

CLUBS GATHER AT CONFERENCE IN BOSTON



October 10, 2008

In early October, China Care clubs from across the country gathered in Boston to attend the China Care Clubs Conference. The conference, which was held at the Cambridge Marriott, brought club members together to learn more about the foundation they support and to share their ideas and experiences.

"Our goal was to provide a venue where clubs could forge relationships and collaborate on future efforts," said China Care's Youth Programs Coordinator, Katerina. "All of the clubs do outstanding work on our behalf," she added. "We are thrilled the conference was a success and are looking forward to making the next one even more effective."



Enjoying the pizza party

China Care kicked off the event on Friday night with a pizza party hosted by Harvard's China Care Club. More than 80 club members traveled from nine states to attend. Some came from as far away as California and Georgia. On Saturday, students were treated to a presentation by featured speaker Dr. Shiping Zheng, Associate Professor of International Studies at Bentley University. Dr. Zheng



Dr. Shiping Zheng address the conference

mesmerized the crowd with his perspective on China's culture and economy, eliciting laughter when he discussed the many contradictions about his homeland. He described China as an ancient civilization yet a young nation, and a rich country where the wealthy benefit from a rapidly growing economy, but one that is still encumbered by abject poverty.

Attendees also heard more about the organization in person from China Care's senior staff, including Executive Director Brent Johnson, who traveled from Beijing to share his experience with the group.

One club member said she gained valuable information that would help her club promote awareness. "All of the speakers were truly excellent and very informative," she commented. "I feel more in touch with the Foundation and more determined to do more as a club."

Throughout the day, students broke out into small workshops to discuss their efforts to fundraise, maintain membership, organize playgroups and mentoring programs, volunteer and effectively use communications.



Listening to Dr. Zheng

"I really enjoyed the workshop groups because it allowed me to find out about other clubs and get new ideas," said one student. Another remarked that, "It was really great to come to the conference and know that we aren't alone with what we are doing."