



**NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
FOR FOSTER CARE
& PERMANENCY PLANNING**

at the Hunter College
School of Social Work

INFORMATION PACKET: *The Adoption of Chinese Girls by American Families*

By Allison Hurwitz

May 2003

INFORMATION PACKET

The Adoption of Chinese Girls by American Families

Prepared by Allison Hurwitz, MSW student, Hunter College School of Social Work

Excerpted from: Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned girls, their journey to America, and the search for a missing past by Karin Evans

SUMMARY

“In an average month now, some three hundred fifty small girls are flown across the Pacific to begin new lives in the United States. As of this writing, more than eighteen thousand children, all born in China, nearly all of them girls, have been carried out of Chinese orphanages and brought to this country. . . For adopting parents, the trip to China will come after roughly a year’s worth of paperwork and official scrutiny—by agencies within the United States and the People’s Republic of China—plus the investment of considerable time and money. This culminates, if all goes well, in a ‘referral’—by which applicants’ bulging dossiers are matched with a Chinese child. With the match, the adopting parents will be given the sparsest information about their new daughter: a small photograph perhaps, a guess at a birth date, a few vital statistics, and a name, chosen, usually, by the orphanage. . .

For Americans picking up babies in the social welfare institutions of China, this particular avenue of international adoption often represents a final miracle, after the frustrations of infertility, unsuccessful medical intervention, perhaps, or the forbidding costs of domestic adoption. For the orphaned girls of China, international adoption offers a way out of the institution, a chance at a new life—but life in a culture vastly different from the land of their birth.

The fact that China can provide so many foreign parents with children, nearly every one of them a daughter, is a reflection of a darker reality. The world’s most populous nation, desperate to keep its numbers down, has in past decades become a nation of lost daughters. A confluence of harsh realities—the Chinese government’s strict population policy introduced in 1980, the culture’s traditional reliance on sons, plus untold hardships and emotionally wrenching circumstances known only to a birth mother—will have forced these little girls from their families.

Most of these children will have no known histories to look into, should they ever want to trace their pasts. Their birth parents leave little information, if any. For all the benefits of adoption into a loving family in the West, there is a loss of roots each small girl must deal with as she grows into adulthood, coming of age halfway across the globe, having lost the thread that might someday lead her back.”

In this Information Packet, you will find:

- * **Fact Sheets**
- * **Best Practice Tips**

- * **Model Programs**
- * **Review of Policies and Legislation**
- * **References & Suggested Readings**
- * **Web Resources**

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

General Fact Sheet

Taken from: [Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned girls, their journey to America, and the search for a missing past](#) by Karin Evans; [International Adoption Programs](#) by Gladney; [Families with Children from China Fact Sheet](#) <http://www.fwcc.org>; [US State Department's Office of Children's Issues](#) [www.travel.state.gov/adopt.html] and [Intercountry Adoption](#) by National Adoption Information Clearinghouse.

“More and more Americans are creating families by adopting children from foreign countries. The reasons for the rise in international adoption include:

- An increasing number of couples in the US with infertility problems-- approximately 6 million by a 1998 estimate (Gross, 1998).
- As a result of the increased availability of birth control and access to legal abortion in the US during the past few decades, the number of women relinquishing their infants for adoption has declined dramatically.
- Given the number of childless people seeking healthy infants, would-be parents trying to adopt a newborn find themselves competing for a decreasing number of American infants available for adoption.
- Adoption fees for domestic adoption are considerably higher than are those for international adoption.
- Fears about the security of the legal adoption bond that have been fueled by well-publicized cases of birth mothers attempting to take back their children (Evans, 2000).

According to INS statistics, close to 35,000 children from China have been adopted by American families since 1985. 5,053 children from China were adopted in 2000 and a similar number in 2001 and 2002 (Families with Children from China Fact Sheet). In fact, children from China received the largest number of Immigrant visas issued to orphans coming to the United States in 2000, 2001 and 2002 (US State Department's Office of Children's Issues, 2002) . There are numerous reasons why such a large number of children from China have been adopted by American families in recent years. These reasons include:

- China has large numbers of babies available for adoption;
- China allows single parents to adopt;
- The application process tended to be faster than in other countries;
- China is more forgiving of older parents than are some other international adoption programs;

- The Chinese adoption program wasn't tainted by rumors of stolen children or babies for sale, or black-market profiteers;
- The health of the children was generally good. China was, in fact blessed by the relative absence of such modern ills as fetal alcohol syndrome or HIV infection. Despite some developmental delays, most of the children have quickly made up for lost time;
- The babies could be adopted at a young age—most at a year old or younger—lessening the chances of attachment disorder;
- Pediatricians who have worked with children from Chinese orphanages have said that overall, the children's condition has been impressive and they believe the care to have been good;
- In comparison to international adoption in other countries, the Chinese adoption process is very formalized, predictable and centralized. The Chinese government has a central adoption authority, known as the China Center of Adoption Affairs, that governs all adoption affairs and determines eligibility of both adoptees and adoptive parents;
- Unlike other countries, China has an adoption law, which provides a legal framework for both domestic and inter-country adoption (Evans, 2000).

The reasons why so many Chinese girls are given up by their parents are complex and varied, encompassing economic, social, political and cultural issues. Karin Evans (2000) writes about this topic extensively in *Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned girls, their journey to America, and the search for a missing past*. Some of the many reasons cited by adoptive parents, adoption agencies and adoption authors include:

- National poverty that was exacerbated by a devastating famine during the years of 1958 through 1961 in which approximately 30 million people died as a result of massive crop failure and starvation (Evans, 2000).
- China is an agricultural country where hard labor is a means of survival. Generally, a man can carry three hundred pounds of soil while a woman typically can only carry a hundred and fifty pounds (Anchee Min, 2000)
- In 1980, the government of the People's Republic of China enacted the one-family, one-child policy as a means of population control. As part of this policy, mothers needed to receive official permission from the government to have a child. (See *Review of Chinese Policies and Legislation* section for more information.)
- Longstanding tradition of sons living in their parents' home after marriage and daughters needing to move in with their husbands' families means that elderly parents

rely upon sons to take care of them. This is particularly necessary in China as there is no type of governmental social security system in place.

