

Good fortune in midst of tragedy

Society unites to 'adopt' children orphaned by SARS

Life is gradually returning to normal as the number of SARS cases declines in China. But there has been no end to the concern shown towards victims of the disease, including those orphaned by SARS. These children are being embraced by all levels of society, as China Daily staff reporter YU NAN finds out.

It was a horror month for Zhang Yini, a high school student in Beijing. Within a fortnight last month, the pretty girl lost both of her parents as well as her grandmother to SARS.

Her father Zhang Tao, 45, had been a professor at the College of Engineering with the China Agricultural University for more than 20 years. He developed a high fever at the end of April and passed away on May 10 — the same day Yini's grandma died. Yini's mother, 40, succumbed four days later, leaving the 17-year-old an orphan.

News of the tragedy spread quickly via Internet on the campus of the university where her father taught.

Within a few hours, thousands of messages of support sent by students and teachers poured onto the school's website to comfort the teenager.

A fund-raising campaign, called "Loving Heart Donation,"

was launched on campus on May 15, one day after Yini's mother died.

The funds raised will help support Zhang Yini in her future life and study, according to Wang Yong from the university, who is in charge of preventing the spread of SARS on campus.

"Not only teachers and students but also security guards and retailers on campus have donated," said Wang. "It was unexpected to find so many who cared about the poor girl."

Wang said parents of other students also gave money, and many alumni had called the school to ask how they could donate.

In just four days, 200,000 yuan (US\$24,272) had been collected and handed to Zhang Yini. In the midst of mourning, Zhang Yini wrote a letter to the school on May 27, a letter that moved many.

Yini wrote: "Dear aunts and uncles, brothers and sisters, I was surprised and deeply moved when I received the donation and the tapes recorded with a beautiful song and so many warm messages.

"I've experienced too many things in the past month but the only thing that has not changed is your affection and support for me. Owing to your deep love and great encouragement, I will go forward with my new life and study hard to repay your kindness. Please have faith in me."

The song that Yini mentioned in the letter was called "Beijing With You," which was specially written and performed by a student band for Yini. The song was put on the Internet to be shared with others.

"I hope our song can make her happier and face the future bravely and optimistically," said Lu Qian, a member of the band.

"We were full of sympathy when we wrote the song," Lu said. "But when we saw her brave smile on a picture on the website,

we needed love more than pity now." Now living with her aunt, Yini has begun to study at home and prepare for next year's college entrance exam.

Volunteer mothers

Meanwhile in Guangzhou, in South China's Guangdong Province, Luo Zijie, 8, bows in front of the pictures of his parents every day after school.

Luo's mother, called Wei Xiaoling, was a nurse at Guangdong Women-Children Hospital. She died of SARS on February 26. Her husband was also infected with the virus as he took care of her in hospital,

eventually before V.

"I'm not much but I'll be back," said his young carers.

Jiang Tingting, both a nurse and a traditional medicine practitioner, initiated a campaign to support nurses for little story.

Twenty volunteers will send from now on.

"You are my mother," your mother said in a letter to the school.

More than 300,000 yuan (US\$36,000) has been donated by the government, Beijing, Guangdong, Liaoning and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to support Luo into the future.

A support website (www.loveforlo.com) has been set up for those who have a heart. It provides an 8-year-old and reports more than 34,000 donations. More people have visited far to show their love for Luo.

Future

Another child whose story has attracted attention is Sen'er.

The 11-year-old Beijing girl lives with her family. The infection mother, grandmother and uncles from her father, a doctor, developed a fever and was sent to hospital.

Sen'er was discharged from hospital on May 29. However, her mother and an uncle have passed away in the

primary school and is to provide for her future looked bleak.

But she has given new hope. The International Day on June 1. Staff (China) donated 50,000 yuan (US\$6,000) for her, paying for expenses until she graduates.

Staff were worried about Sen'er's future after we heard her story and we can help her spend Children's Day and guarantee a bright future," an member told Beijing Evening News.



Above: Two-year-old Han Zuokai smiles brightly as he donates 60 of the 10-fen coins he saved at the Luokou Experimental Kindergarten of Jinan, East China's Shandong Province, on May 12. The children at the kindergarten donated their pocket money to families that have lost relatives to SARS. Left: Tengger (centre), a famous singer of the Mongolian minority group, donated 20,000 yuan (US\$2,415) to the SARS Prevention and Control Headquarters of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at Hohhot on May 20.



TONGLAGA



Words of comfort: Zhang Yini (right) talks to Zhang Dongjun, vice-president of the China Agriculture University.



