



**Families with Children from China-Southern California**  
**2008 MEMBER PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND RESOURCES**  
(September 2008 Interim Booklet)

Post Office Box 642560, Los Angeles, CA 90064 • (310) 234-8552 • [www.fccsocal.org](http://www.fccsocal.org)

## WHO WE ARE

Families with Children from China-Southern California (FCC-SoCal) is an all-volunteer organization that provides educational, cultural and peer support programs and services for adoptive parents, children and youth, and those in the process of adopting. FCC-SoCal's membership includes more than 500 families residing in Southern California and beyond. FCC-SoCal also remains dedicated to improving the welfare of the children in China's social welfare institutions and supporting the community through charitable initiatives. Together, families cultivate friendships, explore culture and adoption, and build community bridges.

FCC-SoCal is a California public benefit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. We are part of an international network of more than 100 FCC chapters.

## OUR MISSION AND GOALS

***The mission of Families with Children from China-Southern California is to promote a nurturing community for adoptive families, to celebrate our children's heritage and to support prospective parents.***

### Goals:

- To empower and enrich children and youth adopted from China and their families;
- To provide parenting, cultural and social resources and activities for and services to families pre- and post-adoption;
- To nurture the health, well-being, self esteem and cultural connection of children adopted from China and their families;
- To foster an understanding of and respect for our children's Chinese/Chinese American heritage and encourage family participation in Chinese/Asian American cultural, educational and social activities;
- To encourage the adoption of children from China and support prospective parents by providing information about all aspects of the pre- and post-adoption processes;
- To promote the health and welfare of and to assist orphaned, abandoned and other children remaining in China's social welfare institutions;
- To inform and educate the public about adoption and transracial and transcultural families; and
- To network with other adoptive family organizations and to connect and collaborate with the Chinese/Asian American communities.

## FCC-SoCal MEMBERSHIP

FCC-SoCal provides a nurturing, fun and enriching community that celebrates family. We invite waiting, new and seasoned adoptive families to join us. As parents and parents-to-be, we learn from one another and share the lifelong adoption journey through our programs, services, resources and activities. Most important, our daughters and sons benefit tremendously from growing up with adopted peers.

Members receive a subscription to our chapter newsletter, a membership directory, members-only email notices and members-only invitations to special events. Dues help support FCC-SoCal's programs, services, outreach and charitable efforts. Dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## FCC-SoCal PROGRAMS

FCC-SoCal organizes and sponsors a variety of educational, cultural and social programs to address the needs and interests of the group's diverse membership – from prospective, waiting, new and seasoned parents to children and youth (babies to teens, girls and boys). Multiple activities each month in different regions bring FCC families together. Want to start an activity in your neighborhood? Just send an email and we'll help you get started.

- **Contact:** Programs Chair Susan Robinson at [susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com](mailto:susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com) or President Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com).



*Whether you are just starting out on your adoption journey or are well down the path with your teen, FCC-SoCal has programs for your family!*

*Calendar listings are available on our website: [www.fccsocal.org](http://www.fccsocal.org).*

### General Membership Family Programs and Special Events

FCC-SoCal sponsors a core roster of programs and special events each year for the organization's full membership. These include annual Chinese New Year celebrations in Chinatown, a summer family picnic, the Moon Festival family campout, adoption education programs and much more. FCC-SoCal concludes each year with a holiday celebration and special Candle Lighting Ceremony of Hope for new arrivals and waiting families.

- **Contact:** Programs Chair Susan Robinson at [susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com](mailto:susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com)

### Prospective Parent, Waiting Family and Adoptive Parent Education/Support Programs

#### Prospective Parents/Getting Started

FCC-SoCal is often the first point of contact for Southern Californians seeking information about the China adoption process. FCC-SoCal volunteers are delighted to answer questions via email or by phone.

- **Contact:** President Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com).

#### Waiting Families & New Arrivals

FCC-SoCal holds Waiting Families near and dear to its heart. Discussion groups, China travel preparation workshops, slide presentations, parent panels and social activities have helped to ease "the wait," while preparing Waiting Families for the China trip and parenthood. Waiting parents and waiting siblings are encouraged to participate in general activities, as well. Waiting Families graduate to the New Arrivals group, where coordinators help families with the first transition year at home.

- **Contact:** Waiting Families/New Arrivals Coordinator Kathryn Oliver-Wang at [mkat33@aol.com](mailto:mkat33@aol.com).

#### Parent Education, Training and Support

*What do I need to know about transracial adoption? How do I talk to my child about adoption? Where do I find special needs resources? What do the experts advise about return trips to China? Read any good books lately?* These FCC-SoCal programs include presentations and workshops with adoption and parenting experts and adult adoptees (typically organized by Los Angeles and Orange County volunteers). Parent-to-Parent Roundtables bring seasoned and new parents together to share experiences and resources.