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

Fact Sheet

Program Brief, Statistics, Procedures, and Costs

PROGRAM BRIEF FOR CHINA:

Taken from: Children's Hope International, <http://www.childrenshopeint.org/china.html>

- Couples or singles 30 years of age or older, with or without children are qualified to adopt a healthy child.
- Most babies/children being adopted are girls—about 95%. Boys are available. Healthy and children with medical special needs are available. Most agencies have a list of Waiting Children (older children age 5 and up, and special needs children) that are available for adoption and not subject to the Chinese Government's quota.
- Referrals are taking approximately 12 months.
- Adoptive parents make a journey to China approximately 2 months after receiving their referral, which provides the opportunity to learn more about their child's country of origin. Many parents document this experience with photographs to show to their child as a way to let them know more about their history.
- Most parents will travel in a group of five to fifteen families. All travel arrangements are typically made for you. You will be met and assisted the entire time by your agency's bi-lingual Coordinators. You will have about 10-14 very special days there before returning home with your child. The adoption is complete in China.

Taken from: Families with Children from China, <http://www.fwcc.org/FAQ.html>

Age of Children

In general, most children are between 6 and 20 months of age. Due to legal requirements and the time required for document processing in China, the children are almost always over six months of age before the adoption is completed. Parents normally request a specific age range that they would prefer. CCAA usually, but not always, will comply with the wishes of the parents. Parents may request older children if that is their preference. Most infants adopted in 1997 were 8-15 months old.

Gender:

About 95% of the children are girls but some boys are available. Girls can be of any age over about six months but boys tend to be between one and two years old. You can specifically request a boy, but it is likely that you will have a significantly longer wait. If you are a single male adopting, it is likely that you will be referred a boy. Chinese law requires that a single male parent be at least 40 years older than a female child.

The dossier

The dossier is the collection of documents that your adoption agency sends to China. It describes the person or couple that would like to adopt and demonstrates that they are capable of being adequate parents. The contents of a dossier will vary depending on your specific circumstances. However the bare minimum will include: (1) Your home study, (2) Your petition to the Chinese government to be allowed to adopt a child, (3) a financial statement showing your income, assets and liabilities, (4) a document showing that you are not a wanted criminal, (5) birth, marriage (if applicable) and divorce (if applicable) certificates, (6) the I-171H document from the U.S. I.N.S.

stating that they have processed your I-600A application. (7) a letter from your employer certifying that you hold a job, and (8) health certificates (a form filled out by your doctor after a basic physical exam), (9) a copy of each parents passport, and (10) two photos of each parent and 6 photos of 'family life'. Your adoption agency will probably require a number of other documents and forms to fulfill state and local (city and/or county) legal requirements as well. These can be even more extensive than the documents that go to China in extreme cases. The home study

The home study is a document prepared by a licensed social worker that describes the prospective family. The home study must be conducted by a social worker employed by an agency with a China adoption program. A typical home study will involve three visits with the social worker, one at home and two at the social workers office. The family will also need to arrange letters of recommendation from people who know the prospective parent(s) well, these letters are sent directly to the social worker. The final document, which usually runs to six pages or so, can be thought of as a short biography of the parents and an evaluation of whether they will be acceptable parents. The agencies are not looking for perfect parents (to-be), they are looking for people that will provide these children with a loving and stable families to grow up as normal kids.

Costs

According to Children's Hope International, (<http://www.childrenshopeint.org/china.html>): the estimated total cost of the Adoption without including travel expenses is: \$11,015.00. The estimated total cost of adoption and travel for two is: \$16,215.00. This does not include INS application fee, local home study, fees for certification and authentication from Chinese Embassy, or post-placement reports. A donation to the orphanage of \$3,000 is required of all adoptive parents. This "donation" is NOT a bribe, but is required for the adoption and completion of contract for the institute (US State Department's Office of Children's Issues, http://www.travel.state.gov/adoption_china.html). To illustrate the discrepancy in wealth that exists between the U.S. and China, Karin Evans (2000) cites that in the Guangdong province, which is the richest province in China, \$3,000 can be equal to a couple of years' worth of wages for a factory worker.

Translation Requirements:

All documents prepared for each adoption application must be accompanied by a certified Mandarin Chinese translation. For a \$200 fee, the CCAA will provide the translation service. If a translated copy is submitted with the application, the translator must execute a statement before a notary public as to the validity of the translation. The notary's seal must be authenticated.(US State Department's Office of Children's Issues, www.travel.state.gov/adoption_china.html).

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

Fact Sheet

Transracial and International Adoption, Present Challenges & Potential Solutions

Taken from: Raising Adopted Children: Practical Reassuring Advice for Every Adoptive Parent by Lois Ruskai Melina and Adjustment in Interracial Adoptees: An Overview by Arnold R. Silverman and William Feigelman

“The great majority of transracial and intercountry adoptions have been highly successful in terms of the quality of attachments parents and children form and the children’s development of positive self-images. Problems that do arise are due more often to the age of the child at the time of adoption, the number of moves a child had prior to being adopted, or previous trauma than to differences in racial or ethnic backgrounds. Nonetheless, transracial and intercountry adoption is not without its challenges. These challenges include: the reaction of relatives to the child, the difficulty both infants and older children have in adjusting to new foods and customs, and the effects of spending formative years in orphanages” (Ruskai Melina, 1998).

International Adoption:

“Children who were adopted internationally face many of the same ethnic and cultural issues that other transracially adopted children face. However, they also face additional issues. They have not only lost the opportunity to be raised in their ethnic culture, but they have lost a homeland and perhaps a language. They have not only had their connections to their birth parents severed, they seldom have much, if any, information about them”(Ruskai Melina, 1998).

“Despite these challenges, international adoption has been remarkably successful. . . Far more significant than the fact of international adoption in how well children do is how old they were at the time of placement and whether there was a history of previous abuse. When a child is already stressed for those reasons, the additional stresses of international adoption can be exacerbated. Another factor in the outcome of international adoptions that has become more prevalent in recent years is whether the children spent a significant portion of their formative years in an orphanage”(Ruskai Melina, 1998).

Culture Camp and Homeland Visits

Culture camp can be an excellent experience for internationally adopted children. It brings together children who have had a common experience not shared by most people. The children can talk with each other about common experiences and know that they will be understood. Agencies that specialize in international adoption and adoptive parent organizations are good sources of information about culture camps. (See *Resource* section for further information).

