Duke China Care is a service organization at Duke University. Our goal is to help Chinese orphans through fundraising for their needs. Cultural and mentorship activities are planned for adopted Chinese children in the local area to foster pride in, and understanding of, their birth heritage.
The Playgroups Program supports adopted Chinese children in the Triangle area ages three and above, as well as their families. By introducing different aspects of traditional Chinese culture to them in the form of monthly group activities, we aim to help the children maintain ties to their native homeland and culture.

**Sunday, September 14:**
**Mid-Autumn Festival**
5:30pm – 8:30pm
Lake Johnson, Raleigh

The children enjoyed getting their faces painted by our volunteers. We also set up tables to teach the children origami.

**Sunday, September 28:**
**Traditional Chinese Games**
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. West Duke 108B

Children learned how to play various authentic Chinese board games and some popular Chinese outdoor games, such as Jian Zi (毽子) and Tiao Pi Jin (跳皮筋).
This year, our playgroups program sought to offer a wide variety of events for the children. Based on parental feedback we received last year, we planned more interactive events in addition to our regular arts-and-crafts activities. We also began distributing flyers to parents at each playgroup. The flyers aimed to give the parents an understanding of the cultural or historical context of the playgroup activity; the flyers also contained mini-Chinese lessons of a few Chinese characters related to the playgroup activity. We also provided snacks and drinks at playgroups with the help of parent volunteers.

**Sunday, October 19: Kites**

2:00pm – 3:30pm  
East Campus. West Duke 108B

During the first part of the playgroup, children decorated mini-kites on their own as well as two large kites as a group. These kites were meant to be for decoration only. The second part of the playgroup involved flying actual kites. Since the weather was nice, children were led to the main quad by volunteers. The kites were provided by the parents. We only had minor success in terms of getting the kites in the air, but it was a very memorable bonding experience for our volunteers and the children.
Sunday, November 2: FCC Documentary Event, Paper Dolls, Cartoon-watching Session
2:00pm – 5:30pm
East Campus. West Duke 108B (for the children) & White Lecture Hall (for the parents)

The children decorated their paper dolls after learning about traditional Chinese clothing. We then watched some DVD’s that familiarized the children with Chinese culture. One of the DVD’s was Ni Hao, Kai-lan! and the other was a classic cartoon from China (The Monkey King).

Sunday, November 16: Duke Chinese Dance
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. East Duke 204D

We invited the Duke Chinese Dance Troupe to teach the children a few Chinese dances, including a ribbon dance.
**Sunday, January 25: Story-Telling**
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. East Duke 204D

We were originally anticipating Grace Chang, a children’s book author, to come present, but due to travel conflicts, she could not attend. Instead, our volunteers read her books to the children.

**Sunday, March 1: Chinese Food-making**
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. Randolph Dorm Kitchens

The children learned how to make Chinese spring rolls. (Our volunteers worked very hard to prepare the stuffing.) We also made imitation-mooncakes from cookie dough, red bean paste, and nuts. It was a very popular event, but at future food events, we should distribute some of the prep work to the children so that they feel more occupied.

**Sunday, March 29: Asian Animals**
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. East Duke 204D

We began by learning about the Panda, its behaviors, looks, and other features. Then the children made panda masks basing their designs on real pandas and ones from their imagination. Finally, we watched “Kungfu Panda” to adjourn the event.
Mentorship

In order to keep older children as involved as possible, the Mentorship Program was created in 2008 for children age nine and above. Each child is paired with his or her Duke mentor based on shared interests. We offer group Mentorship events in order for the older children to spend time together, but more importantly the child-student pair will plan their own activities to enjoy together. This is a great chance for the older children and teens to interact and learn from each other and their mentors while having lots of fun!

Sunday, September 21:
Outdoor Games
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. West Duke 108B

The mentorship program kick-started the year by hosting an outdoor games event. It was a great opportunity for the mentors and mentees to reconnect and share stories of their summers.

Sunday, October 26:
Halloween Celebration
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Chapel Hill

The FCC hosts an annual Halloween party and this year Duke China Care’s mentorship program was invited to participate. We had a great time hosting a face painting table for the children – a perfect activity for the Halloween season.
Duke ChinaCare’s mentorship program grew significantly and took a shape of its own in 2008-2009. This year we saw the program grow from 11 mentorship pairs to 26. While the mentorship pairs engaged in fun activities together, we also conducted monthly events as a group and performed monthly mentorship pair check-ups.

**Saturday January 24:**
**Chinese New Years Celebration at the Fairgrounds**
4:30pm – 7:30pm
Lake Johnson Park, Raleigh

Duke China Care’s mentors partnered with FCC to host crafts at the Chinese New Year celebration in Raleigh. We were excited by the levels of attendance and enthusiasm and hope the kids enjoyed making red envelopes as much as we did.
Sunday, February 15:
Valentine’s Day Cooking Event
2:00pm – 3:30pm
East Campus. Randolph Dorm Kitchens

The mentees and mentors prepared the delicious Chinese dish tang yuan together. After making a thorough mess of the kitchen – all in good fun – everyone got to taste their colorful creations.

Sunday, March 22:
Zodiac-themed Scavenger Hunt
2:00pm – 3:30pm
West Campus

This scavenger hunt was designed to teach the children more about the zodiac in a fun environment. Mentors and mentees worked in small groups to try and decipher the zodiac sign encrypted in the clues and find where each clue led on West Campus. Every group did a fantastic job at piecing together the clues.
Duke China Care’s 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual International Adoption Night was a great success and there were over 100 people who attended! Our keynote speaker, Cindy (Champnella) Koenigsknecht, author of “The Waiting Child: How the Faith and Love of One Orphan Saved the Life of Another” gave an inspirational presentation. The event centered around the theme of the red thread, based on an ancient Chinese belief: “An invisible red thread connects those who are destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but never break.” Cindy’s story not only exemplified the close ties between adoptive parents and orphans, but also amongst the orphans themselves. The event raised over $2500 to support Liu Fang, an orphan under the care of National China Care who needed the fund to undergo life-saving heart surgery as well as deformity correction surgery.
We concluded the year with an end-of-year picnic in the beautiful Duke Gardens. We brought some light refreshments and parents bought food as well. The volunteers and children played games together in the Gardens and it was a wonderful and relaxing way to end a great year.

Sunday, April 19:
End of Year Picnic
2:00pm – 3:30pm
West Campus. Duke Gardens
2008-2009 Officers:

President: Rebecca Wu
Vice President Internal: Craig Reeson
Vice President External: Claire Zhang
Treasurer: Helin Gai
Playgroups Coordinator: Alice Ding
Mentorship Coordinator: Lauren Kelley
Information Officer: Meng Kang