- **Contact:** Programs Chair Susan Robinson at [susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com](mailto:susanrobinson1@ca.rr.com)

### Regional and Local Programs and Activities

#### FCC-SoCal Regional Group Programs and Special Events

FCC-SoCal sponsors three official Regional Groups. Each group organizes programming for its local membership, but welcomes visitors from all regions.

**Orange County Regional Group:** The OC Regional Group Coordinating Committee organizes monthly activities and special events such as its annual Autumn Moon Festival and holiday banquets, adoption panel discussions and workshops, cultural presentations, summer picnics, Friends of FCC/OC Parents' Night Out, Panda Kids and more.

- **Contact:** Coordinators Teri Sforza at [whitecorn@msn.com](mailto:whitecorn@msn.com) ; Susan Tschabrun at [stschabrun@fullerton.edu](mailto:stschabrun@fullerton.edu).

**San Gabriel Valley Regional Group:** Children, parents and waiting parents get together at member homes or other special venues. The SGV Regional Group has hosted a Day at the Races and other fun activities throughout the year. We are currently seeking new leadership for this group.

**Metro Los Angeles/Westside Regional Group:** Many of the general membership activities are based in this area, thus the primary focus of this Regional Group is to facilitate local **Friends of FCC** age-based activities for the children and special programs for parents.

## "Friends of FCC-SoCal" Groups & Resources

Friends of FCC activities are organized by and for FCC member families and are independent of FCC-Southern California. FCC-SoCal does not sponsor, insure or provide oversight for these activities. *Partial Listing.*

### Friends of FCC Families with Children with Special Needs/Learning Differences:

to join go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/friendsfccsocaspecialneedsldkids/>  
(moderated by Lynn & Bill Woods)



### Friends of FCC-SoCal Metro Los Angeles/Westside Groups

See Children and Youth Programs and Activities and Parent Education sections.

### Friends of FCC Single Moms and Moms-to-Be

• **Contact:** Martha Groves at [mgroves50@earthlink.net](mailto:mgroves50@earthlink.net)

### Friends of FCC-SoCal Inland Empire Playgroup

• **Contact:** Coordinator Gina DePaola at [message4g@verizon.net](mailto:message4g@verizon.net).



### Friends of FCC Dragon Boat "Blazing Paddles" Crew

• **Contact:** Marlene Gaines at [blueheelermix@yahoo.com](mailto:blueheelermix@yahoo.com)

## Children/Youth Programs and Activities

FCC-SoCal's general membership, regional group and Friends of FCC-SoCal playgroup programming is always geared, in part, for children, featuring arts and crafts, cultural education, outdoor activities, entertainment and more. FCC-SoCal also coordinates adoption workshops and playshops for children and youth.

While events overflowing with happy kids are worthwhile and quite exciting, FCC-SoCal also recognizes the tremendous benefits that come from smaller get-togethers of children in the same age range. Friends of FCC-SoCal parent volunteers coordinate child-centered programs that focus on friendship and fun. **The overarching goal is to provide opportunities for our children and youth to develop and sustain meaningful peer relationships with their fellow adoptees** -- something the adoption experts agree will serve them well as they navigate the pre-school, middle childhood and adolescent years. FCC-SoCal also strives to help them achieve "cultural competency" and pride in their Chinese/Chinese American heritage through educational programs, mentorships with college students, field trips and community service. To provide parent coordinators with maximum flexibility, the age-based children and youth groups are designated as **Friends of FCC-SoCal** activities (see Friends section above). Their activities include pizza parties, bowling and ice cream socials; Chinese cultural dance, lion dance and martial arts training; and trips to the ice skating rink, zoo, gymnastics center, musical theater and movies.

**Contact the parent coordinators below for more information about each group's schedule. Check the FCC-SoCal website calendar for event listings.**

### Friends of FCC-SoCal Toddler Playgroup

• **Contact:** Jill Lipschultz at [jillbrenda@msn.com](mailto:jillbrenda@msn.com)

### Friends of FCC-SoCal Kids' Club (ages 3 to 6 years)

• **Contacts:** Coordinators Marcia Luce at [Marcia\\_luce@hotmail.com](mailto:Marcia_luce@hotmail.com);  
Albert & Melainie Olson at [alojr@ca.rr.com](mailto:alojr@ca.rr.com);  
Josh & Suzy Epstein at [jremodern@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jremodern@sbcglobal.net)

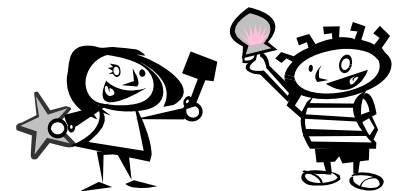


### Friends of FCC-SoCal/Orange County Panda Kids

• **Contact:** Coordinator Ronda Roberts at [rondaroberts@yahoo.com](mailto:rondaroberts@yahoo.com).

