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 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.

**PLAYGROUP**

**Meet and Greet, Shaved Ice, and Chinese Cultural Jeopardy**

*Sunday, September 5, 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. This playgroup began with several icebreaker activities that emphasized having the children work with each other and with the undergraduate volunteers, so as to make everyone comfortable with each other. Then, those in attendance played a Jeopardy game where the responses related to various Chinese people, places, and things. Different prizes were awarded to the winners. The event concluded with volunteers and children enjoying shaved ice served by the officers.
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. This year saw the return of many regular volunteers from the previous year, as well as the addition of several new faces. Events this year sought to elucidate the history, meaning, and current reality of many celebrations/festivals such as the Dragon Boat Festival and Chinese New Year.

**Dragon Boat Festival Celebration**

**Sunday, September 19, 2:00-3:30 PM**

**West Duke 105**

The Dragon Boat Festival is an annual celebration in China and other parts of Asia that involves eating, socializing, and watching boat races done in special boats with dragon designs. This arts and crafts activity gave children the opportunity to build their own dragon boats and fans from various floatable/waterproof materials. After building the dragon boats, children raced their boats in two tracks made from rain gutters filled with water. The boats were propelled by the children using the fans that they had made.

**Moon Festival**

**Sunday, October 3, 2:00-3:30 PM**

**Randolph Commons**

The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival, is one of the most important holidays in China. Traditionally, this has been a harvest celebration; but it has evolved over the centuries to be more of an annual time to gather and catch-up with family and friends. We celebrated the Moon Festival by teaching the children to make moon cakes, the traditional delicacy eaten on this day. Each child made several moon cakes and ate the results of their delightful creations at the end of the playgroup.
Halloween Celebration
Sunday, October 17, 2:00-4:00 PM
La Residence, Chapel Hill
Duke China Care volunteers traveled to Chapel Hill to help out with the Halloween celebration sponsored by the Family with Children from China (FCC) organization. Volunteers and officers did face painting and balloon animal making for children. This is an annual event that allows the Duke China Care to reach out to the wider community and strengthen relations with the FCC.

Calligraphy and Watercolor Painting
Sunday, November 14, 2:00-3:00 PM
Carr 105
Calligraphy is a unique Chinese art form that combines painting with writing. In addition, watercolor drawings on parchment have been a staple of Chinese artists for millennia. An officer who was familiar with these techniques came in and taught the children in attendance several brush strokes used in both calligraphy and watercolor painting. This event encouraged children to explore their artistic, creative side.

Chinese New Year Paper Mache
Sunday, January 23, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke 105
The Chinese New Year is arguably the most important and widely celebrated holiday in China. Participants of this playgroup had the opportunity to make rabbits and other designs using paper mache, all in celebration of 2011, the year of the rabbit. A brief PowerPoint at the outset of the playgroup told the tale of how the date for the New Year came to be established and provided context for the modern New Year celebrations.
Cooking Dumplings
Sunday, February 6, 2:00-3:30 PM
Randolph Commons
Gastronomy represents a pivotal part of the Chinese culture, with nearly every region of China having its own specialties and variations on classics. Volunteers and children made the traditional dish of dumplings with the help and direction of the officers. Education at playgroups comes in the form of learning history and tradition, as well as picking up useful, practical skills.

Scavenger Hunt
Sunday, February 27, 2:00-3:30 PM
West Duke
This event encouraged the children to develop critical thinking skills. Clues were hidden all around the West Duke building with the goal being to find each clue in order until the final clue was obtained. Three teams consisting of volunteers and children searched for completely separate clues and competed to be the first team to have found all clues to as to win the prize. With oftentimes rather cryptic clues, the children had to think creatively in order to locate each subsequent clue.

Recess
Sunday, March 27, 2:00-3:30 PM
Duke 105
Inspired by the mildly elegiac and wholly nostalgic activities from our youth, this event comprised of such classics as 4-square, Clue, Candy Land, Apples-to-Apples, card games, Chinese board games, and a showing of the movie *How to Train Your Dragon*. These types of events encourage interactions between the children and between children and volunteers. As the last playgroup of the year, this event was also an important milestone for our graduating seniors.
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.

**MENTORSHIP**

**Making Bubble Tea**

Sunday September 12, 2010
2:00-3:30pm Randolph Kitchen,
East Campus

Bubble tea seemed like just the treat to get our year off to a great start. We learned about the history of tea in China and how the hot herbal drink gave way to the recent craze behind bubble tea. With the proper ingredients, the drink is easy to make, so we tried our hand at creating our own. After everyone had been served and began to sip on their drinks, established mentorship pairs caught up after the long summer break while new mentees and mentors got to know each other in a fun, informal setting.
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. Though pairs meet up one-on-one, we also plan monthly activities to bring together everyone in the mentorship community. In planning these events, we like to maintain a focus on shaping culturally meaningful experiences. Therefore, the meetings this year emphasized cultural awareness and understanding through the fan dancing, festivals, and identity events (among others), but also incorporated opportunities for service and fundraising through the 5K and for relationship development with our bubble tea, traditional games, and picnic get-togethers.

**Chinese Fans and Dancing**

_Duke Chinese Dance was kind enough to collaborate with us once again, this time to teach our mentors and mentees the style of traditional Chinese fan dancing. We first watched a performance that told a story of earth, water, air, and fire, and then learned some of the dance, using the same fans colored to represent each of the elements. Duke China Care greatly appreciates the continued help of the dance group and their invaluable addition to our understanding of Chinese culture._
Harbin Ice Festival
Sunday November 7, 2010
2:00-3:00pm West Duke 105, East Campus
Giant ice sculptures and buildings, glowing with colored lights, make a grand appearance in the snowy region during the Ice Festival. In this event, we learned about one of China's most famous regions and its most popular and spectacular fest. Afterwards, we made our own tasty 'ice' sculptures using marshmallows and frosting. This made for an interactive way to share with our mentees the way artistry and celebration can bring people of different backgrounds together to share their cultures.