Sunny day: Luo Zijie (right), eight, can still manage a smile on Children's Day in Guangzhou, although both his parents died of SARS.

TODAY'S TELEVISION

- CCTV-1: 19:38 Focus Interview, 19:55 Serial: The Clear Sky (3, 4), 21:45 Science Review, 23:26 Witness, 19:30 China Business Report, 20:40 The Consuming Update, 21:00 Economy Express, 23:25 Earth Stories, 19:31 Stage, 21:36 Art Scope: Local opera, 22:40 Late News, 10:45 Learning Chinese, 17:45 Across the Straits, 19:10 Serial: The Special Unit (13), 20:10 Around China, 21:00 China Report, 22:00 Centre Stage, 21:30 World Sport, 22:40 Top Events: Golf, 11:14 Documentary: Memorable Moments, 14:14 German movie, 18:22 Animation World, 19:45 Chinese movie: The Man Dealing with Evil, 22:10 European Theatre, 17:09 Children's Theatre, 19:08 World Treasures, 19:35 23-part serial: The Taiwan Straits (22, 23), 21:45 Jiayi drama, 22:41 Korean serial, 12:30 Around China, 16:00 Culture Report, 19:00 World Wide Watch, 21:30 Rediscovering China, 23:00 Sports News, 11:20 Beijing Express, 12:33 Special Focus, 17:30 Children's programme, 18:07 Sports report, 20:38 20-part serial: The Public Interest (8, 9), 22:58 Hello the World, 19:40 37-part serial: The Happy Marriage (16, 17), 21:45 Dreams Come True, 22:42 Dabao International Cinema, 00:29 Channel V, 21:35 Science and Technology, 23:10 Legal Times, 09:32 20-part serial: Women Are Not Silent (1-5), 18:47 Serial: Everyone Loves Rose (50), 19:17 Entertainment Live, 20:00 25-part serial: King of the World (18-20), 23:51 Moonlight Theatre

BRIDGE (By Phillip Alder)

Imagine that you are South, declaring in three no-trump. After West leads the spade queen, what would be your plan? Should West have overcalled South's one no-trump with two spades? When dealing with a strong no-trump, the defending side should assume that it cannot make game. So, it should get into the auction, (try to find a fit, and get out of the auction. Playing strength will be more important than points. Also, an overcall may disrupt the opponents. For example, after West overcalled with two spades, would South have interpreted a three-club response by North as a sign-off, or a game-invitation, or a game-force? My recommendation? Unless you wish to get em-

broiled in the complexities of Lebensohl, treat a two-level bid as a sign-off, a nonjump three-level response as invitational, and a jump or cue-bid as a game-force. The deal looks so easy: Win the first trick, unblock the ace-queen of clubs, cross to the heart ace, run the rest of the clubs, and claim 10 tricks. However, when East discards on the second round of clubs, the contract becomes unmakeable. You need only five club tricks, not six. At trick three, you should overtake the club queen with dummy's king, then continue with the club 10 to drive out West's jack. The heart ace is the dummy entry for the established clubs. You win two spades, one heart, one diamond and five clubs.

Bridge hand diagram showing North and South hands, dealer South, and opening lead ♠ Q.

CROSSWORD (No 6910)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.



Young sculptors: An art show of small sculptures is being held in the Art School of Tsinghua University in central Beijing. On display are at least 30 works created by sculpture major students, to show their support for the fight against the SARS virus. The exhibition, being shown in the open air on the campus, is coupled by an improvised sculpting activity which is set to attract about 100 art school students.

WHAT'S ON

EXHIBITION: Style and substance: A joint art exhibition of traditional Chinese oil paintings, prints, sculptures and watercolours is being held at Beijing's Wanfung Art Gallery. The works have been created by young artists such as Gao Yuwu, Huang Youwei, Li Chunyao, Liu Jibiao, Yin Kun and Zeng Chuanxing. Each artist has developed a distinctive style for contemporary China, where the fast-changing society has been a constant source of inspiration. Also on display are works by veteran landscape painters, including Chen Baiyi, Song Di, Zhang Bu and Zhao Wuchao; figure painters such as Feng Dazhong, Hu Yongkai, Liu Maoshan, Shen Daohong and Wang Mingming. These artists have established their reputations in China and abroad over the past two decades. Later, a group art show of original traditional Chinese paintings by master painters of the 20th century will begin on June 21 and run until July 20. The artists include Li Xiongcai, Lin Fengmian, Qi Baishi and Zhang Daqian. Time: 10 am-5:30 pm until June 20. Place: 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng District, Beijing. Tel: 6523-3320.