### Friends of FCC-SoCal Youth Activities with Community Groups

• **Contact:** President Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com).



**For general information about FCC-SoCal, contact President Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com).**

The FCC-SoCal website at [www.fccsocal.org](http://www.fccsocal.org) will provide a calendar listing of FCC-SoCal and Friends of FCC-SoCal activities and contacts.

## ADDITIONAL MEMBER SERVICES AND RESOURCES

FCC strives to keep its member families well-informed and well-connected. In addition to programs, FCC-SoCal offers a variety of other benefits, services and resources for its members.

### Membership Directory

The FCC-SoCal Membership Directory provides a listing of members so that families can stay in touch. The Directory also provides cross-references by Southern California region and by our children's China province and social welfare institutions. (The Directory is solely for the private, personal and non-commercial use of FCC-SoCal families; it is not released for any commercial or other purpose.)

### Chapter Newsletter and Special Publications

Members receive our chapter newsletter, featuring news and informative articles by adoption, health and other professionals, pieces by FCC members, book reviews, photos and more. Members also receive the FIRECRACKER e-newsletter and may also receive special publications from other FCC chapters, books and more.

### Website and Email List Serve

Learn more about our chapter at [www.fccsocial.org](http://www.fccsocial.org). Stay tuned for more features -- our website is currently being redesigned and updated. The FCC-SoCal Calendar page will list programs and events. The website will also provide contact information and links. The national FCC website at [www.fwcc.org](http://www.fwcc.org) also provides a wealth of information. As a member, you are automatically added to the chapter email list and will receive members-only emails about FCC events, activities and news, as well as other items of interest to the China adoption community. (FCC-SoCal does not host a Yahoo! or other email groups.)



### FCC Member Resources

FCC-SoCal offers a variety of resource references, a list of FCC parent-recommended pediatricians and other specialists, reading lists and other materials. From time to time, we also offer for sale an array of books for adults, children and youth that focus on Chinese culture and language, adoption, adoptive parenting and other subjects. The proceeds support FCC-SoCal's many programs, services and charitable initiatives. **Contact:** Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com) for inquiries and to recommend books/resources.

## CHARITABLE INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Since its founding, FCC-SoCal has proudly supported programs benefiting the children remaining in China's orphanages and other special initiatives. We coordinate a variety of benefit events, including tag sales (to share outgrown toys, clothes and baby gear with FCC little sisters and brothers), silent auctions, screenings and other events. FCC's beneficiaries include Half the Sky, the FCC National Orphanage Assistance Appeal, Love Without Boundaries, Our Chinese Daughters Foundation Coal for Kids, Altrusa Foundation, China Care Foundation and others. **Contact:** Charitable Initiatives/Orphanage Assistance Chair Judy Perlstein at [plumbago39@aol.com](mailto:plumbago39@aol.com).

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Good Fortune

To facilitate connections to our children's Chinese and Chinese American heritage, FCC-SoCal is an active participant in the local Chinese/Asian American community, collaborating with several organizations, such as the Organization of Chinese Americans, Chinese American Museum, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival, South Coast Chinese Cultural Center, UCLA Chinese Cultural Dance Club, UCLA China Care Bruins and Pact, An Adoption Alliance. It is our good fortune to work with these friends on adoption, cultural and mentorship programs, community service projects and other activities. **Contact:** President Jeri Okamoto Floyd at [jerifloyd@ca.rr.com](mailto:jerifloyd@ca.rr.com).

## WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME AN FCC VOLUNTEER

The parents, parents-to-be and other friends who give of their time, talents and resources are the heart, soul and lifeblood of FCC-SoCal. We remain an all-volunteer organization; there is no paid staff. Our compensation is sharing the adoption journey and the joy of adoption and family. **Our ability to maintain and expand our programs and services depends entirely upon the volunteer efforts of our members!** We welcome new volunteers, with a special invitation to waiting families. Join the fun! **Contact:** Volunteer Coordinator Jodi Wilf at [jodiwilf@yahoo.com](mailto:jodiwilf@yahoo.com).

*FCC-SoCal began in June 1995 (as FCC-Los Angeles) with a handful of new parents gathering to socialize and exchange parenting tips and tales while their toddlers played. Although the FCC circle included only a few dozen families in its earliest years, those of us who were there in our organization's infancy knew we were part of something very special. Many of us remain a part of the FCC leadership, hoping to give back as much as we and our children have received over the years in friendship, support, fun and education. We welcome you to FCC-SoCal!!*

Sept. 2008