



**“Every child
deserves a
home and
love.
Period.”**

**Dave Thomas -
Founder of
Wendy’s**

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The Adoption Option

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The Miracle of Adoption

by Amy Flynn Eldridge
Executive Director

Ten years ago, I found myself standing in the lobby of the White Swan Hotel in southern China, with a thousand different thoughts racing through my mind. I was about to meet my newest daughter, the first child to join my family through adoption....and excitement, fear, anticipation, and joy were all rolled into one.

I had dreamed of adopting from China for many years. I don’t think anyone can properly explain just what it feels like to meet your child for the first time as everyone’s experience is so unique....from the baby who blinks in curiosity at the stranger in front of her, to the toddler who arches her back and screams, putting as much distance as possible between her and her new momma, to the school-aged child clinging tightly to the hand of his aunty and trying to appear brave, even as his heart pounds with understandable fears.

It seems like yesterday that I was handed a tiny baby girl, bundled up in about eight layers of clothing, who regarded me with solemn contemplation before (thankfully) gracing me with an incredible grin. All of us who have adopted internationally remember THAT mo-

**“...countless children with
medical needs are waiting
right at this moment for
someone to love them.”**

ment. The moment a tiny hand is placed into ours, and the journey of becoming a real family together begins.

November is National Adoption Month, and I hope you will join with us in helping to share the news of the number of children right now in Chinese orphanages waiting for a family of

We know the “waiting child” path to adoption is not the right fit for every family. But we also know that there are many myths and fears surrounding the term “special needs” that are often misunderstood. During this national month to celebrate adoption, we encourage you to educate yourself and others about the special needs adoption program. LWB has produced a video on Adopting the Waiting Child that can be viewed [here](#), as well as putting together a website that discusses some of the most common special needs seen in children on adoption lists. Visit www.adoptspecialneeds.org to learn more.



I am so humbled to get to play even a small role in helping to change the lives of orphaned children in China through our many humanitarian program areas, but the reality is that no charity program in the world can change a child’s life the way a permanent family can. Let’s use the month of November to

actively spread the word about the number of children waiting right now for homes. Adoption is a life-changing journey that should never be entered into lightly, but it is also a beautiful commitment that provides the essential love and nurturing that every orphaned child deserves.

their own. I frequently talk with families who say they would love to adopt, but they didn’t think there was still a need in China. I always let them know that countless children who have been abandoned with medical needs are waiting right at this moment for someone to love them.

In Celebration of National Adoption Month

To celebrate National Adoption Month, we thought you would enjoy reading some letters from parents who have adopted children from LWB programs.

Nourishing A Bright Future

“...that precious little boy was placed in my arms and my life has forever been changed by that moment.”



Cameron's referral picture

In 2003, a picture of a little boy from China was sent to me via email. He was a small baby and had

the most gorgeous eyes I had ever seen. The next photo I opened of him revealed a baby with missing fingers and toes on both hands and feet. I still could not get past his beautiful face.

The child was very thin and was failing to thrive, but LWB stepped in and

started supplying this little guy with formula and nutrition that the orphanage could not afford to provide. Seeing the huge difference that good formula and nutrition made in his little life changed my thoughts on giving and caring about the welfare and well-being of others. I learned that one person can truly make a difference in the life of someone else.

On February 14, 2004, that precious little boy was placed in my arms and my life has forever been changed by that moment. Cameron is now my son.

—Karen

Cameron had a rough start in life, but you wouldn't know that by looking at him today. He is in the first grade and thriving! His mother tells LWB that he loves watching Disney, singing, bike riding, jumping on the trampoline, and spending time with his siblings. “He also loves playing his DS Nintendo and loves listening to his Ipod. He



Sweet Cameron today

has the sweetest personality... and he wants a little brother from China!” she adds.

FACT

Since 2003, LWB has provided enough formula to orphanages in China to make 200,000 nutritious bottles!

A Foundation of Learning Smooths the Transition

Thank you to the sponsors and teachers of LWB's “Believe in Me” Huainan school for all you did to prepare our daughter for school when she joined our family this August [2009]. She attended the first day of school in our community four days after we arrived home. She was not sure about it the first week, but we were all still experiencing jet lag and settling into the newness of being a family. After the first week, she was looking forward to going and still



Jenny's shirt says it well... “I was worth the wait”

goes everyday with a smile on her face and returns with a smile on her face. She is doing well learning addition, the alphabet, following directions, playing at recess, learning the routine and playing with other children. She is hungry to learn.

The foundation of the “Believe in Me” school helped to prepare her to attend school full-time and to find the joy in learning. It's so beautiful to see.

