

Internet address: www.friendship-homes.org

Friendship

Homes and Schools

A non-profit 501(C)(3) organization



Artwork from the children of Luoji Mountain Primary School, Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province, China

Summer 2003
Newsletter

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See this newsletter in color on our web site, along with:

- Photographs of the children
- Information about the children
- Sponsorship details
- Information about traveling to visit the children



Thank you!

Our special thank you to all of our sponsors and donors for a successful 2002/2003! FH&S donates approximately 95% of all its donations to our children. We keep our overhead down by paying only for postage, printing and mailing. We pay no salaries, rent, telephone or other costs, which keeps our effective donation ratios very high. Our thanks to all of you for all that you do and your loving hearts that reach out to our children and all children throughout the world.

Letters from the Children

We are just now getting letters from the children by email from Mr. Wang, their supervisor. FH&S is going to do its best to get these emails to you or we will include them in your donation envelopes. Since all emails must be translated and matched to those of you that have specific, sponsored children, we cannot, at this time have you send your emails directly to the children.

The Children and Projects of Friendship Homes and Schools

Let's review all of the children that FH&S helps. First, we continue to support every month approximately 80 children in the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture of China's Sichuan Province. All of the children are healthy (SARS is not a problem in Liangshan) and are doing very well in their studies. We also help sponsor another 100 children in the Kham area of eastern Tibet. FH&S teams with Project Tibet and Project Butter Lamp to do this. We also assist another Tibetan boarding school built for another 120 children (currently with 32 children). This school is open to nomadic children whose parents are very poor. This school is open 10 months per year and is closed 2 months in the winter because of harsh conditions. These nomadic children have to travel very long distances to the school. Our goal is to increase the number of students in this school since there is the capacity but not the funding at this time. These schools are built near monasteries and are taught and supervised mainly by lamas and monks.

We are also participating in a school in Nepal that is currently under construction. This school, when finished will house 25 Tibetan students where they can study for 9 years to

become spiritual teachers. Every 9 years a new group of students will be admitted. As a related project in Nepal, FH&S assists Project Tibet in a nursing home project, which is now fully funded. This is for elderly/impooverished Tibetans who have nowhere else to go.

We are also working on teen and youth programs in the U.S. The details of these projects are still being worked out but they likely entail youth helping youth and youth helping elderly to build character and give a helping hand. These U.S. "reach-out" programs will likely include projects in other countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Russia, Central America, South America and elsewhere. These foreign projects would also likely include US youth helping children in orphanages whether helping to build on to the facility or starting an orphanage where one is needed and there is competent, local supervision.

Rinpoche & Nyima

We have been working on the Rinpoche and Nyima situation with the State Department. Unfortunately, we do not have any real news at this time. The State Department is working on the case but with the SARS situation, the Tibetan border is closed. The State Department has not been able to physically go to Tibet from its offices in China since December. They are scheduled to go as soon as the SARS situation comes under control. We have also inquired with other Tibetan groups to find out if they have heard anything new through the "grapevine". We have also searched various websites to see if anything is new on their status. Although we are continuing to work on this case and will continue to do so until Rinpoche and Nyima are safely released, these issues take a lot of time. We continue to believe

they are safe but this is only a feeling and is not based on any facts. Please continue to pray for their release and others that may be improperly incarcerated.

New Web Address

Please note that we have a new website address at www.friendship-homes.org so please give us a visit. We expect to have new photos of the children posted to the site by end of this summer.

Also, if you have any friends or associates that are interested in children's causes, then please let us know. We are happy to send them a brochure on FH&S. We always need sponsors and donors as we maintain the efforts we have undertaken and embrace new projects.

Remembering FH&S

When you visit our website please look at the information on remembering FH&S in your wills and family planning. FH&S has developed some sample documentation that can be used by you in your estate planning. This will be a gift that keeps giving. There will always be a need by children in the world and you can continue to help even when you are no longer here. What a great opportunity for you and for children everywhere!



Thank you all, again, for your donations throughout the year. We make every dollar work for the children. If you are not yet giving then please consider starting. The children need you. If we may be of any assistance to you during the year, then please contact us.

All the best to you and your family worldwide,
FH&S Board, Officers and Volunteers