

Doctor/Psychologist Needed to help Orphanage near Xi'an, in China

There are many places in the world where wealth lives close to poverty, and no place more than China. When we think of China, we now think of a country rich and growing in resources but there are still many people who live their lives in a day-to-day battle for survival. In fact, there are children who walk along China's railroads trying to escape from kidnappers who stole them from their parents, from brothels where they were sold into prostitution and from the streets where they were simply abandoned. They have no fixed abode, no secure food source and are forced to beg or steal, living on the streets for days or months and, in some cases, even several years. In the coldest weather they have no shelter and have often been abandoned by family. In order to survive, they must give up their dignity, be prepared to do anything, forgotten by society - City street kids.

When our *New Zealand China Friendship Society* aid co-ordinator, Dave Bromwich, was visiting **Baoji Xingxing Aid for Street Kids**, he witnessed a typical day at the orphanage. A boy stood outside the building summoning up enough courage to enter and ask for help. He was in his teens, tall for his age but very thin and obviously very ill-at-ease having to ask for help. Of course, the minute he entered the building, he was offered food, something he may not have had for some time and was immediately set at his ease. This process is repeated many times with often very sad stories heard for the telling.



These children think they have no-one and no future. That is until they reach the doors of *Baoji Xingxing Aid for Street Kids*, a small orphanage in Baoji in Shaanxi Province, not too far? (200km) from that thriving venue for wealthy tourists, Xian.



The international aid organisation, *Médecins sans Frontières*, first opened this orphanage in March 2001, but after some time had to move out to more pressing medical situations. At present, the orphanage's director, Du Chengfui is being helped by Margaret Win, who had been sent by MSF to gradually close it down. However, Margaret worked with director Du to keep it open and it is now run as an NGO. She persuaded the Australian Chamber of Commerce

to help with some funding and currently there is a staff of 11 to try to rehabilitate these problem children by education, games and painting and above all with love and security. Some of them need more expert help and a psychiatrist is needed to provide more expert assistance with rehabilitation.

Many doctors who are nearing the end of their working life who might feel that they could help or perhaps someone already in retirement who is not yet ready to sit by the fireside, may just think this is what they need to get their teeth into. Initially, the position will be for one month, in which the successful applicant would investigate the best ways to proceed with remedial work and to report what would be needed for the future.

Note: Overall a medical person with great empathy and a fact finder would be the best person rather than a specialist, with some solutions a bonus. An educational Psychologist would be best, but any body with general knowledge of the problems would be as good for the initial visit. Maybe keep the promotion more general and open.

In summary:

Baoji Xingxing Aid for Street Kids is a Chinese NGO that assists children who have been kidnapped or abandoned. They rehabilitate, relocate or care for the children as orphans. The work done is fully recognised by the local Chinese authorities, with police often bringing street kids to the centre for care. The centre is provided with a very adequate building and some running expenses by the Baoji city government, but the NGO prefers to rely on donations for operations so that they can retain autonomy in running their programmes.

They would welcome the help of an NZ volunteer medical person/educational psychologist to assist the Centre with children’s rehabilitation issues, and to evaluate the most effective support that can be made to maintain and increase the effective operation.

Location: approximately 100km west of Xi’an (see map below).

Costs: **Airfare:** estimated \$NZ2000 from NZ to Beijing, then on to Xi’anfang Airport. They would be picked up by the orphanage from there. (This estimate is based on an ANZ flight to Beijing. It includes two nights stopover in Beijing. Return can be via Hong Kong if preferred. Internal Chinese travel is cheap).

Food and local transport: \$NZ500 per month [*Can eat lunch on site for free, but would need to feed themselves for other meals. Food is cheap in the market, or eat out. Would get by on \$NZ10-15 per day*]

Rent of an apartment: \$NZ400 p.m.

Altogether it would cost approx. \$NZ3000 plus personal expenses.

Climate: The summer is hot, the winter cold. Best time is mid March/April /May and September/October

Background information:

Baoji Xingxing Aid for Street Kids
49 Poping Road, Baoji,
Shaanxi province, China

Links:

<http://blog.socialventuregroup.com/svg/2011/02/hope-for-chinas-street-children-baoji-xinxing-aid-for-street-kids.html>

http://www.global-womens-network.org/wiki/Baoji_Xinxig_Aid_for_Street_Kids_Shaanxi_China

<http://211.167.236.236/zt/magazine/200402006116131256.htm>



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