Duke China Care is a service organization at Duke University. Our goal is to help Chinese orphans through fundraising for their care. Cultural and mentorship activities are organized for adopted Chinese children in the local area to foster pride in, and understanding of, their birth heritage.
The Duke China Care Club’s Playgroup program serves as a medium for both undergraduate volunteers to give time towards enriching a child’s life and for the participating children to have a regular, welcoming, and safe environment in which to make friends and have fun.

Playgroups meet roughly every other Sunday for one-to-two hours at either a location on Duke’s campus, or somewhere in the Triangle area. Events this year sought to elucidate the history, meaning, and current reality of many celebrations/festivals such as the 2008 Beijing Olympics and Chinese New Year.
Meet and Greet Shaved Ice

Sunday, September 4,
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Duke China Care Club’s first event of the new school year always draws in a large attendance. Shaved ice was a fun way to start off the year and a nice cool-down from the hot weather. This playgroup began with several icebreaker activities that allowed the children to interact with each other and with the undergraduate volunteers, so as to make everyone comfortable with each other. The event concluded with volunteers and children enjoying shaved ice served by the officers.

Origami and Paper Cutting

Sunday, September 18,
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

A member of Duke's origami club came and taught us some easy origami foldings, such as the rose and the crane. The children thoroughly enjoyed having the ability to express their creativity through paper folding and/or cutting. The event was a paper craft activity that everyone, including parents, participated in. The children were able to take their creations home and keep them as token reminders of the fun event.
Chinese Kites

Sunday, October 16, 2011,
2:00-3:30 PM
Carr 137

Kite flying, which first appeared in war, has a long history in China. We learned more about its history and transition to entertainment purposes. We also learned about the many different styles of Chinese kites. Afterwards, the children made their own decorative kites and tried to incorporate the Chinese styles and characters. At the end of the event, they were able to fly their kites outside.

Fortune Cookies

Sunday, November 6, 2011,
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Fortune cookies, although invented in California, are associated with Chinese cuisine. We discussed its background and how it is served as a dessert at Chinese restaurants in the United States. Afterwards, we made these yummy cookies and wrote our own fortunes to put inside them. Once they were finished and out of the oven, we swapped fortunes and had a tasty treat to eat!
Dragon Crafts

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The Year of the Dragon is one of the most important in Chinese culture. The dragon is a powerful, mystical creature that symbolizes strength, harmony, and intellectuality. Those who are the Dragon zodiac are very lucky and blessed. In celebration of this particular Lunar New Year, the children learned about Chinese New Year traditions and made dragon-related crafts.

Banquet Decorations

Sunday, February 5, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The children made traditional Chinese crafts, such as lanterns and tissue flowers, as part of their contribution to the Annual Banquet. They were able to personalize these crafts, which served as decorations for the banquet that took place the following weekend.
Harbin Ice Sculptures

Sunday, February 26, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Giant and colorful ice sculptures and buildings make a grand appearance in the snowy region of Harbin, China. During this event, the children learned about one of China’s most spectacular snowy regions and got the opportunity to make ice sculptures of their own using ice and food coloring. At the end of the event, the children combined all of their ice sculptures together to make the Chinese character, 冰 (ice).

Beijing Olympics

Sunday, March 25, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The 2008 Beijing Olympics was an international event that displayed Chinese culture to the entire world. For this event, we held stationed activities such as a relay race to engage the kids in collaboration and competition. Everyone had a lot of fun participating in these active events.
Mentorship

At Duke China Care, we aim to grow the children’s understanding of their Chinese heritage, especially in more meaningful ways as they get older. To accommodate our teens and pre-teens who are developing deeper and more personal interests in Chinese culture, our mentorship program pairs them with Duke student mentors based on shared interests.

This year, our program continued to grow with the addition of several new members to China Care and the progression of some of the children from playgroups to mentorship. The meetings this year emphasized cultural awareness and understanding through festivals and Chinese crafts, but also incorporated opportunities for service and fundraising through events like the annual 5K run. We continued to foster mentor-mentee bonds through our traditional games, dumpling-making, and picnic get-togethers.
Moon Festival

Sunday, September 11, 2011, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The Moon Festival has been honored for millennia in China as one of the most important annual holidays. Traditionally, the Moon Festival celebrate the harvest and is a time for family to come together and gather. We helped the children in attendance make and decorate their own moon cakes, a traditional food eaten especially on the day of the Moon Festival in China and brought in traditional Chinese moon cakes for them to try.

