



For Immediate release

Half the Sky Founder to Bear Olympic Torch

Bowen aims to increase awareness of orphans in China through Olympic Torch Relay



Photo: Jenny Bowen, Executive Director, Half the Sky Foundation, nominated by Lenovo to be one of the Expat-in-China 2008 Olympic Torchbearer Nominees, hopes to increase awareness of orphans in China.

HONG KONG, November 5, 2007 – Half the Sky Foundation, a charity providing family-like nurturing care in the lives of orphaned children in China, today announced that its Executive Director Jenny Bowen has been designated by Lenovo through a nationwide online voting campaign as one of the Expat-in-China 2008 Olympic Torchbearer Nominees.

In a month-long open online voting campaign organized by Lenovo Group and China Daily, Jenny Bowen gained 14,188 votes to become the most popular candidate of 257 foreign candidates. The selection committee evaluated the candidates based on the number of votes, an essay on the subject “I and China” and the background of each candidate.

At the conclusion of the voting, the committee decided to nominate Jenny Bowen as one of the Expat-in-China 2008 Olympic Torchbearer Nominees. Together with other selected candidates from Germany, Japan, Columbia, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, India, the Philippines and Russia, Jenny Bowen will run in China during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Torch Relay.

Ms. Bowen, who is herself the adoptive mother of two Chinese daughters, entered the competition with the words, "2008 is the 10th anniversary of Half the Sky in China. If I were selected to carry the torch, I would run with the children—8 lovely children from our programs in 8 different provinces. What an amazing experience that would be for them!"

The Olympic Committee will make the decision in January whether the children will run with Ms Bowen, who said: "Whether or not I run WITH the children, the world will know that I am running FOR the children. And I know that those children who are old enough to understand will be so proud that they have a place in China's grand celebration."

Half the Sky provides orphaned children in China, primarily girls or children with special needs, with family-style care through its infant nurture program, tailored preschool education, personalized learning opportunities for older children, and permanent foster care for children whose disabilities preclude adoption. Half the Sky programs have directly benefited more than 13,000 orphaned children in China.

Half the Sky's four programs take advantage of international scientific research in childhood development that has established definitively what every good parent knows intuitively: to develop normally, children need to be cherished. Ms. Bowen said: "No matter how humble her beginnings, every child needs to know that someone cares about her. That is as important to healthy human development as food, shelter and medical care."

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About Half the Sky Foundation

Half the Sky Foundation establishes early childhood education, personalized learning and infant nurture programs in China's welfare institutions to provide the children stimulation, individual attention, and an active learning environment. HTS was incorporated in California in 1998 as a nonprofit, tax exempt corporation under Section 510(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. HTS Foundation of Canada (as an independent affiliate organization) received charitable registration status in 2004 and Half the Sky Foundation (Asia) Limited in Hong Kong in 2006. Donations to all three organizations are tax-deductible. The goal of the foundation is to ensure that every orphaned child has a caring adult in her life and a chance at a bright future.

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