



CHINA CARE
Foundation "It took one child."

CARE NOTE

June 2008

Homes for China Care Children

Dang Gui Ke

In early 2007, Karen and Chad Merlet adopted two-year old Dang Gui Ke, who had been living in one of China Care's foster homes. Dang Gui Ke was born with a club foot. China Care provided the critical tenotomy surgery he needed to correct his foot and gave him love and care while he recuperated. Soon after his surgery, the Merlets, who are from Virginia, made Dang Gui Ke part of their family. The Merlets report that after undergoing an additional surgery here in the United States, Dang Gui Ke, who is now Jacob Merlet, is adjusting quite well to his newfound life. Read excerpts from their letter below:

I wanted to drop you a line and let you know how wonderful Jacob is doing... Since his tenotomy he is finally able to run! It is precious to watch him run after his brothers and sisters. He loves to follow them everywhere.

Jacob is speaking more and more. He still grunts a lot, but he seems to be trying to say the words more. If we ask him to repeat what he said, he is always willing to try again. He has the kindest heart. He always makes sure that Julia has whatever he has (a cookie, candy, sticker, etc.) If she doesn't have one, or if she wants more, he will break his and share with her. It is enough to melt your heart. He is also protective of the rest of his siblings too.

And his smile... Wow, it's enough to make anyone smile. He actually has dimples in his chin!

I hope it is obvious how much we love this awesome little boy. We are forever grateful to China Care and his foster parents for taking such good care of him.

*Thank you so much,
Karen & Chad Merlet*



Record Adoptions in 2007

Dang Gui Ke was just one of our children adopted last year. In 2007, China Care helped 63 orphans find their "forever families" – that's more China Care kids placed in adoptive families than in any other year since our founding. This milestone proves that the China Care model is working, fulfilling our mission to give special needs children a chance at a better life. Our goal is to treat their underlying medical conditions and when healthy, place them into loving foster families with the hope of eventual adoption.

Harvard China Care Club and Chai-Maginn Family Open Fifth Children's Home

Thanks to the tireless fundraising efforts of the Harvard China Care Club and the generous support of the Jenzabar Foundation and the Chai-Maginn Foundation, we opened our fifth children's home in Baoji, which is in China's north central Shaanxi Province. The new home, which cares for orphans with medical issues, welcomed its first children in November 2007.

The efforts of the Harvard students and the extraordinary contributions of the Chai-Maginn family also make it possible for China Care to operate this home on a daily basis. As a result, we are giving children halfway around the world a chance at a brighter future.



**Due to the devastating earthquake in May 2008, we have temporarily moved our children in the Baoji Children's Home to Beijing. (see article below)*

Update on the China Earthquake

On May 12, 2008, when a massive earthquake struck Chengdu in southern China, our children and staff at the Baoji Children's Home felt the earth shudder. While no China Care children or staff were injured, our Baoji home did incur some cracks in its walls from the destructive quake. In the weeks following the disaster, repeated aftershocks continued to rock the surrounding areas,



which forced the orphans and staff in our Baoji Children's Home into tents for fear that more buildings would fall. We have since evacuated the children and moved them temporarily to Beijing.

We are currently reaching out to local orphanages in Chengdu to see how we can help the many children left homeless. Our hearts go out to the millions of people affected by this catastrophe.

Story of Pan Lei

On the afternoon of Wednesday, January 16, 2008, the Baotou orphanage in Inner Mongolia called China Care's Baotou Children's Home and asked if there was an empty bed. They had just received a newborn boy who had been abandoned in the bitter cold of Mongolia and suffered from anal atresia, a life threatening birth defect that occurs when a baby is born with no anus. Without immediate surgery the baby, named Pan Lei, would certainly die. However, there were no train tickets available that day from Baotou to Beijing, where the surgery would have to take place.

The Baotou China Care staff were so moved by the strength of this baby's spirit and his determination to live that they called Beijing and asked if it might be possible for the baby to fly instead of take the train. This was a highly unusual request since the cost of flying is much higher than traveling by bus or rail as the industry is much more regulated.

The biggest problem facing Pan Lei at that moment was not his anal atresia actually, but the fact that he could die of hypothermia. It would be a big risk to put him on a flight. One of the Baotou staff had decided that if the baby's



condition stabilized and he were able to fly, she would pay for the ticket out of her own pocket and bring him to Beijing.

Pan Lei's condition did stabilize enough so that he and the China Care staff member flew to Beijing late that night. Upon arrival, China Care Medical Program staff rushed him to the hospital where the surgeons, recognizing the urgency of his condition, took him into the operating room almost immediately.

Pan Lei's surgery went well, but his post-op recovery was complicated by the lingering effects of his traumatic abandonment



and exposure to the extreme cold. He weighed only 4 pounds and the experience of being left in the frigid Mongolian winter had taken its toll on his tiny

body. He developed pneumonia and his legs became stiff, red and swollen. After several extra days in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, he "graduated" to the regular ward, though he was still being cared for in an incubator. He improved every day, and was eventually allowed to take feedings from a bottle. Unfortunately, after days of progress, Pan Lei unexpectedly lost his battle to survive. His life, however, will not be forgotten, as his story inspires China Care to continue fighting for the children in China like Pan Lei, who have no voice and so little hope.



China Care in 2007

- 360 children supported by China Care at any given time
- 188 children taken into a China Care home
- 171 surgeries provided for critically ill children
- 94 special needs orphans placed into foster families
- 84 volunteers provided help for China Care's children
- 63 China Care children adopted
- 15 children received an education in our Group Educational Foster Homes
- 5 China Care Children's Homes provided love and care to orphans
- \$60,000 in grants and loans awarded to families adopting special needs orphans

Thank You JP Morgan Chase

In October 2007, JP Morgan Chase hosted a golf outing at Jumping Brook Golf Club in Neptune, NJ, where participants contributed generously to the China Care cause. Both novice and experienced golfers came out to play the links that day and bid on an array of auction items from computers to sports memorabilia. Before the day was over, the golfers helped raise more than \$90,000 for China Care.



JP Morgan Chase also sponsored an evening of fun at the Marquee, a trendy night club in New York City. For the price of a ticket, the invited guests were treated to delectable appetizers, endless cocktails and popular dance music, all to benefit China Care. By the end of the evening, party-goers raised nearly \$70,000 for China Care.

More than \$160,000 raised!



We would like to extend a very special thank you to our friends at JP Morgan Chase for championing the China Care cause and helping us save the lives of so many orphans in China.

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Foundation™ It took one child.



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