Duke China Care is a service organization at Duke University. Our goal is to help Chinese orphans through fundraising in 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.
Playgroups

The Duke China Care Club’s Playgroup program serves as 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 9,
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 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.

APSI: Asia Day

Sunday, September 23,
2:00-4:00 PM
Duke Gardens

The group APSI organized a day to celebrate Asian heritage that was held in Duke Gardens. Different cultural groups were performing traditional songs and dances at locations within the gardens. Such activities included Chinese martial arts, Korean drums, Japanese origami, and many other interesting events. The kids were exposed to many different aspects of Asian culture.
Chinese hand-drums

Sunday, October 21
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Chinese hand drums are a type of traditional Chinese instrument that can be played with only one hand. Two small balls are loosely attached to the hand-drum which strike the drum head upon a swinging motion. The children constructed these hand-drums with volunteers and attempted to play classic Chinese melodies.

Qixi festival

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

The Qixi festival is based upon an ancient Chinese love story between a beautiful weaver girl and a humble cowherd. Banished across the universe by their parents for this star-crossed romance, these two lovers are only allowed to meet once per year on a bridge constructed of magpie birds. The children learned more about their Chinese heritage through this story and the accompanying arts and crafts portion.
Chinese Dance

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

The element of dance has been interwoven into the Chinese culture for thousands of years. Performers from a local dance organization, Duke Chinese Dance, showed the children how to perform traditional ribbon and fan dances. After only an hour and a half of training, the children were able to successfully perform the fan dance to admiring parents.

Lantern Festival

Sunday, February 24th
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

The lantern festival is a traditional Chinese holiday that is used to mark the end of lunar new year celebration. Historically, people have made and decorated beautiful lanterns that are placed outside of homes and palaces. The children continued this tradition and made a variety of paper lanterns decorated with drawings and Chinese characters.
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 the 5K and for relationship development with our traditional games, dumpling-making, and picnic get-togethers.
Bubble Tea

*Sunday, September 16th*

2:00-3:30 PM  
*West Duke 105*

Bubble tea has become a popular drink both in Chinese and across the world. Originally, bubble tea originated from the term ‘boba,’ which refers to the chewy tapioca balls commonly added to the drink. Volunteers and children made bubble tea from green tea, milk, and of course tapioca balls. The reward for their hard work was a very tasty drink.

Mooncakes

*Sunday, October 7th*

2:00-3:30 PM  
*West Duke 105*

The Mid-Autumn Festival, or Moon Festival, in China is one of the three traditional holidays. The Mid-Autumn Festival is always scheduled for the night in the fall when the full moon is the roundest. One staple of this holiday is the mooncake, a delicious pastry that is round to symbolize the moon and closeness of family. Our China Care family participated in this tradition by baking moon cakes and enjoying each other’s company.
**FCC Halloween**

*Sunday, October 28th*

*2:00-3:30 PM*

*Chapel Hill*

Halloween was celebrated in a restaurant off Franklin Street in Chapel Hill. The owner of the restaurant is a member of FCC and graciously loaned out the restaurant for other families with adopted Chinese children. Most of the children and volunteers dressed up in Halloween costumes and participated in activities such as face painting, food sampling, and dancing.

---

**Dragon Boats**

*Sunday, November 4th*

*2:00-3:30 PM*

*West Duke 105*

Dragon boats have been crafted in China as a symbol of national pride and festivity. Traditionally, dragon boats have been made for the annual Duanwu Festival, where the boats are race in front of large audiences. To simulate this experience, we made small boats out of cardboard, paper rolls, and duct tape for racing. It was an exciting day that brought out the competitive spirit in many of our volunteers and children.
Zhuhai Penpals

Sunday, January 27th
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

DukeEngage annually visits the city of Zhuhai, where members of the DukeEngage team volunteer at local schools to tutor students in English. As a outreach to this program, Duke China Care participated in a penpal program with these students in Zhuhai middle school. We spent the session writing letters to Zhuhai students, in both English and Chinese, chronicling our interests, experiences, and habits. We are eagerly awaiting our replies.

Dumplings

Sunday, February 10th
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Dumplings are a traditional Chinese dish that is both delicious and easy to prepare. The volunteers and children learned the proper techniques to fold dumplings, and eventually progressed to making their own.
Children’s Day Carnival

Sunday, February 17th
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Children’s Day is typically celebrated on June 1st in China to recognize the importance of children and also to allow children express their own interests. At Duke China Care, we organized a small carnival for the children to give them an opportunity to see many different types of arts and crafts. The carnival included activities such as making balloon animals, face painting, and coloring.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31th
2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105

Duke China Care celebrated Easter with the annual Easter Egg hunt in West Duke 105. While volunteers may be running out of good hidings spots for the eggs, the children were still happy with their collections of candy and chocolate.
Duke China Care’s Annual Banquet

This year, Duke China Care hosted its 6th Annual Charity Banquet; the theme was Somewhere Between, based on the newly released documentary.

The banquet this year was held at the Freeman Center on Duke Campus, and was highlighted by delicious food, beautiful cultural performances by various Chinese cultural groups, and a silent auction for charity. The keynote speaker was Jenni ‘Fang’ Lee, a Chinese adoptee who was one of the central characters of Somewhere Between. She spoke of her experiences as an adoptee in America and also her role in the documentary.

Duke China Care was able to raise over $3,300 from the banquet this year, and this money was used to fund the surgery of a young boy in China named YuanDong. YuanDong was born with a condition called strabism, commonly known as crossed-eye. The funded surgery was used to help correct his condition so that his eyes will be able to correctly focus.
2012-2013 Officers:

- President: Claire Li
- Vice President: Linda Cao
- Treasurer: Haisi Liu
- Fundraising Coordinators: Jennifer Wang, Jenny Xue
- Playgroup Coordinator: Wendy Xiao
- Mentorship Coordinator: Suellen Li
- Information Officer: Justin Yu
- Junior Board: Shannon Lin, Leanna Zhan, Catherine Zhang