Ghost Holiday and Dragon Boats

Sunday, October 2, 2011, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The Ghost Holiday is a traditional Chinese holiday celebrated in the fall. The holiday honors ancestors and involves floating dragon boats and lanterns on rivers. We taught the children about the origins of the holiday and made the boats and lanterns that are characteristic of Ghost Holiday celebrations. The children were then able to race the boats against each other in an inflatable pool using handmade fans to propel their boats.
Watercolor Painting

*Sunday, November 13, 2011, 2:00-3:30 PM
Carr 137*

Watercolor painting is been an important form of art in China, with a history of thousands of years. The children learned about the history of Chinese watercolor painting and the volunteers taught them how to write different Chinese characters. The children then were given the opportunity to try painting their own paper lanterns and watercolor drawings.

Tie-Dyeing

*Sunday, January 29, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105*

Chinese tie-dyeing (zha ran) is an ancient Chinese dyeing method that appeared during the Tang Dynasty. At this event, volunteers helped the children tie-dye China Care t-shirts and taught them how to create different designs. This event helped to foster bonding between mentorship pairs and exposed the children to another aspect of Chinese art.
**Dumplings**

*Sunday, February 19, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105*

Dumplings are commonly eaten in China around the Lunar New Year. We honored this tradition by having the children make their own dumplings. Volunteers helped to teach them how to fold dumplings and at the end of the event, everyone got to try out their tasty creations.

**Chinese Egg Hunt**

*Sunday, March 18, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
Carr 137*

The children participated in a Chinese culture-themed Easter egg hunt which challenged them to use their knowledge of Chinese culture and Chinese characters to find Easter eggs hidden around the building. Volunteers and children teamed up to search for the eggs and the children got exposure to recognizing and learning Chinese characters.

**Bridge Painting**

*Sunday, April 1, 2012, 2:00-3:30 PM
East Campus Bridge*

This event was a fun way of raising awareness about China Care within the wider Duke community. The children and volunteers painted the East Campus bridge with the words, “Duke China Care,” decorated their design, and got to spend a pleasant day outside bonding with their mentorship partners.
This year, Duke China Care hosted its 5th Annual Charity Banquet; the theme was One World, One Family.

The banquet was marked by a delicious dinner catered by Grace’s Café, followed by beautiful cultural performances by various Chinese cultural groups and a silent auction for charity. The event ended with a talk by Kourtni Rader, an adopted Korean orphan who joined Holt International Children’s Services in Policy & External Affairs as the Adult Adoptee Director. She provided great insights to our parents about teaching their adopted children how to connect to and understand their cultural heritage.

The money we raised this year was used to fund the surgery of a young Chinese girl, ShunLe, born in eastern China. Our fundraising efforts allowed her to have corrective surgery for her “pigeon chest” (a deformity of the chest) and her scoliosis. The surgery will hopefully allow her to live an active and normal life, free from the pain and restrictions that were associated with her condition.
Fundraising

Annual 5K Run/Walk

*Sunday, September 25, 2011,*
10:00 AM-12:00 PM
*Al Buehler Trail*

This event served as a great way to foster bonding between volunteers, parents, and children while raising money and awareness for the National China Care foundation. Everyone enjoyed spending time with their mentorship partners and learning about China Care and its mission. The 5K was a success and the money raised was used to provide life-saving surgeries for medically fragile orphans in China.

Panda Express Fundraiser

*November and April*
*Bryan Center Plaza*

Through the work of many of our volunteers, Duke China Care was able to hold another successful fundraiser with our gracious hosts at Panda Express. We were able to raise $143 that went helped fund for medical surgeries for the children in the ChinaCare orphanage.
End of the Year Picnic

Sunday, April 15, 2012,
2:00-3:30 PM
Duke Gardens

At the end of every year, we give the volunteers, officers, parents, and kids an opportunity to bond at an informal gathering in the Duke Gardens. The families each brought a dish (or several) to share with the rest of the group. The children participated in a variety of outdoor activities, including Frisbee and a bean bag toss, and the parents and volunteers got a chance to meet and talk with each other before the end of the semester.
2011-2012 Officers:

- President: Claire Li
- Vice President: Jennifer Wang
- Treasurer: Flannery Zhou
- Fundraising Coordinators: Jenny Xue and Linda Cao
- Playgroup Coordinator: Wendy Xiao
- Mentorship Coordinator: Suellen Li
- Junior Board Leader: Isabella Zhao
- Information Officer: Jenny Zhang