—Tom & Rebecca

Jenny was enrolled at our “Believe in Me” school in Huainan, Anhui for nearly two years. This school serves more than 75 children ages 3 to 15 by providing tutoring services, kindergarten prep, and preschool.

FACT

Of the 43 children originally enrolled in our first “Believe in Me” school in China, 39 have found permanent homes through adoption!

Ten ways to promote adoption this month:

1. Host an adoption event at your church or civic group.
2. Write a letter to the editor at your local paper about an adoption topic.
3. Contact the **Dave Thomas Foundation** to get free promotional and education materials; Click [here](#).
4. Donate books about adoption for both adults and children to your local library.
5. Encourage your company to send an email information sheet about adoption to its employees.
6. Create a flyer about National Adoption Month and ask your local schools if it can be sent home to all parents.
7. Contact your local news station to see if they would be interested in running a story on your family's adoption.
8. Make posters celebrating adoption and ask local businesses if you can hang them in their windows.
9. Ask your minister or rabbi to say a special prayer for families formed through adoption.
10. Use this month to do a special emphasis on adoption on all the social media sites you use such as Twitter, Facebook, and your personal blog.

Extra credit: Pass this newsletter on to all your friends and family.



A Loving Start in Foster Care

On July 8, 2009, our lives changed forever. What a joyous, happy and wonderful day it was when we received a referral for our beautiful daughter, Siena Rose.

Wang Na, or Na Na, as she was called, had heart surgery in February 2009. Shortly after her surgery, she was placed into foster care by Love Without Boundaries.

Although we have never met her foster family or know anything about them, we feel their love



Siena enjoying her new home

through Siena every day ... through the loving way she takes our face in her little hands and kisses us, through the way she gives big hugs and tries to make us laugh, and through the way she helps set the table or dresses herself.

There are so many little, amazing things she does that can only have come from a family who truly cared and loved her. For this, we are eternally grateful! We have been home since

October 2, 2009, and we sit in wonderment every day at this little girl. Thank you to all the people who had a hand in helping this child to flourish into a kind, smart and courageous person.

—Adele and Dan

FACT

In the last five years, 875 children have participated in our foster care program, and over 500 have been united with permanent families through adoption!

“He who can reach a child’s heart can reach the world’s heart”

Rudyard Kipling

Healing Brings A Life Of Hope

Our daughter Meisyn is one amazing little girl! I don't think anyone has told her that she has a weak heart! NOTHING stops her from enjoying life. She is such a happy little girl. She never walks anywhere. She either hops, skips, jumps or runs wherever she may be going. She has transitioned into our family seamlessly. We love her so much and cannot imagine our life without her. We stand in awe of her. We know that she has endured more in her four short years of life than we will ever have to endure, and yet she still has a great love for life and those of

us who are blessed to be her family! Each day our hearts overflow with the blessings that this precious child brings us.

Before she joined our family, our daughter had one life-saving surgery in China in 2006 thanks to LWB. We are grateful to LWB and the generous people who funded her surgery. LWB will always hold a special place in our hearts for their unconditional love and care they gave to Meisyn. I feel that had it not been for LWB and the families that helped to fund care for Meisyn, she would not be here today living life to the fullest.



cord speed. Her zest for life had her up and about within just a few days. She won the hearts of all her nurses and doctors with her sweet, sweet spirit. Many seeds were planted in those hearts from the life story Meisyn has to share, starting with the story of LOVE, HOPE and OPPORTUNITY that she's been given!! Now that her broken heart is healed, we can't wait to see what amazing and great things God has in store for our precious Meisyn AiYan.

—Jennifer and Richard

FACT

Over the last six years, LWB has facilitated 17 medical exchanges between China and the U.S.



Meisyn had open heart surgery again last month at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. She recovered in re-

A Family For Timothy

Have you ever known a three-year-old so completely in love with a favorite shirt that he wants to wear that shirt every-day? There is a little boy in China that also has a favorite shirt. Timothy loves his Spiderman shirt, and, in almost every photo we received over the summer, he was wearing it!

Timothy was 12 months old when he entered our medical program with severe anemia. We sent him to Shanghai for testing and there he was diagnosed with beta thalassemia major. He started receiving blood transfusions every three weeks.

Thalassemia is a very rare blood condition that occurs most commonly in southern China. Because China's population is becoming more mobile, this is now being seen in other areas and not a lot is known about the treatment. As blood transfusions are done, too much iron builds up in some of the major organs. To remove this iron, chelation



therapy is also needed. If the iron isn't removed, a person with thalassemia will only live into their 20s because their organs will begin to fail. Often we have heard that untreated thalassemia is a death sentence.

