

Join the Building on Dreams Project with OCDF*!



An Orphanage
Needs Your Help
in Nearby Hebei
Province!

*Learn more about the
origin of this project
on back side of this
handout!*



Beijing's Global Community Challenge!

Each year in China 800,000-1,200,000 children are born with birth defects and disabling conditions. It's a huge challenge for society. Kids need our help! Join us in a weekend community service project to prepare a new home for children with disabilities and special needs orphans.

- Who?** Adults and Teens/Pre-teens from Beijing at large - everyone is welcome! ...middle and high school students, parents, teachers, embassy personnel, retirees, corporate employees and executives.
- What?** Weekend teams will go to the new orphanage site and do the following:
Spring grounds clean-up and garden preparation
Surface finishing the perimeter wall and painting it
Building a small barn and preparing for small farm animals
Preparing coal bin and storage
Plant trees and landscape
Install playground equipment
Prepare interior building for summer work crews
Install locks and security devices on doors/windows
Prepare ramps, railings, stairways for easier access
- When?** March 10th-12th or April 21st-23rd or May 19th-21st ---- Select one or all three weekends!
- Where?** Depart the parking lot by Steak and Eggs (Shunyi, near Western Academy International School) on Friday at 6:00 p.m. (please eat first or bring dinner on bus). Travel to Hebei Province and check-in at hotel. Saturday morning breakfast at hotel, transfer to orphanage site and work from 9-12 am. Lunch at restaurant. Return to work 2-5 pm. Dinner at hotel. Evening free time. Sunday morning work from 9-12 am. Clean-up at hotel. Lunch at restaurant. Return to Beijing (arrive back at WAB at approx. 6 pm).
- Cost?** 600 RMB per person (\$75.00 USD) includes transportation by charter bus, 2 nights hotel (double occupancy), 5 meals, and water. Supplies for work assignment. **Reservations required 2 weeks in advance!**
- What to Bring?** **Flexible work attitude!** Work casual - sturdy clothing and sturdy shoes (such as hiking boots or work boots), jacket, hat (can be windy in spring!), work gloves, safety goggles/glasses. What else to bring: Personal medication & toiletries, snacks, handwipes, a small hand towel and soap, change of clothes, and toilet tissue. If you have any lawn/garden equipment (please bring - have it labeled with your name)
- Contact?** Tony@ocdf.org or call 6407-9687 or cell #13552482008

*** Our Chinese Daughters Foundation (OCDF) - A US Non-profit Organization - see www.ocdf.org**



Building on Dreams Project

The Story...

There is a family who had raised their three children, 2 daughters and one son. The daughters were married already and the mother and father are in their early 50's. Their family home had been raised by the government and they had been given a new plot of land on the road leading to the city from the highway we were on, a nice corner lot with nice exposure. The family built a 4-room home for themselves there, the father doing most of the work - a very capable man. They are members of a 100 year-old Catholic Church. Then last summer their son was killed in an automobile accident and they were devastated. They mourned the loss of their son and turned to the church offering to help the church if they could. At the time the church asked the couple if they would take in 5 disabled children as foster parents and they agreed. The couple soon came to really care for the well-being of these five children. On their little plot of land they grew vegetables, had a small barn with 5 cows for milk, and they cared as best as they could for the kids. It is clear this family has a kind heart.

The husband decided he needed to do more, he wanted to do more. So, he started an amazing addition onto their home - a large L-shaped addition with a dozen or more rooms - bedrooms, kitchen, bathhouse, dining room, and space for a restaurant to make money to support having more children in their home - he was building their own orphanage. The quality of construction that this man was able to accomplish on this landsite is a real feat - the hand-layed brick wall, the out buildings, and foundation of the addition itself with finished walls and windows were hard work. It was an amazing labor of love for this man and he accomplished it all on his own. Until he had a heart attack and died while working on it - before it was finished! Everything sits where it was when he last worked there - shovels, scaffolding, wood, sand. The foundation is done, the walls are done and windows installed, plaster is completed, floors are tiled. He did this all himself. It remains to be completed and finished and that's what we discovered when we arrived there that day.

