

QUAKERTOWN CLUB & FCC-LEHIGH VALLEY PARTNER TO RING IN THE YEAR OF THE RABBIT



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By Anya Kelly, President, Quakertown High School China Care Club

Since we started our China Care Club last fall, the Lehigh Valley Chapter of Families with Children from China (FCC) has been very supportive of our club's efforts to raise money for China Care. That didn't surprise me because my family and I have been affiliated with the FCC-Lehigh Valley since the time we were waiting to adopt my sister.

So when it came time to celebrate Chinese New Year and raise money for the children, it was a natural fit for our club to team up with the FCC-Lehigh Valley's Chinese New Year Celebration.

At our table, we sold chocolate covered pretzels and Oreo cookies because they had proved to be successful in the past. Two of our club members, Kelsey Mininger and Halie Mangiaruga, spent a Saturday dipping and decorating the goodies. We also sold China Care bracelets and t-shirts.



However, our club's primary focus was a raffle. We had something for everyone: two huge chocolate baskets, a "dad basket" with a gift card to Home Depot, a "family fun" basket, a "Tween" baskets, an iPod basket, a beautiful hand-milled soap basket, a Dunkin Donuts basket, a jewelry basket, China Sprout "Mei Ling" dolls, and many more. The raffle baskets filled three tables and generated a lot of interest.

Our Club also helped arrange a martial arts demonstration, a professional Lion Dance troupe, a Chinese folk dancing group, and a fantastic dance team from Lehigh University's Chinese Club. Between the entertainment, the food, and the fun with the raffle, everyone had a great time. More importantly, we were able to raise over \$2,200 for China Care - it was the largest and most successful event we've had to date for our new club.



The event was so successful that we've started planning next year's Chinese New Year celebration and we hope to partner with FCC-Lehigh Valley again. We've also volunteered to help some of the younger FCC girls, who have expressed interest in starting China Care Clubs in their own schools, with club-establishment logistics. We are thrilled that our Club is not only raising money for the children, but also reaching out beyond our high school thanks to our partnership with FCC-Lehigh Valley.