For Timothy, adoption will bring not only a permanent family, but **LIFE**. With chelation therapy, he should be able to have a normal lifespan; without it, he will die too young. A hematologist recently told us that with a bone marrow transplant, he even has the possibility of being completely cured. Recently, we have heard that his iron levels are high, and we know that he needs to be adopted as soon as possible. His file has been at the Chinese Center for Adoption Affairs

“For Timothy, adoption will bring not only a permanent family, but LIFE”

(CCAA) for the last eight months, just waiting for his family to find him.

This child would make the most wonderful son! He has lived with a foster grandmother who loves him very much. Going to the park with her is his favorite activity. He also loves going to kindergarten and playing with other children. Timothy is said to be polite, active, smart, and curious.

For National Adoption Month, our greatest desire is for this adorable little boy to find his forever family. Is that you?

Timothy has a grant available to help him find his new family!

For more information, contact:

adoptionassistance@lwbmail.com

The Red Coat

Little YaYa was just three years old and had once been given a red coat by a visitor to her orphanage. She loved this red coat and wore it all the time. The aunties would joke with her that it was her favorite thing in the world.

One day the orphanage staff needed to photograph another child who was being sponsored for surgery. They wanted Zhen to look as beautiful and colorful as possible, so one of the aunties went and got YaYa's red coat for Zhen to wear in the photos. When YaYa saw Zhen wearing her coat, she started to cry really hard. Everyone could hear her sobbing even from outside the room.

As Zhen was having her photos taken in the hallway, YaYa ran to the metal gate



at the door and cried some more. The aunties tried to move her back into the room, but she used all her strength to hang onto the gate and kept crying.

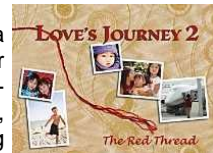
The aunties scolded her and said, “YaYa, you must share your red coat. You cannot be selfish.” But still she continued to cry.

Finally one of the aunties listened to what she was saying and realized that YaYa wasn't crying because she didn't want to share. She was crying because she wanted her photo taken, too. YaYa said over and over, “Take MY picture!” You see, she had realized at the tender age of three that in order to have a mommy and daddy come to take you home, you first had

to have your picture made. YaYa wasn't crying because she wanted a simple red coat. She was crying because she wanted a family of her very own to love her.

YaYa's story is just one many stories included in ***Love's Journey 2: The Red Thread***, our second hardback coffee table style book celebrating adoption.

You can get a copy of LJ2 for no charge, except for shipping, simply by posting a link to our homepage on your blog or social media sites. LJ2 is a perfect holiday gift for anyone touched by adoption. Quantities are limited, so please click [here](#) and follow the instructions carefully to get your free copy!



TeamLWB, Not Just For Runners

Sure, TeamLWB started out for marathon runners, but there is so much more that can be done through TeamLWB. Want to plan a fundraiser or participate in an upcoming event?? Start with [TeamLWB!](#)

A Baby Shower for Heartbridge



Rhys and his new mom

Little Rhys spent a few months of his young life at the [Heartbridge Pediatric Unit](#) having his club feet casted. After joining his new family through adoption, some of his new mom's friends approached her and offered to throw Rhys a baby shower. Rhys' parents had wanted to support Heartbridge, and this was the perfect opportunity!

Instead of bringing gifts for Rhys, the guests were asked to bring donations for Heartbridge. With the help of TeamLWB volunteers, Rhys' mom, Mary, was able to pull together the details of the shower and build a [website](#) for information and donations.

On the big day, guests enjoyed visiting together and learning about Heartbridge, with Rhys there to greet them. All of the planning and the shower have had an unexpected benefit. Rhys' big sister, also adopted from China, has been able to learn about the gift of giving, too.

A big thanks to Rhys and his new family!

Running for Gwen

Natalie enjoys running, especially with her daughter along for a ride in her stroller. Natalie's daughter was adopted from China in 2007 and Natalie and her family wanted to help children still waiting for their families through participating in the [Akron Marathon](#).

Natalie chose to run to raise funds for Gwen, a



Baby Gwen



Kids are the winners!

baby with an intestinal defect who was awaiting surgery as Natalie did her fundraising. Unfortunately,

before the marathon, Natalie had to have knee surgery and wasn't able to compete, but still made it to the marathon to cheer on her team members. Through TeamLWB contributions, Gwen and others like her are the true "winners."

Thank you to Natalie and all of the Akron Marathon TeamLWB runners!



Natalie, holding her daughter

Marine Corps Marathon 2009



The Marine Corps Marathon was held October 25th in Washington, DC. We want to send out a HUGE shout out of **thanks to everyone who ran for LWB** in order to change the lives of orphaned children. We can't thank you enough!

