

# Introduction to Half the Sky Foundation

Half the Sky Foundation (HTS) was created in 1998 in order to enrich the lives of orphaned children living in China's social welfare institutions.

In 12 years, a handful of supporters, mostly adoptive parents of Chinese babies, has grown to include 30,000 supporters world-wide, as well as a growing number of caring corporate citizens and private foundations.

HTS' mission is to enrich the lives and enhance the prospects of orphaned children in China who wait to be adopted, and those who will spend their childhood in orphanages.

The Foundation is named for the Chinese adage, "Women hold up half the sky," to denote the fact that the vast majority of healthy babies abandoned in China are girls.

Children with disabilities are also more likely to be abandoned, and while the Chinese government takes responsibility for the care of orphaned children in social welfare institutions, their well-being and any possibility of a bright future, remains sadly at risk.

No matter how well intentioned, institutional care puts children at early and severe disadvantage in terms of normal cognitive, physical and emotional development. Lacking funding, program expertise, and trained staff, orphanages struggle to provide even the minimum level of personal attention critical to babies and children as they grow. By the time they reach school age, the children can be so delayed in their development that they are excluded from the community education system. These are normal children deprived of the chance to flourish.

HTS seeks to ensure orphaned children receive the early childhood opportunities they need to thrive by providing infant nurture programs with trained nannies to love and care for the babies, uniquely tailored preschool education for toddlers and beyond, personalized learning opportunities for older children, and loving, permanent family care, medical care and guidance for children with disabilities. HTS offers the care, individual attention and development environment that a loving family would otherwise secure for a child's healthy development.

Since 1998 HTS has established programs in **45 orphanages in 21 provinces and municipalities** in China, with well-defined plans for increasing its efforts in coming years. Half the Sky is in a unique position among foreign NGOs in China because its children's centers are established within state-run institutions, a privilege earned by demonstrating what profound good nurturing care can bring to the lives of the children Half the Sky has reached.

In partnership with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, Half the Sky has established its programs in 11 Blue Sky Model/Training Centers, part of an ambitious effort to bring HTS' ground-breaking programs for the nurture and enrichment of orphaned children to every province and municipality in China.

In 2009 Half the Sky, in partnership with China Care Foundation, opened the China Care Home in Beijing where specially-trained care staff provides professional, round-the-clock nurturing care and medical supervision as well as in-hospital care for medically fragile children fighting for their lives.



Half the Sky  
Foundation  
半边天基金会

HTS is working with the Henan province Bureau of Social Welfare to address the special needs of children orphaned by AIDS & in Sichuan with the Ministry of Civil Affairs to provide long-term emotional support for children traumatized by the 2008 earthquake.

In 2008, Half the Sky was deeply honored to receive the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship, presented in Oxford, England to Jenny Bowen by former US President Jimmy Carter.

## Quick Facts About Half the Sky

### Children Served

6,000 currently enrolled in Half the Sky programs  
More than 35,000 children have participated in HTS' programs since its inception

**Employees in the US:** 14    **Employees in China:** 1,325

### Total 45 Children's Centers located inside Chinese-government-operated orphanages in 21 Provinces & Municipalities

\* Blue Sky Model/Training Center

**Anhui** - Hefei, Chuzhou

**Chongqing**\*

**Guangdong** - Guangzhou, Maoming-Maonan, Qingyuan, Shenzhen, Shaoguan

**Guangxi** - Beihai, Guilin, Nanning, Wuzhou

**Guizhou** - Guiyang\*

**Hainan** - Haikou, Sanya

**Heilongjiang** - Harbin\*

**Henan** - Luoyang, Xinyang, Zhengzhou\*

**Hubei** - Huangshi, Wuhan\*

**Inner Mongolia** - Hohhot\*

**Hunan** - Chenzhou, Shaoyang, Xiangtan, Yiyang (2 sites), Yueyang

**Jiangsu** - Changzhou, Gaoyou, Lianyungang, Nanjing\*

**Jiangxi** - Fuzhou, Jiujiang, Nanchang

**Liaoning** - Shenyang\*

**Shaanxi** - Xi'an\*

**Shandong** - Qingdao\*

**Shanghai**

**Sichuan** - Chengdu, Yibin

**Tianjin**

**Xinjiang** - Urumqi\*

### China Care Home in Beijing:

Serves 73 medically fragile infants and toddlers

Incorporated in 1998; Charitable registration in US (1999), Hong Kong (2006), Canada (2004, 2009), PRC (2008), the UK & the Netherlands (2009), Australia (2010)

# Overview of Half the Sky's Programs



Young babies need more than shelter and food. In order to thrive and develop normally, they also need daily love, stimulation and interaction with a caring and consistent adult. HTS employs and trains mature women—retired or laid-off workers from the local community—to become full-time nannies at its **Infant Nurture Centers**, each providing 3-5 orphaned babies the stimulation, bonding and affection that are essential to a healthy start.



At **Half the Sky Preschools**, experienced teachers from the local community are trained to provide an innovative curriculum that combines the best of Chinese methods with the Reggio-Emilia approach to early education. The program is designed to give young children the self-confidence, basic skills, and love of learning that will help them to move on to primary school and attain the positive sense of self so often missing in institutionalized children.



Older orphaned children, especially those who have spent their lives in welfare institutions and have not had the benefit of early education, often simply give up on themselves. But when encouraged by caring mentors and teachers, they have the same dreams as every child. **Half the Sky's Youth Services Program** provides young people – some abandoned at birth, others orphaned by AIDS – with individualized education and job opportunities according to their own interests, talents and aspirations--they study art, sewing, computer science, English, etc. Those who are able go on to attend vocational schools and universities with financial support from Half the Sky.



**Half the Sky's Family Villages** provide permanent families for children with special needs who have no hope of being adopted. Efforts include fitting out apartments to house families made up of foster parents recruited from the local community and up to four or five orphaned children. HTS' Family Villages enable children who will never be adopted to grow up knowing the love of a family while also receiving support services that the welfare institution and HTS programs provide.



**The China Care Program** provides professional and nurturing round-the-clock care for medically fragile children fighting for their lives. Children born too small and weak to survive or children with life-threatening birth defects that require specialized treatment that cannot be provided at any local hospital are moved from orphanages all over China to Beijing where they receive state-of-the-art medical care in-hospital and doting pre-and-post operative care at the China Care Home.

## Contact Us

HONG KONG  
Half the Sky Foundation (Asia) Limited  
Room 2703/27/F, Shun Feng International Centre  
182 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong  
Phone +852 2520 5266 Fax +852 2520 5168

CANADA  
Half the Sky Foundation (Canada)  
PO 11347 PRO Collingwood  
Vancouver, BC Canada V5R 0A4  
Phone: +1 604 282 1052

USA  
Half the Sky Foundation  
715 Hearst Avenue, Ste. 200, Berkeley, CA 94710  
Phone +1 510 525 3377 Fax +1 510 525 3611



Half the Sky  
Foundation  
半边天基金会

[www.halfthesky.org](http://www.halfthesky.org)  
[contact@halfthesky.org](mailto:contact@halfthesky.org)