Travel to the foreign country of your child’s birth offers you both the priceless opportunity to become more familiar with your child’s culture. Some children may return to their homeland determined to immerse themselves in learning about their ethnicity. Others may grieve for the realization that they have lost their ethnic identity. Some may be confused. Parents who are planning a trip to their child’s homeland must consider these possibilities, help their child prepare for them, and provide assistance in the aftermath.

Adoptive Families Support Networks

Organizations such as Families with Children from China (FWCC) provide a supportive way for families to share information and experiences on adoption issues as well as help to develop strong, multiracial families. FWCC assists families in learning about China and Chinese culture through participation in social and cultural programs and activities, such as celebrations of traditional Chinese holidays, lectures, play groups and an annual “Chinese Culture Day”. Gathering with others who have been adopted from the same country helps adopted children to grow up with pride in their background and heritage. For further information, see <http://www.fwcc.org/>.

Ethnic and Cultural Identity

“We do our children a disservice if we minimize the fact that there are some real trade-offs when children of color are adopted by parents who are members of the culturally dominant white race or when children leave their homeland to be adopted by parents in another country with different cultural traditions. . . This reality is a loss for the adoptee. The adoptee has lost important ways of connecting with her ancestors and with those with whom she shares ethnicity. Adoption therapist Joseph Crumbley defines the main goals in the areas of ethnic and cultural identity as:

1. To raise a child who can identify and interact with people of his own ethnic group and not be embarrassed to have been raised by white parents.
2. To help a child to appreciate his ethnic and cultural heritage enough not to feel alienated from others with the same heritage and to want to explore it and draw on it.”

Ethnic Identity and Self-esteem

There are those who argue against transracial or international adoption because they fear the children will not grow up with a true sense of racial identity. Studies show that transracially and internationally adopted children clearly understand to which racial or ethnic group they belong (Ruskai Melina, 1998). The research that has been done to date suggests that. . . the process of transracial adoption seems to produce children whose self-esteem is at least as high as that of non-adopted children and whose adjustment seems satisfactory (Silverman, A.R., & Feigelman, W., 1990). . . “William Cross, Jr., Ph.D. says that ethnic identity helps people who are likely to experience racism or discrimination feel that they belong to a group that values the very qualities that are being reviled. An ethnic identity gives a person a feeling of being wanted, accepted, and appreciated by people who share a particular history and culture, even though they may vary in their beliefs, preferences and affiliations”(Ruskai Melina, 1998).

Racial identity and Racism

“Many parents who adopt transracially start out ‘color-blind’. They believe the best way to counter racism is to adopt the attitude that race doesn’t matter. Though well-intentioned, that approach denies the actual experience of people of color. . . When race results in someone being treated as second class, it does matter. Eventually, most adoptive parents see that race does matter to other people. When their children are the victims of racial slurs or are stereotyped, parents realize that the world is not color-blind and they cannot protect their children from both

overt and subtle forms of racism. . . Crumbley says parents must consciously provide children with a repertoire of responses to the racism and prejudice they will encounter” (Ruskai Melina, 1998).

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES
Best Practice Tips

Issues to Consider Before Pursuing Intercountry Adoption

Taken from "Issues to Consider Before Pursuing Intercountry Adoption", compiled by Holt International Children's Services of Eugene, Oregon and in National Adoption Information Clearinghouse's publication, Intercountry Adoption, (7/01)

1. What are your ideas about race? What characteristics do you think Asian, Indian, Latin American, etc., people have? Do you expect your child to have these characteristics? The children become Americanized; therefore, try to visualize that cute little baby growing up into a child, a teenager, an adult, a parent. Think about grandchildren.
2. How do you feel about getting lots of public attention, stares, etc.? Possibly, your adopted child will get too much attention and other children will tend to feel left out.
3. You will become an interracial family. Do you raise your child to have the same identity as you or your other children? How do you help him develop his own identity? Should his name reflect his national origin? What relationship will the name have to the sense of "Who am I"? Imagine a child you know and love being sent overseas to be adopted. How would you want him to be raised? As an American in a foreign country? A native in that country?
4. How can you learn to know what it's like being nonwhite and growing up in a white society if you don't know this from your own experience? You will have to find out how to reach or educate yourself to become sensitive to your child's world.
5. Your family will now be interracial for generations. Adoption of a child of another race or country is not just a question of an appealing little baby. How do you feel about interracial marriage? How does your family feel about interracial marriage? How do you feel when people assume that you are married to a person of another race or culture?
6. In addition to your qualities and abilities as parents, it is important for you to understand your motivation for this kind of adoption. Do you feel you are doing a good deed for a poor, homeless child who will perhaps be more grateful to you when he is older than if he were your birth child? This is a poor motivation and not very realistic. If your primary orientation is to help the child become absorbed into your culture at the expense of his own, then transracial adoption is not for you. You must have an attitude of respect for the country and culture of the child.
7. Do you have the capacity to identify with this child, to see the world from his point of view and to lovingly supply his physical, mental, and spiritual needs? Do you want to learn more about the child's culture and heritage? If you do, then you can consider further the idea of intercountry adoption.

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

Best Practice Tips

Taken from: *Trans-racial and Trans-cultural Adoption* by Debra G. Smith,
[<http://www.rainbowkids.com/tranrace.html>]

Cultural Competency Issues for Adoptive Parents of Transracially and Internationally Adopted Children

