



Retail Orphan Initiative
Helping Vulnerable Children Worldwide
www.RetailROI.org

Case Study



RetailROI partners with Care for Children to move children from orphanage to home

Home – it’s a small word with big connotations, especially if you don’t have one. Na Na was abandoned by her parents as a newborn after it was discovered that she had a cleft palate. Xiao Long, also born with a cleft palate, was surrendered to an orphanage when he was one. Liang Liang has a congenital spinal cord defect and was placed in institutional care before he was three.

At their best, institutions can serve as a stopgap until a proper home can be found, but for far too many children, these institutions become a permanent residence until they age out -- this, despite the fact that child development specialists have repeatedly shown that institutional care cannot meet the developmental needs of the children they house.

Left to an institution, Na Na, Xiao Long, and Liang Liang could easily end up a statistic, just another number in the long line of nearly 60 million orphaned or abandoned children in Asia; however, they weren’t left to an institution. These children have homes, facilitated by Care for Children, and they are thriving.

Since 1998, Care for Children has partnered with governments in Asia to transition children from orphanages to family-based care. Their strategy is three-fold: 1) train orphanage staff on family-

based care and social work, 2) recruit, assess, and train suitable foster families, and 3) support and monitor children as they move from an orphanage to long-term, family-based care.

Their results are impressive. Since their pilot project, Care for Children social workers have placed over 260,000 children into loving, local families, and the number is growing.

In 2015 alone, Care for Children received invitations from Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar, and South Africa to replicate the foster-care projects already in place in China and Thailand; 706 people were equipped in family-placement social work; 33 Chinese orphanages partnered with Care for Children; and 4 new foster-care projects began in Thailand, with plans to expand to 15 in 2016.

By working at the invitation of local governments and by training orphanage staff on best practices, Care for Children is creating a sustainable child welfare solution that empowers both local institutions and governments.

The Retail Orphan Initiative is proud to partner with Care for Children in their mission of creating a sustainable alternative to institutional care and in their vision of moving 1 million children from orphanages into homes.

To find out more about RetailROI, go to www.retailroi.org

To find out more about Care for Children, go to www.careforchildren.com