

Moving Mountains China ~ Changing Lives and Building Relationships

What if you could promote gender equality in China? What if you could help alleviate poverty for generations to come? What if you could take a female honor student off her farm or out of a factory and put her back in school? Not just any school, but the best high school in her county. What if that girl became your pen pal - a role model for your children, writing about the importance of education and sharing stories about daily life in China? With the help of many adoptive families, Moving Mountains has been able to do all of this and more.

Moving Mountains* is a nonprofit organization created by families with children from China. This organization has already changed the lives of 65 exceptionally bright girls in rural China ~ and created 65 new friendships between the students and their sponsoring families. Many of these girls live in one room mud brick homes with no running water or electricity, but they all understood the importance of education at a young age. They studied chemistry, physics, math, politics, Chinese and even English. They took the high school entrance exams, scored at the top of their classes and were accepted into the best high schools in their counties!

Unfortunately, with an average family income of only \$266 a year, their families couldn't afford the \$300* tuition. Many of these girls had already left home and were working in factories when they got the life-changing news: Someone in the United States was willing to fund their tuition!

The thank you letters that these girls have written to their sponsors reflect this excitement. Min Tao wrote, "Now I am back at school. I believe that if I work hard, I can finally be something and change my life forever. I am very grateful for your help. I think I am the luckiest girl among the 1.3 billion Chinese."



With the help of volunteer translators from the Hong Kong International School, Moving Mountains allows sponsors and students to exchange letters twice a year. It is clear that many strong relationships are forming. With her children's letter, Holly wrote, "Please let Yan Feng know that we think of her often. We have her letter posted on our family bulletin board and the kids talk about her like she lives with us - very cute."

Fellow adoptive parent and Moving Mountains Founder Kim Jodoin says, "As adoptive parents, we all understand the effects of gender *inequality* in China. Through our one-to-one sponsorship program, we are not only promoting gender equality, but we are also allowing our children to have a real connection with an incredible girl from their birth country. A girl with a name, a face and now, a whole new life."

Enough shovels of earth, a mountain. Enough pails of water, a river." ~ Chinese proverb



*Moving Mountains is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you would like more information about Moving Mountains, please visit www.movingmountainschina.org or call 603-964-8000. If you would like to follow the organization's progress, please join their mailing list by sending an email to info@movingmountainschina.org. If you or your group is inspired to change the life of a girl in China, please send \$300 or \$30 per month to Moving Mountains, PO Box 93, Rye, NH 03870 or donate through their website. Moving Mountains gratefully accepts donations of any size.