- **Examine Your Beliefs and Attitudes About Race and Ethnicity:**
While you may think you know yourself and your family members very well, it is important to examine your beliefs and attitudes about race and ethnicity before adopting a child of another race or culture. Try to think if you have made any assumptions about people because of their race or ethnic group. Keep in mind that when you adopt a child of another race or culture, it is not only the child who is different. Your family becomes a "different" family.
- **Think About Your Lifestyle:**
Do you already live in an integrated neighborhood, so that your child will be able to attend an integrated school? If not, would you consider moving to a new neighborhood? Do you already have friends of different races and ethnic groups? Do you visit one another's homes regularly? It is important for children of color growing up with Caucasian parents to be around adults and children of many ethnic groups, and particularly, to see adult role models who are of the same race or ethnic group. These people can be their friends, teach them about their ethnic heritage, and as they mature, tell them what to expect when they are an adult in your community.
- **Consider Adopting Siblings:**
Siblings who are adopted together have the security of seeing another person in the family who looks like them. They are able to bring a part of their early history and birth family with them to their adoptive family, which may help them adjust better. And with internationally adopted children, being together might mean they will be able to keep up their native language.
- **Tolerate no racially or ethnically biased remarks:**
As adoptive parents in an interracial or intercultural family, you should refuse to tolerate any kind of racially or ethnically biased remark made in your presence. This includes remarks about your child's race or ethnic group, other races and ethnic groups, or any other characteristic such as gender, religion, age and physical or other disability. Make it clear that it is not okay to make fun of people who are different, and it is not okay to assume that all people of one group behave the same way. Teach your children how to handle these remarks, by saying, for instance, "I find your remark offensive. Please don't say that type of thing again," . . ." or "You couldn't be deliberately saying such an inappropriate comment in front of a child. You must mean something else." Try to combat the remarks while giving the person a chance to back off or change what has been

said. This way you will teach your child to stand up to bias without starting a fight which could put your child at risk. In addition, by being gracious and giving others a chance to overcome their bias/ignorance, you can help to change their beliefs and attitudes over time. Positive exchanges about race will always be more helpful than negative ones.

○ **Surround yourselves with supportive family and friends:**

Seek out other adoptive families, other transracial or multicultural families, and other members of your child's racial or ethnic group. You will be surprised by how helpful many people will want to be, whether it is to show you how to cook an ethnic dish or teach you some words in their language.

○ **Celebrate all cultures:**

As a multicultural family, you should value all cultures. Teach your child that every ethnic group has something worthwhile to contribute, and that diversity is this country's and your family's strength. While it is important to teach your child that differences among people are enriching, it is also important to point out similarities. As much as you want to celebrate your child's distinctive features, he or she also needs to feel a sense of belonging in the family.

○ **Talk about race and culture:**

Talk about racial issues, even if your child does not bring up the subject. Use natural opportunities, such as a television program or newspaper article that talks about race in some way. Let your child know that you feel comfortable discussing race, the positive aspects as well as the difficult ones. Even a young child needs to know that while your family celebrates difference, other families do not know many people who are different. These families are sometimes afraid of what they do not know or understand, and may react at times in unkind ways. It can be difficult to deal with such issues, especially when your child is young and does not yet know that some adults have these negative feelings, but you have to do it. You will help your child become a strong, healthy adult by preparing him or her to stand up in the face of ignorance, bias, or adversity.

○ **Take your child to places where most of the people present are from her race or ethnic group:**

If you bring your Chinese-American child to a Chinese New Year celebration, your child will experience being in a group in which the number of people present of his ethnic group is larger than the number of Caucasians present. Adoptive family support group events are other places where this might happen. Children usually enjoy these events very much. If you adopted a young child from another country, you might consider taking a trip to that country when the child is older and can understand what the trip is all about. Many adoptive families who take such a trip find it to be a wonderful learning experience. Another benefit of such an experience is that it might be one of the few times when you feel what it is like to be in the minority. This will increase your awareness and ability to understand your child's experience as a minority individual.

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES
Model Programs

1.

Families Thru International Adoption

Taken from: Families Thru International Adoption, <http://www.ftia.org>

Families Thru International Adoption, Inc., is a not-for-profit Indiana and Ohio State-licensed child placement agency specializing ONLY in international adoptions. We are also committed to providing extensive support to families during the adoption process and follow-up to families who adopt internationally. We will encourage families who adopt through Families Thru International Adoption to continually educate themselves about their child's homeland and to provide their child with instruction, training, and a sense of ethnic identity about their country of birth. In addition, we will provide each family who adopts through our agency ongoing guidance and support to accomplish these goals.

Contact:

400 Bente West Ct.
Evansville, IN 47715
Phone: 888-797-9900 (Toll Free)
E-mail: adopt@ftia.org
<http://www.ftia.org>

2. Children's Hope International

Taken from: Children's Hope International, www.childrenshopeint.org/china.htm

Children's Hope International is a highly respected and experienced international adoption agency working closely with families in all states through 11 regional offices. We have a trained and caring staff in each country who accompany and guide the adoptive parents during the entire time they are abroad. **China's Children** is a program of Children's Hope International. As one of the first agencies to begin adoption in China we place more children from China than any other country - about 2500 since 1992. Children's Hope International and China's Children has been in the forefront of China adoptions from the beginning and is happy to announce that CCAA has now lifted the adoption quota from China. We can now accept an unlimited number of applications from couples wanting to adopt in China. Give us a call at this toll free number and ask to speak to someone on the China Team.

Contact:

Children's Hope International dba China's Children 9229 Lackland Road St.
Louis, MO 63114
Phone: 1-888-899-2349 Toll free
Fax: (314) 427-4288 E-mail: adoption@childrenshopeint.org Website:
<http://www.ChildrensHope.com>
Website: www.childrenshopeint.org/china.html

3. Gladney Center for Adoption, International Adoption Programs

Gladney opened its doors more than 100 years ago as one man's mission to find appropriate homes for children. Gladney's International Programs have successfully placed hundreds of babies and young children in homes throughout the United States. Families typically wait 12-13 months once their foreign dossiers are received in Beijing. They then spend between 10-12 days in China to finalize their adoption. Trips are fully escorted by English-speaking adoption facilitators who guide groups of families through the process and provide touring and educational experiences. Although based in Fort Worth, Texas, Gladney Center's International Adoption Program also has a branch in New York City. Some of the many services that they offer include: Parenting education, Post Adoption services for both Adoptive Parents and Adopted Persons, Counseling and Education.

Contact:

Gladney Center for International Adoption Program
6300 John Ryan Drive Fort Worth, TX 76132-4122
Phone: (800) 767-5813 (toll-free) E-mail: info@gladney.org
Website: <http://www.gladney.org>

Gladney Center for International Adoption Program
360 Central Park West, #1B
New York, NY 10025-6544
Phone: (888) INT-ADOP (toll-free)
E-mail: info@gladney.org Website: <http://www.gladney.org>

4. Holt International Children's Services

Taken from www.holtintl.org/china/ Holt International Children's Services has helped homeless children in China since 1994. In addition to coordinating international adoption, Holt has established foster care programs and supported a variety of child welfare training programs. Holt has also cooperated with local orphanages to set up Special Baby Care Units, centers that support at-risk babies who are in desperate need of specialized health care. Holt also offers a culture camp program, the Holt Heritage Camp, which offers a fun and safe environment for international adoptees to share their common experiences; learn about the culture, traditions, and history of their birth countries; and support one another.

