



April 2017

Dear Friends

I'm now writing to you to follow on from my previous letter about the changes in China's charity laws and how Good Rock is proceeding.

We continued to support our projects until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. This included foster care, our Fig Bakery, medical relief and other small-scale projects. We have now handed these programmes back to the orphanages. Our local China team is preparing to register a 'domestic' NGO under the name Good Hope to continue the work with disabled young adults and others who are vulnerable and marginalised. Regrettably, under the new laws in China, after December 31<sup>st</sup> 2016 Good Rock is now not permitted to support Chinese orphanage projects nor the domestic NGO with either consultation or finances.

Any donations you made before the end of December 2016 continued to support your sponsored child or project. Any funds received after this date (and including through to April 2017) will be administered by Good Rock UK and HK and channelled to support Good Rock partners working with orphans and other vulnerable children and young adults in China. More information about this can be found by visiting the News section of our website, where there is an article entitled 'The Good Rock Legacy'.

Our social media channels will close early week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> April, with our UK office closing on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. Until this time, Eleanor and I are continuing to oversee matters both here and in HK.

In writing this letter it is vital that I give you these important facts as clearly and as simply as possible. What remains is for me to express how difficult it has been to make the decision to exit China and say goodbye to all the children we love and all the people there who have worked hard towards the aims of Good Rock. We leave a few months short of our twenty year anniversary. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your care and support. You've stood with us and together we've seen the children and young people reap the benefits. Together, we can take comfort in the strong foundations we have built, recognising that our work has contributed to tremendously positive changes in both child welfare policy and attitudes towards orphans and those with disability. For many years we have invested in training and empowering local people as caregivers and skilled practitioners such as physiotherapists and special educators. I truly believe that what we have started is not finished and our local counterparts are prepared and equipped to go forward. Your support has made all of our good work possible so please be assured that our legacy is yours too.

We are grateful for the time we've had and I personally have treasured every moment of my time in China. Gratitude must also be expressed to the Civil Affairs and Foreign Affairs departments of government in China, and to the Directors who have advocated for Good Rock throughout these years and have always provided cordial and supportive facilitation of our work. Thanks also go to the Directors and staff of the State Welfare Homes with whom we have had a very special working

**The Good Rock Foundation UK**

The Benchmark, 25 Ribbleton Street, Preston PR1 5BA

Tel: +44 (0) 7498 436 181 Web: [www.good-rock.org](http://www.good-rock.org) Email: [info@good-rock.org](mailto:info@good-rock.org)

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relationship. It has been a great privilege that in founding Good Rock's work my family has been a part of helping children in the orphanage from where our daughter Abi came to us in 1997.

There's no better way to close than to quote my dear friend and long standing Good Rock volunteer, Dr Regula:

*"I can assure you that Good Rock will leave behind a big and lasting legacy...the way things were (when we first arrived in China) for the children is now unthinkable and (because of our training) many of the local people have come up with their own useful and loving ideas on how to help the children. The orphanages we have worked with are changed places and this will continue".*

You may have questions or concerns so please feel welcome to get in touch. I can be contacted by email ([jacquishurr@gmail.com](mailto:jacquishurr@gmail.com)) or by phone (07855 220 339, personal).

Yours truly,

Jacqui Shurr  
Founder & Executive Director

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