

Black and white adult hand and a baby hand entwined

BABY COME HOME

2013 Nominet Trust 100 Winner

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HELPING REUNITE LOST CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

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- Community Engagement
- Internet
- Social Software

On 17 March 2013, a 21-year-old man called Xu Yang was reunited with his family after 15 years by registering on the Chinese website "Baby Come Home". Rewind to 15 years earlier, and a five-year-old Xu Yang and his brother were shopping with their mother in a nearby town. During the trip, a group of men accosted her and forced her down an alleyway, where she was killed. The children were then trafficked across the country and eventually sold to different foster parents.

This story has been viewed 100,000 times on the page. In China over 20,000 children go missing each year. These children are sold to desperate foster parents or at worst into slave labour, prostitution or begging. For the parents, trying to find their children in a country the size of China is impossible. Baby come Home helps families by publishing missing profiles on their site.

As a result, Baby Come Home has created an app that allows anyone who owns a smartphone to become an instant search volunteer, just by taking a photo of a child they suspect may have been abducted. The Missing Children app then compares it to their missing persons database using facial recognition software. The result is almost instantaneous. There have been 686 successful cases and they are still trying to help 13,167 people.

Image 'hands' courtesy of Weird Beard

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