

November 2009

Dear Friend:

What if...in almost an instant...you had the power to change a child's life? Today, you do.

Meet Liu Chang. While born in the United States, she was sent to China at three months of age to be in the care of her grandparents as is sometimes the custom. This allowed her parents to work long hours at their small take-out restaurant in Philadelphia so they could establish a better life. At age four, speaking no English, Liu returned to the States to join her "new" family and to adjust to new surroundings, relationships and expectations.

Without proper programs and support, Liu might have been lost at the start of her new life. But Children's Village stepped in. Recognizing Liu's unique situation, the staff of CV did more than just bring her into the pre-school classroom. They assisted her family in applying for child care subsidies, offered a child psychologist and translator from *Family Services* staff to meet regularly with Liu and her parents to support her transition, and modified her curriculum to enhance her language skills. Even home visits were made. When the time came to leave CV and secure kindergarten placement and supportive services, a Children's Village psychologist advocated on her behalf.

Today, ensconced in her public school, Liu is a happy, socially adept child who excels with an individualized educational plan. And, she spends her afternoons and summer months enrolled in CV's *After School Program* where she continues to flourish.

But Liu's story might not have had a happy ending without people like you. These services require financial support, and while Children's Village is a role model across the nation, the Center, like all of us, has been impacted by the economic recession.

We're determined to maintain the highest quality of programs while dealing with increased costs and less funding. But, we can't do it without you. We ask that this year, when it is most crucial, that you give generously to help children like Liu.

Time and again, research shows investment in early education yields a lifetime of results. And one donation, in one instant, can put a child on a better path.

You do have the power to change a child's life. Please do.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Graham  
Executive Director