We met a gracious and smiling lady in her early 50s who is foster mother to two of the five original children (three were moved to a rural farm family for the time-being until the facility is completed). Those three children were brought for us to see as were others who will live there when the facility is completed. We toured her home, we wandered through the new addition and looked at it's possibilities. We saw the lady's photos of her deceased son and husband - the new wing dedicated to their memory. We asked why the barn was empty now - she had to sell the 5 cows to live on the money and support the kids with her husband gone. She wants to sign over her home and "orphanage" to the local government and have it managed with help from a local Beijing group. Her daughters approve. She will have life-rights to live there and she will help care for the kids. She is energetic and capable. We at OCDF also want to help her!

On this cold winter day there was only heat from a little pot belly stove in one room - her husband had not finished the plumbing and heating system. The coal pile was so small we almost didn't see it. A boiler for heating is essential. That remains to be done. The indoor plumbing not done, there's no running water inside nor indoor bathrooms as yet. The outhouse is hard to reach when you're disabled and the kids in her care just can't go there on their own. The water pipes were frozen so the only water they had was what was saved in large urns before winter. The new addition needs electrical work done too. Come spring there's the garden to plant, the yard and fruit trees needed, railings added for safety on the walkways, ramps for the disabled, and the purchase of goats/rabbits/chickens to have as source of food. The exterior property wall needs facing on

both sides with cement and then painted. Furniture, walls painted and decorated, drapes or curtains, supplies, and much more to run this facility are needed. It can't spontaneously support itself.

The coordinating church workers let us see the kids who will immediately be placed there - a blind child, four children with cerebral palsy, five children with various forms of mental incapacities, a 16 year old boy still in split pants but obviously attentive enough that with proper training can be toilet trained and learn to care for the small farm animals as a chore to help this lady out. We took the three children staying in the remote farm home back to their foster family who lived in a 2-room shed-like house. There were two large kangas - one in each room (these are stone beds with the heating vented underneath from the one pot belly coal stove in the house). It was not a clean home to say the least and the three generations living there plus the 3 foster kids made for 8 people in two rooms. The elderly grandpa sat on the kang, 77 year old with photos of Jesus, Mary, and The Last Supper above his head on the wall - a sight not often seen in China. The children obviously are loved and cared for by this family. We each felt like intruders and it was embarrassing to be checking on them like this. The kids were happy and seem to be fed well enough - they weren't too thin anyway. Maybe not much meat to eat in winter. The church pays this family 100 RMB (\$12 total) per month to take care of the 3 kids. It's important income for them. It's not much.

When we got back into the van we all just looked at each other. Whew! What a morning. The story of the father mourning his son and the dedication of his wife to the project he left behind was weighing heavy on us. The conditions of the foster families in the region but the loving care the kids are getting also was setting into our psyches. The needs and the to do list - long but not insurmountable. We felt like this was just the roll up your sleeves project we needed for the university and international school teachers/students who have been asking for volunteer opportunities without overwhelming established NGO facilities or government institutions with too many people at once. So we're committed and "in" as they say.

Back into the small city we went for a delightful lunch with the project manager and her brother who is studying theology (also an interesting person to encounter on a day that was turning out to be so different than what I had imagined). We feel like the pieces of the puzzle are coming together. Now to get the to do list formulated in detail and help determine what will get done when and by whom. We will start in Spring to clean up inside and outside. Try to secure furniture and clothing and other supplies needed from the Beijing expat community at large within China. We will buy coal for winter 2006-2007 and the boiler through the Coal for Kids Project.

How can you help OCDF with this project?

1. Donate to Coal for Kids for their boiler and heating needs.
2. Fundraising for the new orphanage is important for this project. Using the list on page 4, you can see what things will cost for this orphanage - supplies, food/milk, kitchen, bathroom, etc. \$25,000 is needed to finish the building but more is needed to run it and sustain it. Take on the costs for one room's furniture, paint, art, blankets/bedding, underwear and clothing (in specific sizes), daily supplies.
3. Fundraise to pay laborers in China to finish the wall, install plumbing/electricity to the facility.
4. Volunteer work teams are needed to participate in 2006 projects on-site. There are a variety of things to be done - children from middle-school level and up, boy scout and girl scout projects, Habitat for Humanity groups, church groups, professional groups, adoptive families.
5. Volunteer team leader - organize a group of 16 or more volunteers and OCDF will cover the cost of your hotel, meals, and transportation inside China.

Contact: Tony@ocdf.org or Jane@ocdf.org for more information on each of these! Watch for more info on www.ocdf.org/orphansupport.