

Testimonial From A Host Mom

May 28, 2009

Dear Andrea,

I just want to share some thoughts with you about these last two years that Jun Da has spent in my home.

Thank you for placing Jun Da here, for I had no idea of the positive impact he would have on my life, watching him continually strive to be the best he could be on all levels. He's an amazing young man who has just pushed himself constantly to achieve a mastery of everything around him and in the universe. He can tell a person more about America, and the things that pertain to America and American life, than most Americans. There's almost no subject that I mention, that he knows nothing about. If the Grand Canyon is mentioned, he knows something about it and has read about it, to the workings of politics, and on and on. He will say, "Oh yes, I have read about that," and then give an example of what he's read.

He read his assignment books several times, so that when he was in the middle of a test at school, he said he could go in his mind to find the exact page in the book he needed and see it visually.

He has been the "peace maker" with his friends, explaining to them how he felt about different subjects, without pushing his ideas on them.

In the beginning, I thought with his background in Communism, he would not be able to see a bigger picture around him, but he has been able to see both sides and see the value where it really is.

When he walked out onto the graduation stage - second to last with a name like Zhu - the kids cheered and clapped for him, and he has only been at the school for two years. That's amazing, and it made me even more proud of him - that he had made a difference in their lives - and they were expressing that through their cheers and applause.

As an adult, we expect, and hope that we will have some impact on the youth around us, through our good deeds and actions, but this is truly a reversal of that... which I hadn't expected. Things in our lives "do" happen for a reason - and I do believe there are "no" accidents.

People come into our lives to help us build on who we already are, and were meant to be...

Thank you, Andrea, for being you, and for being who you are - and for also deeply touching my life.

And I'm proud to be associated with Fairmont and the truly fine school it is, and the great teachers and administration that are there.

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