Contact:

Holt International Children's Services PO Box 2880, 1195 City View Eugene, OR 97402
(541) 687-2202 (541) 683-6175 (fax) E-mail: info@holtintl.org
Website: <http://www.holtintl.org>

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

Review of Policies and Legislation in The United States

Taken From: *Internal Revenue Service, Topic 607-Adoption Credit*
<http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/page/0,,id%3D16260,00.html>

Information on the Adoption Expense Tax Credit

OverviewThe Adoption Expense Tax Credit was modified and made permanent as part of the tax bill signed by President Bush on June 7, 2001. It provides a tax credit for expenses incurred in the adoption of a child who is not the child of the taxpayer's spouse. Under the Adoption Expense Tax Credit, you may be able to take a tax credit of up to \$10,000 for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. The adoption credit is an amount subtracted from your tax liability. Beginning in 2002, the amount of the credit for an eligible child was increased from \$5,000 (or \$6,000 for a child with special needs) to \$10,000. Consequently, expenses paid before 2002 are subject to the \$5,000 (or \$6,000) limit — even for an adoption that becomes final after 2001. In addition, the income limitation for the credit or exclusion was increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000. In addition to the credit, up to \$10,000 paid or reimbursed through the year 2002 by your employer for qualifying adoption expenses may be excluded from your gross income.

Requirements and definitions:

For either the credit or the exclusion, qualifying expenses are those considered “reasonable and necessary” and include the following:

- Adoption fees
- Court costs
- Attorney fees
- Traveling expenses (including amounts spent for meals and lodging while away from home)
- Other expenses directly related to and for which the principal purpose is the legal adoption of an eligible child.

In accordance with The Adoption Expense Tax Credit, an “eligible child” needs to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Child is under 18 years old, or is physically or mentally incapable of caring for himself or herself.
- The child has special needs, is a United States citizen or resident, and a state determines that the child cannot or should not be returned to his or her parent's home and probably will not be adopted unless assistance is provided.
- The child is a United States citizen or resident or his/her adoption has been finalized.

Credits and Exclusions:

The credit and exclusion for qualifying adoption expenses are each subject to a dollar limit and an income limit.

- Under the dollar limit the amount of your adoption credit or exclusion is limited to \$10,000 for each effort to adopt an eligible child.
- The \$10,000 amount is the maximum amount of qualifying expenses taken into account over all taxable years. Therefore, it must be reduced by the amount of qualifying expenses taken into account in previous years for the same adoption effort, including an unsuccessful effort to adopt a different child.
- The income limit on the adoption credit or exclusion is based on your modified adjusted gross income (modified AGI). If your modified AGI is \$150,000 or less, the income limit will not affect your credit or exclusion. If your modified AGI is more than \$150,000, your credit or exclusion will be reduced. If your modified AGI is \$190,000 or more, your credit or exclusion will be eliminated.

Procedure

To take the credit or exclusion, complete Form 8839 (PDF), Qualified Adoption Expenses. You will attach Form 8839 to Form 1040 (PDF) or Form 1040A (PDF) and report the credit on line 51 of Form 1040 or line 34 of Form 1040A. Additional information on the adoption credit and exclusion can be found in Publication 968 (PDF), Tax Benefits for Adoption. Employers should order Publication 968 to obtain information on setting up an adoption assistance program and information on how to report this benefit.

For further information visit The Internal Revenue Service Website, www.irs.gov

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES

Review of Policies and Legislation in The United States

Taken from U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs, Visa Services
<http://www.travel.state.gov/childcit.html>

Information on The Child Citizenship Act of 2000: Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 allows certain foreign-born, biological and adopted children of American citizens to acquire American citizenship automatically. These children did not acquire American citizenship at birth, but they are granted citizenship when they enter the United States as lawful permanent residents (LPRs). The effective date of the Child Citizenship Act is February 27, 2001. Children who met these requirements on that date automatically became American citizens. Children who were 18 years of age or older on that date did not acquire American citizenship from the Child Citizenship Act of 2000. Under the provisions of this Act, you do not have to apply for a certificate of citizenship for your child

According to the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, the following requirements must be met:

Have at least one American citizen parent by birth or naturalization; ·Be under 18 years of age; ·Live in the legal and physical custody of the American citizen parent; and ·Be admitted as an immigrant for lawful permanent residence. In addition, if the child is adopted, the adoption must be full and final.

What happens when the child is adopted in the United States? A child who enters the United States on an IR4 visa (to be adopted in the United States) will acquire American citizenship when the adoption is full and final in the United States.

How does a child show Lawful Permanent Residence? A child who has lawful permanent residence (LPR status) will have a permanent resident card (green card). Another way to show LPR status is the I-551 stamp in the child's passport. This stamp shows the child has entered the United States on an immigrant visa and/or has been admitted as a lawful permanent resident.

In order for a child to get a passport under the Child Citizenship Act, the following is needed:

·Proof of the child's relationship to the American citizen parent. For the biological child of the American citizen this will be a certified copy of the foreign birth certificate (and translation if not in English). For an adopted child, it is a certified copy of the final adoption decree (and translation if not in English); ·The child's foreign passport showing the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security (BCIS) I-551 stamp in the passport, or the child's permanent resident card (green card); ·Proof of identity of the American citizen parent(s) ·Passport application, passport photographs and fees. Go to Passport Services for forms and full instructions.

Can my child get a Birth Certificate (Consular Report of Birth Abroad or CROBA) from the Embassy or Consulate? No. Only a child who acquired citizenship at birth can get a birth certificate from an embassy or consulate.

How does my child get a Passport under the Child Citizenship Act? Another section of the Child Citizenship Act provides that children (biological or adopted) of American citizens who are born and reside abroad, and who do not become American citizens at birth can apply to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security (BCIS) for a certificate of citizenship if the following conditions are met:

- At least one parent of the child is an American citizen by birth or naturalization.
- The American citizen parent has been physically present in the United States for a total of at least five years, at least two of which are after the age of 14. If the child's American citizen parent cannot meet the physical presence requirement, it is enough if one of the child's American citizen grandparents can meet it.
- The child is under the age of eighteen.
- The child lives abroad in the legal and physical custody of the American citizen parent and has been lawfully admitted into the United States as a nonimmigrant. Children who acquire citizenship under this new provision do not acquire citizenship automatically. They must apply to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security (BCIS) and go through the naturalization process.

THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES ***Review of Policies and Legislation in China***

Taken from: Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned girls, their journey to America, and the search for a missing past by Karin Evans

The One-Family, One-Child Policy

In 1980, the government of the People's Republic of China enacted the one-family, one-child policy as a means of population control. As part of this policy, mothers needed to receive official permission from the government to have a child. This document gave a woman official sanction to conceive and bear a child, a right she no longer had without it. She was required to have a permit when she became pregnant, and to take the paperwork to the hospital with her at the time of delivery.

Women who became pregnant without consent were often forced to have abortions, even late in their pregnancies. A woman who lacked official permission to bear the child she was carrying could quickly end up on the street, be hounded and heavily fined and her relatives harassed. If that baby was a girl, her husband and his family could disown her. She could lose her job and her home.

“As a result of the 1980 policy changes, families who exceeded their allotted number of children faced severe penalties. Nor could these families take their child to an orphanage because doing so would be admitting that they had violated the government policy. People in China are even reluctant to take a child whom they find to authorities for fear they will be suspected of fabricating the story to cover their own culpability” (Ruskai Melina, 1998).

1992 Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests

Abandonment of a child is against the law in China. A specific provision in this law forbids “forsaking” baby girls. This is another reason why parents who abandon their daughters in China are usually careful to leave no traces (Evans, 2000).

Taken from: Families with Children from China, www.fwcc.org/

The Adoption Law of the People's Republic of China adopted by the 23rd meeting of the seventh National People's Congress Standing Committee on December 29, 1991 (effective April 1, 1992) provides that, with certain exceptions, children under the age of 14 in the following categories may be adopted:

- (a) Orphans who lost their parents
- (b) Abandoned children whose birth parents cannot be found
- (c) Children whose birth parents are incapable of providing for them because of unusual hardship.

All requests to adopt more than one child are given special consideration by the Chinese authorities and processed on a case-by-case basis. In cases involving the adoption of more than one child, Chinese authorities look carefully at the age of other child (ren) in the home, nature of handicap involved (if any), age and health of the adoptive parent(s), adoptive parent(s)' physical and emotional ability to care for two or more children, financial ability to raise more than one

child.

Taken from: Families with Children from China, www.fwcc.org/quotas.html

China Center of Adoption Affairs Notice, October 12, 2001

On 10/12/01, The China Center for Adoption Affairs announced a new quota system. This system has two components: an overall quota and a severe limit on the fraction that can be single parents. The overall quota for each China adoption agency will be set at the average number of foreign adoptions that took place for the years 1998, 1999, and 2000. For each agency, only 5% of placements will be to single parents, in contrast to the estimated 30% of placements that previously went to single parents.

Taken from Families with Children From China, (www.fwcc.org/FAQ.html)

Updated Legal Requirements for Adoptive Parents as set forth by the People's Republic of China:

○ **Age Requirements:**

Effective July 1, 2001, here are the revised requirements. To adopt a healthy child, Chinese law requires that the parents be over the age of 30. Newly issued regulations place a hard upper limit of 55 for parents. In addition, parents aged 50-55 must be prepared to accept a child of 3 or older. The parents also need to have sufficient income to support the child and to be in reasonably good health. The Chinese do not have specific numerical standards although some agencies have set their own limits.

○ **Single parents:**

About 1/3 of all of the children adopted from China are adopted by single parents. However, according to U.S. INS requirements, they must be at least 25 years old. As of Feb 2001, single parents must submit a document stating that they are not homosexual to comply with provisions of the China Adoption Law. As of December, 2002, CCAA issued new regulations restricting the number of single parents to 5% of that agencies total quota. This will severely limit adoptions by single parents from China. Agencies are setting up waiting lists for the next year or two and suggesting single parents consider other countries that accept single parent. See the guide that can be ordered from the International Concerns Committee for Children for a current list of countries allowing single parents to adopt.

○ **Use of adoption agency:**

Changes in the regulations made in 1996 now require that all dossiers must be sent by adoption agencies that are registered with CCAA. In addition, all social workers involved in the home study must be employees of an adoption agency licensed to do China adoptions.

Further information regarding revised general regulations for the China Adoption Process can be found at: <http://www.china-ccaa.org/>

The Adoption of Chinese Girls by American Families
References and Suggested Readings

- Brodzinsky, D.M., Schechter, M.D. (1990) *The Psychology of Adoption*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Cecere, L.A. (1998). *The Children Can't Wait: China's Emerging Model for Intercountry Adoption*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: China Seas.
- Chow, C.S. (1998). *Leaving Deep Water: The Lives of Asian American Women at the Crossroads of Two Cultures*. New York, NY: Dutton.
- Courtney, M.E. (1997) The politics and realities of transracial adoption. Child Welfare,76(6), 749-779.
- Crumbley, J. (1999). *Transracial Adoption and Foster Care: Practice Issues for Professionals*. Washington, D.C.: CWLA Press.
- Dorow, S., Wunrow, S. (1997) *When You Were Born in China: A Memory Book for Children Adopted from China*. St. Paul, MN: Yeong & Yeong Book Company.
- Eldridge, S. (1999) *Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew*. New York, NY: Dell Publishing Company, Inc.
- Evans, K. (2000). *The Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned Girls, Their Journey to America, and the Search for a Missing Past*. New York, NY: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam.
- Fry, Y.Y. (2001). *Kids Like Me in China*. St. Paul, MN: Yeong & Yeong Book Company.
- Gilman, L. (1998). *The Adoption Resource Book*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.
- Gross, J. "The Fight for Infertility Coverage", *The New York Times*, Dec. 7, 1998.
- Hartmann, B. (1995) *Reproductive Rights & Wrongs: The Global Politics of Population Control*. Boston, MA: South End Press.
- Hollingsworth, L.D. (2000). Adoption policy in the U.S.: A word of caution. Social Work, 45 (2), 183-186.
- International Concerns for Children. (2001). *Report on Intercountry Adoption 2001*. Boulder, CO: International Concerns for Children.
- Johnson, K. (1996) The Politics of the Revival of Infant Abandonment in China with Special

Reference to Hunan. Population and Development Review, 22(1).

