

The Vision

● Ideally our home would house 8-10 babies, with a team of overseas and local workers, who would live with and care for the children, providing child-centered, nurturing, surroundings. A rotational schedule would allow for a sharing of care, cooking and household duties, while also providing each family member with times off for rest and refreshing. We would live in a Chinese style home, rather than a larger facility, in order to replicate the environment of a family and to provide highly individualized and personal care.

● Children are active learners who need ample opportunity for exploration and experimentation. We aim to provide ample time, space and materials for our babies and children to do the work of young children: play!

● We want to create an atmosphere that allows strong emotional attachments and bonding to occur, laying the foundations for their healthy emotional and social development in life. This happens when children are cherished, nurtured, protected, talked to, played with, held and cuddled, and most importantly, loved.

● Much childhood learning happens through the activities of daily life. Our goal would be that our children, as they grow, would be an active part of the daily routines of the home with us- going shopping together, planting a garden, raising a pet, helping in the kitchen, etc.

● Through a combination of hands-on mentoring, and classroom instruction, we plan to give professional training to local workers, so that in learning the principles and skills of edu-caring, they can then train other workers, and we can expand to help more children.



Bulrush Home or "What's a Bulrush?!"

The name the Lord has led us to for this home is The Bulrush Baby Home. Sometimes people ask: "What does this mean?!" In praying about starting this home, the Lord brought to mind the story of when Pharaoh sought to kill all the baby Hebrew boys born in Egypt. When Moses was born, he was hidden in the bulrushes (tall grass and reeds in the river), to protect his life from those who sought to take it. We live in a time when the lives of millions of beautiful Chinese children have been imperiled. In starting this home, we are hiding them in the "Bulrushes" to save their lives, to give them a hope and a future. It is our prayer that underneath them would be a river of life, to nurture and sustain them, and take them forward.

Ways to Be Involved

- Give Financially: The monthly running costs for caring for 10 babies are considerable. We are funded completely by donations, and receive no money from the Chinese government. All overseas workers raise their own support to live and work there. Your financial gift goes directly to the care and feeding of the children

- Donate Goods: We are always in need of donations of new and used baby clothes, toys, books, music, bibs, bottles, plastic pants, diaper pins, blankets, towels, crib sheets, and other infant and toddler care items.

- Serve in China as a volunteer: When the Bulrush Home opens (hopefully in late 2006), we will need the help of long and short term volunteer workers who can come and join in the life of the home, helping to care for the babies, and keep the functions of the home running. We especially seek those who have a background in child development, early childhood education, and other pediatric specialties.

- Pray for us: We believe that God answers the prayers of His people, and we are wholly dependent on His care, protection and provision for us as we do His work. We seek people who will partner with us in prayer as we seek to demonstrate His heart of love and compassion in China.

If you wish to contribute financially, donations can be sent to:

**Caring For China
Bulrush Baby Home
3300 S. Fairview St.
Santa Ana CA 92704**

(Please include a notation on check: for Bulrush Baby Home).
Caring for China is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. All donations in the US are tax deductible.

For further information about serving or donating items, or to receive our prayer letter, please contact Maria Sell at:
bulrushhome@yahoo.com

Our website is: www.CaringForChina.org



A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation. God sets the lonely in families. Psalm 68:5-6b

B the
Bulrush
BABY HOME



A Place to Belong

Home - the place God designed for every child to grow up in. Family- a group of people committed to helping each child reach their full potential, and surrounding them with unconditional love.

The Bulrush Baby Home is a new project by an established organization working in China, aimed at giving new life and hope to abandoned children in Northwest China, and training others in this work, so that it can be passed on to help other children. It is a place where they can belong, where they are wanted. Every child deserves that.

Every year, a million babies in China are abandoned, and those that survive are left without any family to love or care for them. Some of them are adopted overseas, but often not in the first year, or even 2 or 3 years of their life. Others are never adopted, and are left without anyone to care for them, or give them the knowledge that they are special, and precious and have great value to their Creator. It is our goal to rescue as many babies as we can, and provide them with the best possible life, for as long as we have them. **Believing that children grow best in families**, it is our goal to create a setting that simulates the loving, nurturing, stimulating environment of a family home, and all the activities of daily family life.

Who We Are

Caring For China has been privileged to be working in Chinese run orphanages since 1995. In that time, we have been permitted to start baby units in orphanages in 3 different cities in Central China., caring for hundreds of babies. Our work in China is guided by an international Board of Directors, which meets regularly to review the work. A team of volunteers from all over the world have come together to play a part in rescuing and caring for these precious little ones. Caring For China is supported by a team. Now we have the opportunity to pioneer a new project, in a new area, and with a chance to create a more natural home environment for our children.

The Bulrush Baby Home is the vision of one member of CFC, Maria Sell, an American woman who has served with CFC since summer of 2000. Maria has an extensive background in child development and early childhood education, having earned her degree in education at Warren Wilson College, and then later participated in numerous continuing education courses and workshops, including the Bank Street Infant/Toddler Institute. She has 20 years of professional child care experience, with an emphasis in infant/toddler care. Included in this, Maria worked for 6 six years as a toddler teacher at Lakewood Avenue Children School in Durham NC, a NAEYC (National Association of Early Childhood Educators) accredited, 5-star rated preschool that was awarded a national High Scope Award for excellence, and was strongly influenced by the child care philosophies of Reggio Emilia, and Magda Gerber.

Through meeting families at the child care center who had adopted children from China Maria became aware of the need there and began to feel called to go and help care for the many babies abandoned there and left without families, without love or hope in the world. Once coming to China to help with CFC, the call in her heart to serve there became even more acute, as these abandoned babies were no longer a vague far-off group of needy children, but now became individuals with

faces, and names, each one with a destiny and purpose in God, each one needing to be loved and valued.

Maria spent over two years working in 2 of CFC's baby units, including serving on the set-up team for Hope Haven, in Central China. The next 2 years were spent preparing for long term work in China by pursuing language study at a local Chinese university. The dream in her heart in opening the Bulrush Baby Home, is to have a place for abandoned children that is small, and home-like, that creates a family for 8-10 children, and also uses the professional principles of child development and appropriate practice to create an environment that is stimulating and enhances the development of the whole child. Additionally, our hope is to provide professional training to local workers, in an intensive mentoring fashion, so that in time, we can reproduce this model and plant more homes, caring for more children.

*“He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to His heart”
Isaiah 40:11*