A thousand thanks to all the kids who ran in the Fun Run to benefit those children who still wait in China. We are so proud of you!



Kudos! 谢谢

Thanks to the generosity of the [MariaMarina Foundation](#), LWB has established "Ethan's Emergency Medical Fund," an account which will allow us to say "YES" to children and provide the urgent life-saving medical care they need.



We cannot thank the [MariaMarina Foundation](#) enough for their generous support of our most vulnerable children.

Read more about Ethan and the fund [here](#).

Kudos to **Diane and her family** for running an online "garage sale" and donating 50% of the proceeds to LWB. Diane's two daughters, ages six and ten, chose LWB's heart surgery fund for the donations. The items that Diane and her daughters sold hold a



special place in Diane's heart, and her hopes are that other little lives will be touched through their sale. Visit Diane's website, [Charity Garage Sale](#).

Thank you Diane and girls!

A big xie-xie to the talented musicians of [SJ Studios](#) for holding a musical fundraiser for LWB. Special thanks to the performers; **Steven Jones, Naomi Alvarado, Catie Cannova, Jenna Cheng, Owen Ellis, Leah Heit, Connor O'Brien, Eric Ross and Doug Welsh**.

Once again, the ladies from [Limerick, Ireland](#), have taken part in the mini-marathon for the [Henan Cleft Healing Home](#). We are so grateful to the ladies and their families for supporting our HCHH!



Welcome Home 欢迎

We love to see the miracle of adoption! Congratulations to these children and their new families!



Saskia: from the medical, education, and orphanage assistance programs; Huainan SWI, Anhui.

Meili: from the orphanage assistance program; Shantou SWI, Guangdong.



Rhys: from the orphanage assistance, medical, foster care, and healing homes programs; Gaoming SWI, Guangdong.

Meisyn: from the education, foster care, medical, and orphanage assistance programs; Dingyuan SWI, Anhui.



Lauren: from the orphanage assistance program; Xiushan SWI, Chongqing.

Hailey: from the orphanage assistance program; Xiushan SWI, Chongqing.



Amelia: from the orphanage assistance program; Xiushan SWI, Chongqing.

LilyLi: from the foster care, orphanage assistance, and medical programs; Kaifeng SWI, Henan.



Tycen: from the foster care program; Xinyang SWI, Henan.



An: from the education, foster care, medical, and orphanage assistance programs; Lu'An SWI, Anhui.



Grace: from the foster care and orphanage assistance programs; Huainan SWI, Anhui.



Shawna: from the orphanage assistance program; Xiushan SWI, Chongqing.



Grace: from the education and orphanage assistance programs; Changde SWI, Hunan.

Maxence (no photo): from the orphanage assistance program; Pingliang SWI, Gansu.

Emil (no photo): from the orphanage assistance program; Gaoming SWI, Guangdong.



If you adopted a child who was in a LWB program, we are happy to send you any progress reports and photos that we have in our files after you have brought your child home. Please complete this [form](#) and submit it to us.

Also, if you have adopted a child from our programs and would like to see your child featured in "Welcome Home," please email news@lwbmail.com.

Please Take Note...

LWB Story Blog



The LWB blog has become our brand-new story blog. We hope you love the stories of the children in our programs as much as we do! Please visit [LWB Stories](#) and subscribe to have these heartwarming stories delivered to your inbox or feed.

Become An Informed Giver

How do you evaluate which charities to choose for your donations? We have put together a document with a checklist to help you to pick charities where your donation dollars will have the most impact. You'll find it [here](#).

Urgent Needs

Orphanage Assistance Program:

The Nanchuan nutrition program is in need of sponsors or donations in any amount. Without an increase in funding, this program will have to close. Please consider giving the gift of a full tummy to the children of Nanchuan. Click [here](#).



Education Program:

- **Shawo** needs school sponsorship through the "Mama's Wish" program. He's an orphan with no family to help him. Click [here](#) to help Shawo.
- **Kamo** has the opportunity to go to college. This bright young woman also needs school sponsorship. Click [here](#) to help Kamo.
- \$125 is needed to purchase a monocular for a little girl in "Believe In Me" Huainan education program who has inoperable glaucoma. Click [here](#) to help provide the gift of clear sight. Donations in any amount are appreciated!



Foster Care Program:

- Give children the gift of family through our foster care program. Many children are waiting. Click [here](#).



Meet Our New Board Members

LWB is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors this fall:



Ben Glass

Ben Glass is an attorney and entrepreneur based in Fairfax, Va. He is a nationally recognized motivational speaker and an expert in helping small law firms and other businesses grow in order that the business owner can "live a life of significance."