Klatzkin, A. (ed.). (2001). *A Passage to the Heart: Writings from families with children from China*. St. Paul, MN: Yeong & Yeong Company.

Knoll, J., Murphy, M.K. *International Adoption: Sensitive Advice for Prospective Parents*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press.

Lewis, R. (2000). *I Love You Like Crazy Cakes*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown & Company.

Lifton, B.J. (1988). *Lost & Found: The Adoption Experience*. New York, NY: Perennial Library.

Marindin, H. (1998). *The Handbook for Single Adoptive Parents*. Chevy Chase, MD: Committee for Single Adoptive Parents.

Min, A. (2000). A Letter to All the Lost Daughters of China. In Evans, K. *The Lost Daughters of China: Abandoned Girls, Their Journey to America, and the Search for a Missing Past*, (pp. IX -XI), New York, NY: Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam.

National Adoption Information Clearinghouse. (2001). *Intercountry Adoption*. Washington, D.C.: National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, The Children's Bureau.

Patton, S. (2000). *Birthmarks: Transracial Adoption in Contemporary America*. New York, NY: New York University Press.

Peacock, C.A. (2000). *Mommy Near, Mommy Far: An Adoption Story*. Morton, IL: Albert Whitman.

Register, C. (1991) *Are Those Kids Yours: American Families with Children Adopted from Other Countries*. New York, NY: Free Press.

Rojewski, J.W., Rojewski, J.L. (2001). *Intercountry Adoption from China: Examining Cultural Heritage and Other Postadoption Issues*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc.

Ruskai Melina, L. (2002). *Raising Adopted Children: Practical, Reassuring Advice for Every Adoptive Parent* (Revised Edition). New York, NY: Quill/HarperCollins Publishers.

Silverman, A.R., Feigelman, W. (1990) Adjustment in Interracial Adoptees: An Overview. In Brodzinsky, D.M., & Schechter, M. (eds.), *The Psychology of Adoption*, (pp. 187-200). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Simon, R.J., Altstein, H., Melli, M.S. (1994). *The Case for Transracial Adoption*. Washington,
NRCFCPP Information Packet: *THE ADOPTION OF CHINESE GIRLS BY AMERICAN FAMILIES* 24

D.C.: The American University Press.

Simon, R.J., Roorda, R. (2000). *In Their Own Voices: Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Smith, D.G. (1994). *Transracial and Transcultural Adoption*. Washington, D.C.: National Adoption Information Clearinghouse.

Tessler, R., Gamanche, G., Liu, L. (1999) *West Meets East: Americans Adopt Chinese Children*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc.

Vonk, M.E. (2001). Cultural competence for transracial adoptive parents. *Social Work*, 46(3), 246-255.

Wirth, E.M., Worden, J. (1993) *How to Adopt a Child from Another Country*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press.

Yen Mah, A. (1997) *Falling Leaves, The True Story of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons.

The Adoption of Chinese Girls by American Families

Web Resources

Federal Government Websites:

- National Adoption Information Clearinghouse– <http://www.calib.com/naic>
- US Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service–
<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/>
- US Internal Revenue Service– <http://www.irs.gov/>
- US State Department’s Office of Children’s Issues–
<http://www.travel.state.gov/adopt.html>

National Organizations

North American Council on Adoptable Children– <http://www.nacac.org/>

A Non-profit coalition of individuals and local adoptive parent support groups. NACAC advocates the right of every child to a permanent, continuous, nurturing and culturally sensitive family.

PACT, An Adoption Alliance- <http://www.pactadopt.org/>

A non-profit organization based in San Francisco is a source of lifelong education and support for adoptive families, particularly on issues of race and cross-cultural parenting. PACT was begun by two adoptive parents in 1991. The organization offers seminars and other programs specifically designed for adoptive families. Top priority is given to programs especially designed to support and inform adopted children and adopted adults of color.

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute- <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/>

A national non-profit organization devoted to improving adoption policy and practice. Offers extensive background, research, and current information on adoption in general.

International Concerns for Children (ICC), <http://www.iccadopt.org/>

ICC is a charitable and educational organization. ICC publishes an annual report on Intercountry Adoption, listing agencies by foreign country and giving information on fees, types of children available, estimated waiting periods, and programmatic requirements.

Joint Council on International Children’s Services (JCICS), <http://www.jcics.org/>

JCICS is the oldest and largest affiliation of licensed, nonprofit international adoption agencies in the world. Membership also includes parent groups, advocacy organizations, and individuals interested in intercountry adoption. JCICS member agencies subscribe to established Standards of Practice designed to protect the rights of children, birth parents and adoptive parents.

Specialty Organizations

China Centre of Adoption Affairs- <http://www.china-ccaa.org>

Chinese central authority on adoption; laws and regulations, information, question and answers.

AutumnMoon- <http://www.autumnmoon.org/>

A non-profit organization that builds and sustains connections between adoptees and their country of birth. They work with orphanage directors as well as other adoption professionals to keep a flow of information open between adopted children and the caretakers, foster families, facilities and orphanages that cared for them until they were united with families of their own. AutumnMoon also offers adoption counseling and other services including help with fund-raising for specific orphanages.

Families With Children from China (FCC)-- <http://www.fwcc.org/>

Network of parent support groups across the United States, Canada, and Europe supporting Chinese Adoption. FWCC offers prospective parents background, guidelines, answers to frequently asked questions, travel and health information. They also offer updates on new rules and legislation in both the United States and China that affect adoption, personal stories from families who have adopted, guides to Internet resources, and a listing of local FWCC chapters.

Families with Children from China of Greater NY– <http://www.fccny.org/>

Includes families from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The New York Chapter has nearly 2,000 member families and is the oldest and largest chapter of FWCC in the U.S. They organize and participate in a wide range of events and activities, including celebrations of traditional Chinese holidays. They organize regular gatherings focused on adoption issues, China culture and current affairs, how to adopt in China, and other programs of interest to their community.

Chinadopt: Adopting Children from China– <http://www.pshrink.com/chinadopt/>

A free website whose purpose is to help answer questions about adopting children from China.

