



中国收养中心

CHINA CENTRE OF ADOPTION AFFAIRS

(Translation)

A LETTER TO ADOPTION AGENCIES AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

December 2, 2008

Orphaned and handicapped children living in social welfare institutes are the most vulnerable in our society. They need special attention and care. We are convinced that instead of receiving institutional care, a choice out of necessity, these children should live and develop in a family. Therefore, for more than a decade, China Center of Adoption Affairs and its cooperating adoption agencies have been committed to the cause of international adoption. Through our joint efforts, tens of thousands of Chinese orphaned and handicapped children have been adopted by loving adoptive families from abroad and have started to enjoy a happy and joyful new life in a foreign country. Adoptive families express their love not only through adoption, but also through donations to support those orphaned and handicapped children who are still waiting for a permanent family. In more than ten years, the tremendous support and donations from adoptive families have contributed to the dramatic improvement of caring conditions and the elevation of child nurturing standards in social welfare institutes. The love that spans beyond boundaries never ceases to impress us. Hereby, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to each and every adoptive family on behalf of the orphaned and handicapped children and social welfare institutes in China.

While we are comforted by the fact that many adopted children have started a new and happy life with their adoptive families, we still need to face many practical issues in the course of our work.

First, we are deeply concerned about the well-being of those children who can never be adopted. In recent years, the Chinese government has constantly increased funding and implemented a series of measures to improve the level of care and quality of life for orphaned and handicapped children, such as increasing budgets for the administration of each social welfare institute and orphans' living expenses, providing surgical and rehabilitation treatment to institutionalized children in need through the 'Tomorrow Plan' project, and further improving child care, education, and rehabilitation conditions in institutes through the Blue Sky Plan. However, as the most populous country in the world, China's socioeconomic development is uneven. In some underdeveloped regions of the country, social welfare institutes have a long and difficult path ahead to see the improvement and elevation of their child care service. In such a case, continued government funding in larger sums is important, and more care and support from society are needed as well. We hope adoptive families as well as other social forces from abroad will join us to lend more of their support.

Second, we are concerned about the rapid decline of the purchasing power of adoption donation. For more than ten years, the donation amount for international adoption remains unchanged at the level of 3,000 US dollars. And yet, as known, the global

economy has gone through a tremendous transformation over the past decade. As a result of the depreciation of the US dollar and worldwide inflation, the purchasing power of 3,000 US dollars has decreased constantly. Solely due to the influence of current exchange rate, the social welfare institutes today actually receive nearly RMB 5,000 less from the 3,000 US dollars' donation than in the past. In addition, due to the constant rise of consumer prices in China, the cost of living and service expenses have also been rising quickly in the past decade, which makes today's 3,000 US dollars decrease drastically in terms of purchasing power compared with a decade ago.

Third, we are witnessing increasing willingness and enthusiasm from adoption agencies and families to support orphaned and handicapped children. These agencies and families noticed that the help that the donations can make for the social welfare institutes has become more and more limited. As a result, they expressed their generosity by increasing their adoption donation amount and recommended that more adoption agencies and families increase their donation to ensure better care of orphaned and handicapped children. The social welfare institutes in China deeply appreciate these initiatives and additional donations; however, the adopting countries and adoption agencies increased their donation by different practice. It is a concern that conflicting opinions among them may rise out of the differing levels of donation under the self-initiated but uncoordinated efforts.

Fourth, the donation should be made voluntarily, but not in a standardized form. However, we are concerned that un-coordinated adoption donation amounts will lead to negative reactions and misunderstanding, which will not only result in the failure of our good intentions, but also dampen everyone's enthusiasm. Therefore, in order to best realize the love and enthusiasm demonstrated by many adoption agencies and adoptive families, we hope that adoption agencies and adoptive families will raise the adoption donation amount from 3,000 US dollars which has been accepted in common practice to a reasonable level and establish a new, standardized amount. Such a move will not only result in more help for orphaned and handicapped children in social welfare institutes, inspire enthusiasm for adoption service in social welfare institutes, but also satisfy the desire of more adoptive families to adopt from China, and stimulate the development of China's international adoption program.

In view of the above mentioned situation and in order to better demonstrate the noble spirit of 'love beyond borders' embodied in international adoption, we hereby call for all adoptive families who care about the well-being of children living in China's social welfare institutes to offer more care and support. It is suggested that the donation be given to the social welfare institutes in RMB, but not USD, and in the amount of RMB 35,000 as from January 1, 2009. Social welfare institutes will sign an agreement on adoption donation with adoptive families when accepting the donation, so as to better respect and realize the good intentions of the adoptive families and ensure that the donation will be used for better caring of institutionalized children.

Let's create a bright future for all orphaned and handicapped children with our love and may their future be full of golden sunshine!

Sincerely,

China Center of Adoption Affairs

Attached: A letter from an adoption agency to their families