



OUR CHINA STORIES

我们的中国故事

Purtell, Kai, Zoe and Grace

Adoptees

Texas

Adoption places (Zoe and Grace): Guangdong Province, Dianbai SWI

Adoption dates (Zoe and Grace): October 2007

Age at adoption (Zoe and Grace): 11 months

Adoption place (Kai): Yunnan Province, Dehong Prefecture SWI

Adoption date: December 2009

Age at adoption: 14 months

Kai, 7, and Zoe and Grace, twin 9-year-old sisters, make up the heart and soul of the Purtell household of San Antonio, Texas.

Kai has had 12 surgeries to correct a cleft palate and difficulties with his ear. `Every boy comes out different,` he says.

Zoe wants to visit China when she's 10, but she says she is not interested in Chinese things. She is also, she reports, the best-behaved of her siblings.

`I listen to what my mom says and Grace is a sassafra,` she says.

Grace agrees with Zoe's assessment of Kai: `Bossy,` she says.

People at school say I'm a good draw-er,` Grace says. `People at school want me to draw for them.`

Purtell, Vonna

Adoptive mom

Growing up in a military family fundamentally shaped Vonna Purtell's ideas about her own family. The San Antonio mom and her three children, twins Zoe and Grace and brother, Kai, talked with Our China Stories as the Thanksgiving holiday neared.

`I think that's the reason why I'm so color blinded by race is because we moved around so much,` Vonna said. `I mean, my dad was stationed in Japan. We lived in Hawaii. And so we had friends and neighbors and everything of all different ethnicities and

backgrounds. The military's made of multiracial people and so you saw it all the time and so it was never an issue for us. You saw it and you never thought twice about it.'



The Purtells