

Playground Goes to China and The CACPT Membership Meets In Beijing

September 2010

By Sandra Webb

Hannah Sun Reid, Donna Cuthbertson and I (Sandra Webb) had a very comfortable CACPT membership meeting in our hotel room in Beijing. It was quite extravagant for Donna and I to travel to Beijing to meet with Hannah just for CACPT!! We are now trying to figure out what other destinations we can choose for our CACPT membership committee meetings! The exciting thing (one of them) is that our history together (Donna, Hannah and I) of being Play Therapists is what continues to bring us together in our work. Our love of children, our commitment to helping children through Play Therapy, Therapy®, Sandtray-Worldplay® and Attachment Based Therapies gives us tools to offer to a wide range of other professionals, other organizations like the Red Cross and other facilities like orphanages.

Hannah was already in China to work with the Red Cross. Hannah was born in China and has been doing Play Therapy training in Beijing with the Red Cross for a few years. Donna and I decided to join Hannah in Beijing. Hannah was the best tour guide and translator we could have ever asked for. While we were there we visited three very different orphanages. The first one was The Philip Hayden Foundation in TianJin. One of the staff members talked to us about setting up a Play Therapy program for the orphans. They



Lang Fang orphanage owner with Sandra, Donna and Hannah

were particularly interested in hearing our suggestions about how to help the children make the transition to adoption. This orphanage takes in children who need medical procedures and eventually most of these children are placed for adoption. We visited a small orphanage run by an American couple in Lang Fang. The children were all orphans with special needs who needed medical care. Many of the children have brittle bone disease. The last orphanage that we visited was the state orphanage in TianJin. There are 800 children in this orphanage.

Donna Cuthbertson, Hannah Sun-Reid and Sandra Webb are CACPT members and great friends. They all reside in the Cobourg Ontario region and do wonderful work with children and families.