

## Where the Path Meets the Mountain

Summer 2001

216 S. Marina Street #309  
Prescott, AZ 86303  
Telephone: 928-776-8836  
Fax: 928-776-8874  
e-mail: [FHIS@optimacompany.com](mailto:FHIS@optimacompany.com)  
Web site: [www.anian.net/fh&s.html](http://www.anian.net/fh&s.html)  
A non-profit 501 (C) (3) organization

## Friendship Homes and Schools

Helping children have the homes and schools they need to fulfill their true potentials.

### It Was a Trip to Remember... Summer 2001



*Heading from Xining up into the Tibetan Plateau to join the festival in Yushu at 12,000 feet. Our highest elevation was 15,500 feet.*



*A small Buddhist temple in Yushu. It was worth the drive across miles of land occupied only by Tibetan nomads, tents, yaks, goats, and wildflowers!*

*(Continued on pages two and three.)*



*Girl in traditional clothing in Luoji Village, site of an FH&S home.*

### Where Your Dollars Have Gone Since Friendship Homes and Schools Began in 1997

Thanks to you, Friendship Homes and Schools has been able to:

- Donate approximately \$57,000 to support 80 different children in Tibet between November 1997 and August 2000.
- Donate approximately \$59,000 to support 80 different children in Liangshan and Hebei between December 1998 to the present.
- Directly support children with a total of more than \$115,000.
- Maintain a low overhead so that close to 90% of donations to FH&S go directly to help children.
- Lead three trips to see the children. THANK YOU!

The trip was wonderful. Our volunteer travel manager, Michael Cherney, arranged everything beautifully. We stayed in a very nice traditional style hotel in Beijing. After visiting the Great Wall and Forbidden City, Michael took us to an incredible open marketplace where you could shop and bargain for anything from trinkets to thangkas to antiques. Lots of fun.

We flew to Xining to begin our trek across part of the Tibetan Plateau to Yushu. That is where the Tibetan festival is held every year. It was like being in a *National Geographic* documentary. Thousands of Tibetan Khampa nomads came in from



the hills to dance, compete in pony races, and have fun. The costumes and colors were awesome. Yaks, yaks, everywhere yaks! We were quite an attraction ourselves. Everyone was impressed with our hairy arms.



To get a taste you can go to Michael's web-site: [www.anian.net](http://www.anian.net). Click on his portfolio excerpts. "Yushu II" has our current trip, as do some of his pictures with Taoist sayings.



*Our children in Xichang City. Two of them are about to graduate into high school. They will still need our support*

After Yushu we dropped back down to Xining and visited the famous Kum Bum monastery, home of thangka painting and butter sculpting.

Next we flew to Chengdu and on to Xichang City to visit all 62 orphans in three separate locations. The smallest children are in Luoji Village (not shown). They had prepared elaborate dances for us and we all ate together in Yi fashion. That means everyone gets a big wooden spoon and all dip out of the community bowl. Children sat next to each of us. every time you took a bite, a child filled your bowl with another big piece of chicken or buckwheat bread.

The children in Dechang are middle-school-aged and had never met us before. They were quite emotional. We were all quite emotional. In the beginning of our visit there were lots of speeches and flowers. Michael shocked them all when he spoke in Chinese—one little boy almost fell out of his seat. They are doing pretty well at English so we had some nice communication.



*These are the orphan girls of our Dechang school, and Lois Drake. Almost all of them need sponsors. Can you help us find sponsors for them?*

The children in Xichang are also very moved by our help. Two are graduating into high school. They will still need our assistance which we pledged to continue.

You can see most of our children's portraits now on our web site: [www.anian.net/fh&s.html](http://www.anian.net/fh&s.html). Click on "The Children" and scroll down or continue on the screens until you can click on their photographs.

We had the quite unusual opportunity to visit a Yi village, have dinner with Governor Liu (pretty fancy!) and enjoy an evening in Mr. Wang's home. Mr. Wang is our liaison there.

Back in Chengdu, we enjoyed another beautiful traditional hotel, took a morning stroll in the park and observed all the tai chi, visited a Taoist temple, and saw pandas. The newest baby in the incubator was really cute.

