

Alliance for Children Foundation Opens its 4th Sunbeam Village!



The Alliance for Children Foundation (AFC) has committed to helping support the Yulin Social Welfare Institute's outstanding foster care program. Established in 1951, the Yulin Social Welfare Institute is located in Yulin City, southeast of Guangxi Province in south China. Five Alliance For Children families adopted children from Yulin in February 2005, and the AFC Foundation has provided medical support to a number of Yulin orphans since that time.

On August 28, 2006, the AFC Foundation and the Yulin Social Welfare Institute signed a contract for a joint venture creating a new foster care program that provides foster care for infants. To date, AFC has provided foster care for 46 orphans, and from that number, 33 children have joined permanent families through adoption in China as well as internationally.

As in the United States and most places in the world, children with disabilities are harder to place in foster care. AFC has not forgotten these children and early in 2006, we began discussions with the Yulin Social Welfare Institute about the possibility of a family-living style foster care center on the orphanage campus for those children with disabilities.

AFC is committed to raising funds for this project and thanks to Massachusetts philanthropist Ray Ciccolo this effort is off to an excellent start. Mr. Ciccolo made a generous donation toward the completion of the project and on April 13th, 2008, the Ciccolo Sunbeam Village - AFC's fourth Sunbeam Village in China - held its opening ceremony. Filis Casey, president of the AFC Foundation, and Mr. Ciccolo attended the opening ceremony and celebrated with the 24 children and foster families who now call the wonderful new facility their home.



Getting ready for the celebration.



Our Ciccolo Sunbeam Village family.



John and Ray Ciccolo enjoy the celebration