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Foster Parent Plan
Aids Needy Children

By Marcena Christian, H. Ec. 3

Min Choong Sun and Chung Kab Jo, two South Korean children caught in the strife and struggle left from war have had their "eyes opened wide" by the kindness and support of their foster parents— all 100 of them! Min Choong Sun's "parents" are the members of Beacons, the service honorary recognizing the outstanding independent sophomore women in scholarship and leadership.

Sorority Adopted

Chi Omega sorority on campus adopted Chung Kab Jo several years ago, through the Foster Parent's Plan. Chung Kab Jo eagerly looks forward to news from her American parents—and the Chi O's cherish the pictures and letters that "their little girl" sends.

The Foster Parent Plan selects children who are homeless or from needy families in both Europe and Asia for interested families or groups. The parents' contributions—average donation is $150 per year—provide finances for the child's education plus food and little extras.

Min Received

For instance, through the plan, Min Choong Sun received one month five pencils, one box of crayons, a jacket, a sweater, and a pair of rubber shoes and a small amount of money.

Min Choong Sun, his mother, one brother, and one sister live in one room. In their fight for survival, it has been necessary to rent the other two rooms of the house. The rental rate is $4.50 per month—a far cry from being sufficient support for five people!

Mother Ill

His mother is very ill, but cannot seek medical aid because she would be unable to pay for it. Despite her sickness, she manages to run a small business, selling candies to the children in the streets. She makes less than 25¢ per day.

Min Choong Sun's letters to his parents are translated in New York City and forwarded to Ames. In a recent letter he told about being racing champion of his sixth grade athletic club, and his shivers from recalling the ninth anniversary of the Korean War. "We had a lot of activities to recollect this day in our country" wrote the boy whose father was killed in that same war.

Housing and food are the greatest problems for these people. Successful attempts have been made to make these refugees self-supporting through training and small grants.

One refugee problem almost solved is that of Hungarians who fled after the 1956 uprising. Public feeling was so sympathetic that money and goods were donated in great quantities.

Many refugees have been fortunate in finding a place to live in freedom, to work and to have enough food in the United States.

Some who immigrate to America run into economic recession, lose jobs and hear discriminatory remarks. But in general, with hard work, they find this country lives up to its reputation as a land of opportunity.

A few "lucky" refugees still living in camps have not had their spirit and faith broken by many years of refugee-camp living. They have not yet lost their optimism or their desire to leave the camp and build a real home.

December, 1959