



One of IAC's very young fundraisers tells her story of raising money in China Town for Intercountry Adoption Centre's Stepping Stones to China Special Needs Adoption Appeal...

"My dad is a trustee of IAC and I was adopted from China. So on Sunday 6th February we (me, my mum and my younger sister, also adopted from China) set off early in the morning in a car packed full of donated books and specially created children's cookbooks. We were going to China Town in London to try and raise money for the Stepping Stones Appeal. The Appeal is all about raising money so that IAC can work with China to allow UK families to adopt special needs children from China. We had high hopes of raising money – it was Chinese New Year and everyone would have hopes for the future!

In China Town, we quickly found our stall and started to set up the books. Not long after that, Jan (one of the senior IAC staff) and Tim Way arrived with more posters and helped us to set up the stall. More and more people started to come through the marvellous dragon gates. It was definitely exciting, but after a while we realised that not many people seemed that interested. And so, we had to change our plan. No more hoping people would simply come to us! So we subtly made a channel which people had to walk down to get past our stall. I stood in the middle of the passage with a 'Help a Chinese special needs child be adopted' leaflet. This was successful and caught the attention of many people, who we then pounced on and presented with a leaflet.

We sold some books, gave away lots of leaflets, and exchanged plenty of business cards with Chinese people. We also talked to a lot of people interested in adoption. Several trips were made to Costa coffee to keep us all going, as it was slightly cold and certainly very windy. The noisiest and best bit of the day was when the Lion Dance came right past our stall. Our street was MOBBED and lots of people stopped by us then.

We raised £410.

I really enjoyed visiting China Town and the fantastic experience we had. I hope that others are enjoying raising money as much as I am!"