Glass and his wife, Sandi (director of LWB's Healing Homes program), are

the parents of seven children, two of whom are adopted from China. They are excitedly awaiting their newest children, "David" and "Leah," who are currently living in an orphanage in China.



Heidi Reitz

Heidi Reitz has been working with Love Without Boundaries since 2004 and is currently Director of Programs. Reitz helped start

LWB's successful cleft healing home program and has significantly grown LWB's foster care program which to date has placed 875 orphaned children

with loving foster families. Reitz received a 2009 U.S. Congressional Angels in Adoption Award (see below).

Reitz lives in Minnesota with her husband and six children, two of whom are adopted from China.

"I feel very lucky that I can work with a foundation whose mission is to change the lives of orphans in China. Every day at LWB we hear of children who desperately need our help. We do our best to gather information and photos to share the stories of the children so that through our program or donations, we be an agent of change in their lives."

LWB's Angel in Adoption

Heidi Reitz, LWB Program Director and member of the Board of Directors, was honored in Washington, D.C. on September 28 with an **Angels in Adoption** award.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) Angels in Adoption™ Program provides Members of Congress the opportunity to honor an individual or entity from their



Heidi receives the award from Sen. Mary Landrieu, chair of CCAI

district that has made an extraordinary contribution on behalf of children in need of homes.

Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Stillwater), who represents Minnesota's Sixth District, presented and praised Reitz for her tireless work on behalf of Chinese orphans and

adoptive families: "Even without this award, Heidi would deserve acknowledgment for her extraordinary work bettering the lives of orphans in China. I am honored, as a foster mother myself, to make known her hard work to this Congress."

Heidi and LWB were doubly honored when **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton** singled them out for their work in China during her speech to award recipients at the State Department.

LOVE WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

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"Changing the lives of orphans in China"

Love Without Boundaries Foundation is a worldwide group of volunteers dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned and impoverished children in China. We provide humanitarian aid in five key areas

*- education, foster care, healing homes, medical, and orphanage assistance -
enabling children to receive a family through adoption or to become self-sustaining members of their communities.*

Make Your Holiday Shopping Twice As Nice

The holidays are right around the corner! This year, your gifts can bring joy to the recipient while helping change the lives of deserving children at the same time. To help save you time, we compiled a list to jump-start your holiday shopping.

LWB Gift Card



If you are shopping for teachers, grandparents, or neighbors, consider purchasing an LWB Gift Card. The purchase of a gift card helps provide essential financial support for our programs. These 5.4" x 4.2" glossy gift cards come with a white envelope and are available for each of our program areas. We also have available a limited supply of beautiful handmade holiday cards. A very special thank you to Lisa Robinson for creating these special cards for LWB. Cards can be mailed to you for giving or directly to the recipient. A donation of at least \$10 per card is suggested. www.lovetwithoutboundaries.com/gift_cards.cfm



Shop LWB Store

At the LWB Store, you can pick up LWB shirts, caps, kids clothes, as well as other fun stuff! Proceeds from all purchases are used to help children in need.



www.cafepress.com/lwbshop

LWB eBay Store

For the book lover on your list, consider shopping at LWB's eBay store. A few of the China-related books include:



- **Beautiful Xiangxi** by Congwen Shen
- **China: The Middle Kingdom** by Wu Rui Lian
- **Savoring China** by Jacki Passmore
- **The Lady and the Panda** by Vicki Constantine Croke
- **The Last Empress** by Anchee Min

Many other interesting items can also be found at our eBay Store. www.stores.ebay.com/Love-Without-Boundaries-Store

Amazon.com



Thinking about purchasing the Kindle wireless reading device for that special someone on your list? LWB receives a percentage of proceeds for all of your Amazon.com purchases made through the link on the home page of our website. www.lovetwithoutboundaries.com

iGive.com - You Shop, We Win! Help LWB for free



A penny a search and a portion of each purchase will be donated to LWB. How often do you search or shop online? Start helping today. Register with iGive, select LWB as your favorite cause, and shop at brand name online stores through the iGive Mall. Save money with exclusive coupons and free shipping offers. Plus, when you shop within 45 days of registering, iGive will donate an extra \$5 to LWB! www.igive.com

We-Care.com

When you download the We-Care reminder for Love Without Boundaries, every time you shop at a participating merchant, a percentage of what you spend will support our work — at no extra cost to you! Participating merchants include: LensCrafters, PriceLine.com, Petco, Barnes & Noble, Target, Clinique and more! www.lwb.we-care.com