Traditional Chinese Games
Sunday January 30, 2011
2:00-3:30pm West Duke 105, East Campus
In addition to Chinese jump rope, our mentees and mentors learned how to play some board games commonly played in China. Chinese checkers was a favorite, as expected, though many enjoyed mastering the tricky rules to Fei Xing Qi, where players have to strategically land their airplane pieces on their own and opponents’ planes to navigate the board and land on their destination the most quickly. This provided a great backdrop to conversation as mentorship pairs shared the fun they had over the winter holidays.
**Lantern Festival & Chinese Papercuts**

**Sunday February 18, 2011**

2:00-3:30pm Carr 137, East Campus

The event kicked off with a short presentation on the lantern festival, which expressed the importance of family, community, and relationships in general in Chinese culture. We then got to take part in some of the events typically associated with the festival that marks the end of the New Year celebrations by making lantern chains and cutting the shapes of animals, Chinese characters, and other design out of colored paper. The most common papercut designs reflected this year’s animal, the rabbit.

**“Identity” with OAKS**

**Sunday March 20, 2011**

2:00-3:00pm West Duke 105, East Campus

The organization "Our Asian Kids" (OAKS) serves families in the Triangle with children adopted from all over Asia. China Care worked with OAKS to talk about growing up as an Asian-American, and to highlight some of the great Asian-American role models that they can look up to. Our mentees learned all about athletes, politicians, astronauts, and even video game creators that identified as Asian or Asian-American. Mentors and mentees were encouraged to reflect on the possibilities that lay before them by writing letters to their future selves and creating collages that reflected their interests and aspirations.

**Martial Arts Activity**

**Sunday April 3, 2011**

2:00-3:00pm West Duke 105, East Campus

We were delighted to have nine-year-old Timothy Downs and his parents, Don and Cathy, join us in exploring the Martial Arts. Both Timothy and Don have earned their black belts in taekwondo and were generous enough with their time and talents to display board-breaking demonstrations and teach our mentors and mentees some of the basic stances, kicks, and punches. We even got to practice and show off our new skills on a kick pad. However, we first learned a bit more about the practice of Martial Arts in China and its role as both a sport and an art, a means of developing both physical strength and personal resolve.
Duke China Care’s Annual Banquet
“My Story”
Sat, February 12, 2011, 6:00pm-8:30pm
Von Canon, Bryan Center

This year’s annual banquet was a huge success and raised $3,041 to help fund medical procedures for some of China’s most at-risk orphans. Though all of Duke China Care’s fundraising efforts this year, we were able to sponsor surgeries for two beautiful children living in the China Care Home. Duke China Care’s fundraising efforts completely funded corrective surgery for Chun who suffers from a critical condition called spina bifida, a birth defect caused by the incomplete closing of the backbone and spinal cord. In addition, we will contribute to corrective surgery for Fang, a little girl who arrived at China Care when she was just one month old and suffering from a teratoma.

This year’s annual banquet featured performances by children involved in our Playgroup Program, the on-campus Chinese dance group “Duke Jasmine Dance”, as well as an exciting Taekwondo demonstration. We were honored to have Steve Kalb as our keynote speaker. Mr. Kalb is a Korean adoptee and full time social worker at Holt International Children’s Services. Steve directs the Adoptee Camp program, giving him valuable insight into the adoptee experience. He spoke about his work at Holt, and connected these experiences to the theme of the banquet “My Story” by focusing on ways to empower adoptees.

The annual Banquet was graciously sponsored by: The Duke University Cultural Fund, Triangle Area Families with Children from China, Duke University Stores, Hibachi Express, The Garden Salon, Build-a-Bear Workshop as well as many restaurants in the Durham area including but not limited to The Cheesecake Factory and Chipotle.
First Annual 5K Run-Walk
Sunday, September 26, 2010, 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Al Beuhler Trail at the Washington Duke Inn

Duke China Care was proud to hold its second 5K Run-Walk Fundraiser. This event marked the launch of Duke China Care’s fundraising efforts for the year and brings families and volunteers together in the spirit of care. The 5K provides an opportunity for participants to support children in the China Care Home and to learn about more about Duke China Care, Chinese culture and the status of orphans in China as they read our informational posters that lined the course. This year’s initial Run-Walk raised $100 which was donated to the China Care Foundation to partially fund a critical surgery for one of its orphans.

Panda Express Fundraiser
Monday-Tuesday, November 1st-2nd, 2010, 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Bryan Center Plaza

Duke China Care was proud to launch its first Panda Express Fundraiser this year. Not only were we able to raise $278 through the combined efforts of Duke students and Panda Express, we had the chance to increase our presence on campus and spread awareness of Duke China Care’s mission of supporting orphans in need of critical medical care. The funds from this event were to the China Care Foundation to help fund immediate surgery for one of its orphans.
End of the Year Picnic
Sunday April 17, 2011
2:00-3:30pm, Sarah P. Duke Gardens

Our annual picnic is a great way to wind down the year and spend some quality time as a community; everyone in the China Care family involved in the playgroup or mentorship programs is invited to attend. The children played with Frisbees and jump ropes in the sunny weather, while parents caught up with each other and mentor pairs enjoyed quality time together before the semester’s close.
President: Lauren Kelley
VP: Meng Kang
Treasurer: Alice Ding
Fundraising Coordinators: Dianna Hu & Jennifer Wang
Playgroups Coordinator: Patrick Lang
Mentorship Coordinator: Jackie Woodruff
External Affairs: Lisa Deng & Linda Cao
Info Officer: Claire Li