

Friendship

Homes and Schools

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



Lin Lu reads a letter to FH&S visitors in Liangshan. At left, Director Wang Changjin; at center, Mr. Ma Dechang.

Winter 2002
Newsletter

Address

216 S. Marina St.
Suite 309
Prescott, AZ
86303 USA

Phone & Fax

Tel 1-928-776-8836
Fax 1-928-776-8874

E-mail

fh@smlpltd.net

Web Site

www.anian.net/fh&s.html

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

Gratitude for Holiday Support

Friendship Homes and Schools is very thankful for the generous sponsorship and gifts for the children that arrived during the holiday season. In 2001 we have been able to grow from 62 to 80 children who would otherwise be uneducated and possibly on the street. Your support is much appreciated! However, we need to alert you that, like most non-profit organizations, our donations have dropped significantly since September 11 and we are concerned about maintaining support for our 80 children who would otherwise be out of school and back on the street. This could also impact our ability to bring in new Tibetan children this summer.

FH&S faces these challenges here at home so that the children may focus on bettering themselves in other parts of the world. One day this will be very important to world peace. Although the winter can be harsh at the foothills of the Himalayas, your support has provided our children with shelter, clothing and food. Their loving teachers and caretakers will celebrate the Spring Festival together with them, ushering in the Chinese New Year of the Horse in mid-February.

All the best for a Happy New Year of the Horse from the children as well as from all of the FH&S volunteers.

Last Chance to Join the 2002 Trip to Visit the Children in China and See a Special Tibetan Area

The deadline for registration for the May 16-31, 2002 trip to visit China and the children is **APRIL 1, 2002**. Traveling with Friendship Homes and Schools is an extraordinary experience. You will not be traveling as a tourist, but rather welcomed as a special guest and representative of Friendship Homes and Schools. The bonds that our organization has established through support of orphaned children has created an environment in which you will already have friends waiting for you upon your arrival.

Your participation will not only help financially support our orphans, but provide spiritually rewarding visits with the children as well. These visits are a way for you to gain first hand understanding of the environment in which the children live and grow. The children also value these interactions, as they realize the intensity of the love and concern felt by those who travel a great distance to see them.



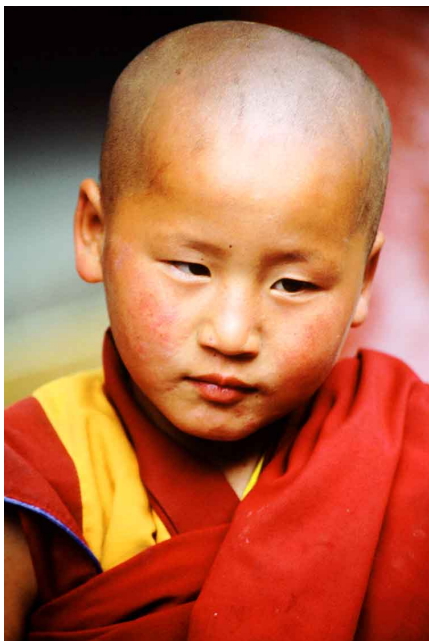
The trip will include visits to the classroom. If interested, you will be given the opportunity to share a skill with the children through a workshop or presentation. You will also have the opportunity to be educated by the children, as they will accompany us during our travels around their local environment

The Friendship Homes and Schools children are located in Liangshan Prefecture in Sichuan Province. Liangshan, located at the foothills of the Himalayas, is a remote and scenic area seldom visited by foreign guests and populated by a diversity of ethnicities, including Han, Lisu, Miao, Mongol, Tibetan and Yi. In addition to visiting Yi and Lisu ethnic villages and homes, we will travel through the Himalayan foothills to spend a couple of days in the culturally rich Muli Tibetan Autonomous County, where we will experience various aspects of Tibetan culture & visit Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.

On our way to Liangshan, we will visit the cities of Beijing and Chengdu to do some sightseeing, including visits to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and Summer Palace, as well as to Taoist temples, Buddhist monasteries and Chinese opera. We will also have the opportunity to visit local markets and taste regional cuisines. Many more activities are included.

Registration details are available in the "Travel" section of the FH&S web site, or you can contact coordinator Michael Cherney at telephone 520-327-0160 or at e-mail michael@anian.net

We would love to have you with us!



Young Tibetan Monk

Automatic Payment of Donations

If you prefer to have your donation charged automatically to a credit card on a recurring basis, please visit the "Sponsorship" section of our web site. There you will find options for setting up monthly or annual donations. You can also make single credit-card donations on the web site as well.

Financial Summary

We are proud to say that approximately 90% of your donations go directly to helping the children. Overhead at FH&S is mostly donated and volunteer so that every dollar can go where it counts.

For the year 2001 we received donations totaling \$31,660, compared to \$37,424 received in 2000 (a 15% drop). At the same time, 2001 saw the arrival of 18 new children to the FH&S family, which requires an additional \$600 of support each month.

We welcome our current supporters to suggest names of potential supporters for us to contact. Or please direct these contacts to our comprehensive web site (www.anian.net/fh&s.html), which includes photos of the children. We also have FH&S brochures available upon request, which can be distributed or placed on display.

Keeping Close with Graduates

Special thanks to one of our sponsors for sharing her thoughts regarding continuing contact with the FH&S children after they have graduated from high school and left our care. The oldest of the FH&S children will begin to graduate from high school in a couple of years. We encourage sponsors to maintain contact with their children, even after they have left the support of FH&S. The benefits of this can be seen through the inspirational example of board member/sponsors Stan "Grandpa" Cherney and Toby Cherney, who began supporting a young girl, Mimi, in Hong Kong in the 1960's. When Mimi left the care of the aid organization which

had brought her and the Cherney's together, Toby and Stan continued supporting Mimi directly, seeing her through school and into a career. To this day, 35 years later, they remain as close to Mimi as parents and daughter, and their children consider Mimi a sister.

Quarterly Profile: Mr. Ma Dechang

Mr. Ma Dechang (see photo on page one) is the chief of the Education Bureau in Dechang County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture. Aside from assisting the 21 Friendship Homes and Schools children at the Dechang No. 2 Middle School, Mr. Ma is responsible for the approximately 250 schools in his county. Most of the schools are located in remote mountain villages yet, in order to assure himself of the condition of the schools and students, he determined Mr. Wang visits each school in turn (often on foot) on a continuous basis throughout the year. His extraordinary commitment is an inspiration to our work in Liangshan.

Help Our Children Via Amazon.com

Amazon.com has agreed to donate to us 5% of the cost of orders that originate from Friendship Homes and Schools. If you shop at Amazon.com, please use one of the following methods to visit the Amazon.com web site: 1) Go to the "Sponsorship" section of the Friendship Homes and Schools web site and click on the link to Amazon.com, or 2) bookmark the following link in your web browser and use it as your usual link to Amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/friendshihome-20> There is no difference in your purchase costs.



FH&S Yi Orphans Receiving New Gifts