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families <http://www.cacf.org/index.html>

A New York based organization that supports Asian American children and families by advocating for social policies and programs and gives service providers culturally sensitive training and resources.

MEDICAL RESOURCES

The International Adoption Center (IAC) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center–

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/int-adopt/svc/default.html>

Offers Community Outreach services dedicated to raising awareness of the unique medical and developmental needs of children adopted from other countries. They offer educational programs and support for community physicians, adoptive parents, social workers and adoption agencies. The IAC is also involved with research that is designed to generate additional knowledge about

the medical challenges of international adoption, which can serve all current and future adoptive parents, as well as health and adoption professionals. The International Adoption Center (IAC) at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center is building a research program to examine the health status of all patients served. Over time, data collection and analysis will uncover country-specific health trends and related implications. Such data will help predict clinical outcomes and support research initiatives.

International Pediatric Health Services- <http://www.orphandoctor.com/>

Dr. Aronson is a New York City based pediatrician who specializes in adoption medicine. Her practice provides the following services: pre-adoption consultations, assessment of child's medical history, preparation for international travel, vaccines for parents, post-adoption evaluation, follow-up care, on-call policy.

The website offers comprehensive information on medical issues to consider when adopting from abroad and on the health status of children adopted from abroad by country. It also has links to other medical resources, adoption resources and personal stories.

Medical Advice About International Adoptions- <http://www.fwcc.org/doclist.html>

A current, national list of doctors and clinics who have experience in dealing with International Adoptions.

Centers for Disease Control website- <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Provides up to date medical information. Includes updated information regarding Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

World Health Organization (WHO) website -- <http://www.who.int/>

In light of the evolving nature of the SARS situation, American citizens should regularly consult the and the WHO website for updates.

Charitable Initiatives

The Half the Sky Foundation- <http://www.halfthesky.org/>

A joint endeavor by American and Chinese officials, parents, and academics who are developing and supporting early childhood education projects in orphanages.

The Amity Foundation- www.amityfoundation.org

A Christian social service and relief agency that has worked in the Nanjing area for more than decade. They assist more than a dozen orphanages in China by supplying medicine, equipment and toys. They also provide stipends for "Amity Grandmas", retired nurses, doctors, and teachers to help the children.

The Foundation for Chinese Orphanages(FCO)- <http://www.thefco.org/>

A U.S. based organization that sends needed supplies to Chinese Orphanages, ranging from antibiotics to clothing dryers to toys. They also raise funds to support foster parent programs or medical assistance.

Founded in 1996, the Foundation for Chinese Orphanages (FCO) is a national 501(c)3 foundation which is supported by chapters of Families with Children from China (FCC) worldwide. FCO developed from a collective sense of gratitude for the children who have come into - and transformed - our lives. Each year the FCO sponsors projects undertaken in cooperation with the Chinese government to support the children still living in Chinese orphanages. Its aim is to help the children in rural or less traveled orphanages with direct-care items and to recognize and support the many people who cared for our children before they became ours. One hundred percent of all money donated goes to China for use in the orphanages. FCO has no paid staff and takes no overhead or expenses from donations here or in China. Your donation is fully tax deductible in the United States.

Adoption Internation, Mission- China (AIM-China)- <http://www.aimchina.org/>

The AIM-China is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to enriching the lives of the children in China's orphanages. With cooperation from orphanage staff members and officials in China, AIM-China works to support organization such as Altrusa/Amity and Half The Sky in improving children's lives, as well as working on independent special projects as needed.

Currently AIM-China is working on a special project to provide toys, clothing, nurturing and medical assistance to a group of 20 Hepatitis B+ toddlers and preschoolers in Nanchang Social Welfare Institute. AIM-China's goals are to bring not only medical aid and the basic necessities of life to the orphanages, but to help provide education, foster care, Hugging Grannies, books and learning materials, and toys.

Alliance For Children Foundation- <http://www.afcfoundation.org>

The AFC Foundation is a nonprofit international relief organization devoted to alleviating the suffering of children who are abandoned or orphaned, living in orphanages around the world. The Foundation's goal is to provide these children with the nutrition, shelter, medical care, and enrichment they need to become healthy and eligible for adoption. We have many completed and current orphanage projects in China described in detail - with photos, receipts, and other documentation - listed on our site.

Heartland Medical Express - <http://www.heartlandmedical.org/>

Heartland Medical Express is a non-profit organization that provides much needed medical assistance to children in Chinese orphanages in order to improve their quality of life and increase their chances for adoption. Many of the children we identify as in need of medical intervention will be served in China with Heartland's financial assistance. Others will be brought to the United States for specialized treatment. In September, 2002, we will be bringing a group of five children with histories of serious burns to the midwest for surgeries at Shriners' Hospital. Each child will be staying with a host family for up to a year while they recover from their surgeries and for follow-up care.

Cultural Resources

Chinese Culture Camps- http://www.calib.com/naic/pubs/r_camps.cfm

Provides a list of Chinese Culture Camps sponsored by different organizations and agencies

throughout the United States.

China Institute, New York, NY, <http://www.chinainstitute.org/>

China Institute in America is a nonprofit, non-partisan educational and cultural institution that promotes the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of traditional and contemporary Chinese civilization, culture and heritage, and provides the cultural and historical context for understanding contemporary China. We carry out our mission through classroom teaching and seminars, art exhibitions, public programs for children and adults, teacher education and curriculum development, lectures and symposia and business programming.

Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, <http://www.c-c-c.org/>

The Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco is a major community-based, non-profit organization established in 1965 to foster the understanding and appreciation of Chinese and Chinese American art, history, and culture in the United States. Offers classes, exhibits and activities related to Chinese culture, holidays and festivals.

Asia for Kids, <http://www.asiaforkids.com/>

An online resource for teaching Asian languages and cultures. Provides resources for the home, classroom or library.

China the Beautiful, <http://www.chinapage.com/china.html>

Links to Chinese art, poetry, history, literature, calligraphy, and other resources.

Personal Motivation

The reason that I chose this topic for my paper is because I am personally exploring the possibility of adopting a child. For a variety of reasons, I have found myself drawn to the little girls from China. Perhaps it is because I identify strongly as a woman that I am drawn to these girls and moved by the particular circumstances that led to their abandonment. This paper provided me with a wonderful opportunity to speak with adoptive parents, to hear their stories and the stories of their children.