A special treat awaited us in Beijing. Our board member, Dong Cherney, was visiting her parents there. Her parents graciously hosted us to a dinner in their home. It was such a treat being with them...not to mention we thought it was our favorite meal of the trip!

**We are planning our next trip in May, 2002 and hope at least 10 people can join us. We will focus on the children, spending extra time with them, as well as explore the Tibetan area of Muli. You can read the proposed itinerary on our web site: [www.anian.net/fh&s.html](http://www.anian.net/fh&s.html).**



*These are the orphan boys of our Dechang school and Michael Cherney. All of them need sponsors. Can you help us find sponsors for them?*

## **If You Find a Sponsor, We'll Send You a Gift of Our Love.**

### **29 of Our Children Need Sponsors!**

We know you are already doing so much to help the orphans of the world. Many of you support a variety of charitable organizations. We can hardly ask you to go farther. At the same time, we know how much you care about children...and each of you know many people who could help: family members, friends, churches, temples, schools, clubs, and other organizations. Can you please talk to them about Friendship Homes and Schools? Our need is urgent. We have just taken in 18 more extremely poor orphan young people. In total we now have *29 children without sponsors*. Here's why it's so great to give to them through FH&S:

- Our overhead is low (mostly donated) and close to 90% of sponsor donations go directly to support children.
- These children *love* their sponsors, even from far away. They pray for them. They send letters and drawings to them.
- Your influence creates a lasting good-will relationship for Americans, Canadians, and other countries where sponsors live.
- The children *strive* in school and get top grades.
- Our 501-(C) 3 non-profit status means donations are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

Sponsorship only takes \$30 per month and payment can be made on-line. Sponsors can pay each month or just once for the entire year. Give your friends a copy of this newsletter or ask us for some brochures. They can also call us or visit our web site: [www.anian.net/fh&s.html](http://www.anian.net/fh&s.html). We'll send you a gift of appreciation for each sponsor you refer. Many thanks, and much love from the children!



## Twenty-Nine Children Who Need Sponsors. Do You Know Someone Who Can Help?

Xie Hao	Boy	14	Guo Rui	Boy	13	Ma Ya Lan	Girl	13
Zhang Man	Girl	13	Hu Mei Yun	Girl	13	Xie Fan	Boy	13
Zeng Yong	Boy	14	Zhou Long	Boy	13	Xiao Sa	Boy	13
Li Hai Lin	Girl	13	Cheng Long	Boy	13	Tao Yan Fei	Girl	13
Zhang Jiaqiong	Girl	13	Zhang Jianxin	Boy	13	Sha Gui Xiu	Girl	14
Xia Zhi Jun	Boy	15	Cheng Xiaolong	Boy	14	Yang Wen Yan	Girl	13
Lin Lu	Boy	13	Meng Tao	Boy	13	Wang Jiao	Girl	14
Wang Ming Juan	Girl	13	Wan Sheng	Boy	14	Yin Meng	Boy	13
Zheng Si Long	Girl	14	Zhuang Yuan	Boy	13	Zhu Bang Fa	Boy	14
Zhu Ding Fan	Girl	14	Zheng Si Long	Boy	13			

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## We Are Looking for Sister Schools to Share the Culture of Our Three Schools in China

Imagine students writing to students, sending cultural materials back and forth, and even having student exchange programs or special visits and projects. So much is possible with a sister school relationship. Friendship Homes and Schools has orphans in one elementary school and two middle schools. We would like to establish a sister school relationship with each location.

To promote this idea, we cordially invite interested school faculty, including principals and teachers, to join our trip and meet school faculty (and our students) in Luoji, Xichang, and Dechang. Of course, regular tourists not belonging to a school, are welcome to come as well. The cultural exchange and chance to experience the schools will be unforgettable. We hope the desire to become a sister school will be the result.

To discuss sister school possibilities, please call Lois Drake, 928-776-8836, [lhs@optimacompany.com](mailto:lhs@optimacompany.com).