

## **Half the Sky Annual Sponsorships for Yiyang FAQ – as of November 2005**

The topic for these answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) is one-year sponsorships for babies and nannies that support the HTS Baby Sisters program in Yiyang, Hunan. Sponsorships for Little Sisters or Big Sisters can also be credited to the Yiyang Fund, even though the sponsored children reside in another location.

The term “nanny” below refers to the women hired, trained, and paid by HTS to work with babies in the infant nurture center. A caregiver paid by the Chinese government is called an “ayi” in descriptions of HTS programs. In Yiyang, nannies work six hours a day, six days a week, while ayis work 24/7 and sleep in the same room as their babies.

If you have any questions, please send email to Patricia King at [patricia@halfthesky.org](mailto:patricia@halfthesky.org).

### ***NUMBER OF SPONSORSHIPS IN YIYANG***

Q) How many babies in Yiyang need sponsors?

A) 115 children at the CWI and 85 at the SWI need sponsors as of October 2005.

Q) How many nannies in Yiyang need sponsors?

A) As of October 2005, all 18 nannies at the CWI need a sponsor. The 5 nannies already working at the SWI also need sponsors. Five more nannies will be hired in the coming months at the SWI and they will need sponsors too.

### ***GETTING STARTED AS A SPONSOR***

Q) Can I request Yiyang CWI when I become a sponsor for a baby or nanny?

A) Yes, as long as sponsors are needed, you can ask to be assigned a baby or nanny at the CWI. Sponsors may request any HTS location and the request will be honored whenever possible.

Q) Can I request Yiyang SWI when I become a sponsor for a baby or nanny?

A) Yes, as long as sponsors are needed, you can ask to be assigned a baby or nanny at the SWI. Sponsors may request any HTS location and the request will be honored whenever possible. Note that the SWI has relatively few nannies as of October 2005.

Q) How much is a baby sponsorship?

A) To sponsor a baby for one year costs \$300. You may pay a lump sum or \$25 monthly.

- Q) How much is a nanny sponsorship?  
A) To sponsor a nanny for one year costs \$600. You may pay a lump sum or \$50 monthly.
- Q) Can I sponsor a baby for less than a year?  
A) In order to be assigned a specific baby, you must pledge for a full year. However, a gift sponsorship for one month of infant care is available for \$25. A general certificate of appreciation, which can be personalized, is sent to the donor or a recipient of their choice. You may get as many of those as you wish.
- Q) Is there any difference between paying once a year and once a month?  
A) Not really. The only time it would make a difference is when there is a goal for a major fundraising campaign, because only money received by HTS is counted. For instance, someone who pledged to support a baby in starting in October would only contribute \$75 to the Yiyang Fund by the end of a campaign that ended December 31. A sponsor who paid the full amount would increase the total by \$300.
- Q) How do I start a sponsorship?  
A) You can start a sponsorship online at  
<http://www.halfthesky.org/03Help/sponsorships.html>  
Or send email to [sponsorships@halfthesky.org](mailto:sponsorships@halfthesky.org)  
Or call the HTS office in Berkeley, California at 1-510-525-3377  
Or fax the HTS office in Berkeley at 1-510-525-3611

## ***WHEN YOU ARE A SPONSOR***

- Q) What does a baby sponsor receive from HTS?  
A) Baby sponsors get an assignment certificate that includes the child's photo, name, date of birth, and the name of the welfare institution. Sponsors get quarterly progress reports written by the nanny in Chinese, an updated photo, and an English translation. To keep administrative costs low, sponsors receive the quarterly report via e-mail unless a sponsor requests that they be mailed
- Q) What does a nanny sponsor receive from HTS?  
A) Nanny sponsors receive a certificate and a short biography of their nanny. An English translation of brief progress reports written by the nanny about her assigned children is sent quarterly. For each child, a copy of the original Chinese page is included that has a photo. To keep administrative costs low, sponsors receive the quarterly report via e-mail unless a sponsor requests that they be mailed.

- Q) If I already sponsor someone at a different location, can I change to Yiyang?  
A) Yes, you may request to change to one of the Yiyang welfare institutes. For a nanny sponsorship, please request the change when you renew. For a baby sponsorship, please send email to HTS at [sponsorships@halfthesky.org](mailto:sponsorships@halfthesky.org) stating that you would like to switch to Yiyang CWI or SWI when your assigned baby moves on from the Baby Sisters program.
- Q) Can I send notes and gifts to my assigned baby?  
A) Yes, you can send items to the baby you sponsor. It's better to send gifts that can be shared among all the children. For infants, sturdy, washable, developmental toys, particularly interactive toys are good, i.e. those in which the child can push something and get a response. None of the toys should require batteries. Any note should be translated into Chinese so the baby's nanny can read it.
- Q) Can I send notes and gifts to my nanny?  
A) Yes, sponsors may send small items to their assigned nanny.
- Q) What is the best way to send mail to Yiyang?  
A) Any package sent to a welfare institute should be valued at \$0 (zero) so the institution does not have to pay duty at the Post Office when it arrives. You can write "c/o Half the Sky" on the package so that it will be more likely to be routed to the correct place.
- Q) When I sponsor a baby, will I be told when the baby is adopted or moved out of a Baby Sisters program?  
A) When a baby is adopted or moved out of a Baby Sisters program you learn about the change when you are assigned a new child at the time of the next quarterly report. Instead of getting a quarterly report on your sponsored child, you receive a quarterly report about a new child. If you have notified HTS that you want to switch to Yiyang from other location, then the new child will be in the Yiyang institute you specify.
- Q) If a baby has an HTS sponsor and is adopted internationally, what is the adoptive family told about the sponsor?  
A) HTS has nothing to do with adoption so does not learn where adopted babies go. However, when adoptive parents contact HTS, they can request the progress reports and photos that are on file for their children. The adoptive parents also sometimes ask if their children had sponsors. In that case, HTS will contact the sponsors and ask permission to pass on their contact information.
- Q) Is a reminder sent toward the end of a sponsorship year?  
A) Yes, HTS sends a reminder. When you renew, that is also the best time to request changing to a different location.