



Beyond Mission



China Little Flower is an orphanage for abandoned children. In collaboration with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate China Little Flower reaches out to children who are rejected, abandoned and who have no voice. By providing direct care, support and education, the orphanage seeks to build a culture that respects and protects life, recognising the beauty and dignity of each and every individual person.

The China Little Flower orphanage specialises in the care of children who have a disability or who suffer from a severe illness. The orphanage contains four specialised care units including a hospice for dying orphans, a critical care unit, a neo-natal nursery that cares for abandoned premature infants and a specialist unit for orphaned babies born with club feet.

Hospice care for orphans

In our hospice program we provide comfort, love, and care to orphaned children who are dying. Although it is difficult to watch little ones suffer and die, we consider it a privilege to be able to care for these children and to fill their short lives with love and happiness.

Group Educational Foster Homes

These homes allow physically disabled school age orphans to live in a supportive family environment while attending school and acquiring life skills that will allow them to one day live independently. We accept

children with a wide range of physical disabilities including spina bifida, cerebral palsy, limb deformities, speech difficulties, deafness and visual impairment.

Special Care for Infants

Our infant homes provide intensive care to babies who are abandoned with complex medical needs. We focus on caring for babies born prematurely, those with club feet, and babies with birth defects or illness requiring skilled nursing care. These babies stay with us until they are strong enough to join families of their own.

Long-term care for severely disabled children

In this program we care for older disabled orphans with severe mental and physical impairment. These are children who have no hope of ever being adopted or living independently as adults. This work is not for the faint-hearted and the rewards are subtle—but in some ways that is what makes this work the most profoundly human. These kids teach us so much about love!

Special Causes

We are often approached for help in special situations. These are orphans, children at high risk for abandonment or impoverished families with a particular financial need. Special causes include requests for life saving surgery, school tuitions, and foster care for children with pending adoptions etc. These kinds of needs—and many others—cross our path often.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

A friend reflected “There is no more humbling an experience for a person than that given by a baby.” The Children of the China Little Flower orphanage in Beijing are abandoned, deformed, distorted and distinctly beautiful.

In December 2010, a group of Mazenod Victoria students and teachers travelled to China for different reasons – moral gain, character building, an experience – but all with the same purpose, to help out those disadvantaged and in need of care, love and some ‘good ol’ foreigner-style fun!’.

The Orphanage, supported by the Oblates, facilitates for more than 20 disabled or premature babies, many of whom are sick. The job of going there to play with the babies was a truly arduous task. It was almost as hard as picking up sarcasm in written work. The kids in the baby home are wonderfully cared for and are great fun.

The other group that has a strong relationship with the Oblates is the foster families, who live in the same compound as Fathers Irek Dampc and Luc Young as well as the apartment of the PIMs. The families consist of two parents who have no birth relationship to the five children, all with disabilities, that they care for.

For our group who went, it was often the children, in our eyes, who were most admired for their ability to stay positive and to take on every challenge ahead of them. But it is also the foster parents who are the unsung heroes who have taken on the ‘burden’ of these kids for no financial gain, generally to their financial detriment. The job they do is incredible.

I commonly get asked what my “best most favourite” experience was over in China. One night, we went and helped prepare, then helped to eat the dinner – to my joy – with one of the foster families. The family despite being artificial, with no one person there being related to another by blood – was the strongest and most unified family that I had seen.

The opportunity was immense, and as I have said a few times, I’d still be in Beijing now if I had the choice. A truly remarkable place, full of remarkable people.

Sean Hyatt
Mazenod College Vic Year 12 student



**LINK TO
FURTHER
INFORMATION**
www.chinalittleflower.org

ACTIVITIES

- 1** Outline the work of China Little Flower in 20 words or less.
- 2** Without China Little Flower, what types of poverty or injustice would these children face?
- 3** Design an activity for MAD day that informs Mazenod about China Little Flower and raises funds for the program. Be as creative as possible. Complete a plan including required materials and personnel. Estimate the cost of the activity.