



Immediate release

## Half the Sky Foundation Executive Director named Entrepreneur of the Year in Hong Kong



*Photo: Jenny Bowen, Executive Director, Half the Sky Foundation receives the “Entrepreneur of the Year” award at the Women of Influence Awards 2007*

**HONG KONG, October 9, 2007** – Half the Sky Foundation, a charity providing family-like nurturing care in the lives of orphaned girls in China, today announced that its Executive Director Jenny Bowen has been named “Entrepreneur of the Year” at the Women of Influence Awards 2007 in Hong Kong.

The award, which is jointly organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the *South China Morning Post*, recognized Bowen’s outstanding success in running the foundation and her continuous efforts on behalf of orphaned girls in China.

The Half the Sky Foundation has gained success through a uniquely cooperative relationship with official bodies in China, where it works closely with China Association of Social Workers, the China Centre for Adoption Affairs, and various Provincial Bureaus of Social Welfare, all under the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Half the Sky programs have directly benefited more than 12,000 orphans and disabled children in China, mainly girls, providing immediate and long-term help to the most vulnerable groups of children.

“The award recognizes the thousands of contributions made by volunteers, donors, and parents in Hong Kong and abroad, and the support of our partner organizations in China,” said Ms. Bowen, who is herself the adoptive mother of two Chinese daughters. “I hope this recognition will help our organization extend our helping hands to more orphaned children across China, providing them with the crucial love and nurturing that will allow them to thrive.”

Half the Sky is committed to providing orphaned children in China, who are primarily girls or children with special needs, with family-style care through infant nurture programs, tailored preschool education, personalized learning opportunities and permanent foster care. 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: children need to be cherished. Ms. Bowen said, “Every child needs to know that someone cares about her. That is as important to healthy human development as food, shelter and medical care.” .

The foundation launched two new Half the Sky centers in Huangshi and Wuhan in September 2007, extending the foundation’s reach to a total of 36 centers in 13 provinces in China.

Because of its decade-long track record providing nurturing care to Chinese orphans, Half the Sky has been invited to take part in China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs’ Blue Sky plan, an ambitious national effort to upgrade care for orphans all over China. The recently opened Wuhan center is the Half the Sky’s first “Blue Sky” model site, one of 31 such sites in every province and municipality that will provide training for children’s welfare institutions across China

The Half the Sky Foundation also directs a series of programs in Hong Kong throughout the year which allow the Hong Kong community to contribute directly to the support and development of China’s most vulnerable citizens. The Half the Sky annual online auction ([www.halfthesky.org](http://www.halfthesky.org)) will take place on 18 - 25 October 2007, providing Hong Kong residents with an enjoyable way to make a difference in the lives of others.

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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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