors were unable to help them. It is very important that these children are diagnosed early so as to help them in the physical and mental challenges they may face in life from an early age. It also shows us again the need for Shining Star to help and assist blind orphans from a young age.

### **5. Thank you to:**

Marks & Spencer who donated new clothing and shampoo for the orphans we support.

SCIS Hongqiao Campus for their rice and toy drive. They collected more than 200 kgs of rice, and lots of toys.

Manor Court Baptist Church for their donation. They are in the UK and contact is through a teacher at SCIS. These gifts were sent to Lao Wang on the 2/3 April trip.

The Russian, German, Italian, UK, American and French communities for your kind donations of clothing and especially to the Japanese community at this time.

Sorry to those I have forgotten for the moment, but thank you to every one of you who has donated this month. This is what helps us to help these orphan children and for them to have a better quality of life. Everything you don't need is needed by someone.

Thank you to the young Chinese girl who travelled for 2 hours to reach my home to donate clothing for these children - you really touched my heart.

Terry, Jessie and the girls who are running the warehouse for us collecting, sorting and sending out all of your donations. These girls are also orphans who have now left the orphanage they grew up in as they are older and are now looked after and mentored by Terry and Jessie.

and also thank you to:

The Shanghai Center  
The Intercontinental Hotel Pudong  
IBHS  
The Hilton Hotel  
Curves  
East Mandarin  
SCF Church Puxi  
Australian Women's Social Group (AWSG)  
Rice Mommies America  
Anna, Lillian and the sisters in Hong Kong  
AWSG knitting ladies  
Phyllis for her lovely knitting  
Shanghai Knitting Guild

Thank you to all of you who donate and sponsor us. We can't do it without you

6. In April Mifan Mama and the children at Lao Wang's Orphanage in Anhui will be benefitting from this year's **Curves Food Drive**. (See the report on our website for details of the 2010 Curves Food Drive). We are extremely grateful for this support.

Also coming shortly is the launch of a book by Anna Willett, the proceeds of which are going to the Education fund for Chinese orphans Mifan Mama supports. Anna spent four days living with the orphans to research this publication. It's a wonderful photographic book and I can't wait to get a copy.

**Shanghai Serenade** has made a CD of wonderful music. Proceeds from sales will go to four charity projects: Baobei, Shanghai Healing Home, Mifan Mama and Shining Star. Email us if you would like a copy.

Look out for these at the summer Bazaars.

Isn't it wonderful? - we all have a talent - let's use them to benefit others as these ladies are doing.

**7. Faith (Xiao Xia)** has had her eye surgery and yes, she can see out of both eyes! To what extent we don't know yet, but this will grow stronger as she learns to use her eyes. She will have another check up next month by the doctors, and then she can receive glasses. Her hearing aid is also being made and we hope she will receive it soon. She grows stronger every day and for all of you who support us this is what can be achieved by helping these children. She has had surgery for the two holes in her heart, eye surgery and hearing correction. She will lead a normal life because of your help. If everyone does a little and helps a little, look what can

happen. She will be able to walk, run, see, hear and speak, all of which was impossible for her before. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I have just received a phone call: she will receive her hearing aid tomorrow I am so excited. I am so slow writing this report that I can tell you I took Faith to the hospital for her hearing aid and yes she can hear! the doctor played music on his telephone and she heard it. How much we don't know, but what a start. I spoke to her from a little distance and she turned her head to me: you could see she had heard and laughed. It was one of those very magical moments that shows how precious life and living is and how we take so many of our blessings for granted.

Let's not rest there. Let's help the next child that needs us, ONE CHILD at a time.

Love and Happiness to you all

Julie Martens

Co-Founder Mifan Mama