



Shepherd's Field  
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE  
牧羊地儿童村

# Heartbeat

December 2017



## A Great Year Foretells a Better One

As 2017 draws to a close, we look back at all that's happened, and anticipate better things to come. We also remember the many children who have been touched since we began caring for special-needs orphans in China. 2017 marks our 11th year at **Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV)**, our 18th year of caring for China's disabled orphans in one of our children's homes, and our 22nd year overall of helping orphaned children in China.

Nearly 1,000 kids have been adopted into Forever Families since we started, and more than 3,000 have received life-changing surgeries. Five young adults who aged out of the adoption program are working outside of Shepherd's Field – one works in a bakery, another makes jewelry, one's an office worker, and another runs a fruit and veggie stand. One of our graduates even works in a factory for handicapped workers! We're extremely proud of our kids who have overcome significant obstacles, and found purpose and fulfillment outside of our little village. Our mission this past year was to further develop our Vocational Center, where our older kids learn life and job skills that will help prepare them for real-world living. Our Therapy Department is located inside the Center, and treats more than 40 of our kids, who receive weekly therapy from our trained staff. Our Medical Department has also moved into the same building, to consolidate all our health services into one convenient location.

This year, we also saw several campus sidewalks replaced. They were widened, made smoother and straighter to make it easier for our wheelchairs and walkers to cruise around the grounds.



In order to make Shepherd's Field accessible to *all* our kids, we said goodbye to a whole lot of sand when we resurfaced our playground with rubberized tiles. All the kids can now enjoy access to any of the playground equipment, and this really lights up the faces of the kids who use wheelchairs and walkers. The house mothers are also ecstatic, because the kids are cleaner – there's no more sand to shake out of shoes, pants or shirts! (Cont'd. on pg. 2)

Stay connected with us for the latest news, updates, photos and stories from Shepherd's Field.



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## A Great Year Foretells a Better One (Cont'd. from pg. 1)

With all the recent changes, improvements and growth, however – nothing is as important as children's lives that have been powerfully changed. In 2017, we matched last year's number of kids adopted at 19, while 20 children received life-changing surgeries. We also welcomed 20 new Little Lambs to the big Shepherd's Field family, added several new staff members, and embraced a record number of summer interns at 50. Interns worked in a variety of areas, including Therapy and Medical departments, the greenhouse, the school, the Vocational Center, guest relations, gardening crew, recreation crew, and the website and social media. We're very grateful for the many volunteers who gave up their summer vacations to love on our children – we appreciate your hard work and the impact you made on our kids' lives.



**Finally, we can't forget our faithful supporters.** You've been the driving force that helps make all of the above possible. Thank you for the support you've given us throughout the year, both financially and in prayer. We couldn't do this work without you. As we look ahead to the new year, we're excited, expectant and hopeful to watch our partnership blossom into more healings, new Forever Families and many more changed lives. *Thank you for a miraculous 2017!*

## Horses Offer Hope

In November, the Shepherd's Field Therapy Program introduced four of our kids – **Sid**, **Lydia**, **Jason** and **Hector** – to **H.O.P.E. Ranch** in Beijing. H.O.P.E. (Horses Offering People Enrichment) is a registered non-profit that provides therapeutic riding, proper horsemanship, training and art lessons to children with disabilities. All four kids not only fell in love with these large, peaceful creatures, but also benefited physically and mentally from the experience. Sid and Lydia's behavior improved almost immediately, and Jason and Hector's posture and balance was significantly improved through riding. The kids each gained something different from the experience, and their smiling faces revealed just how they felt about H.O.P.E. Ranch. We're grateful to the staff and volunteers at the ranch, and their mission to help kids with special needs. Because of the great success of just one session, we're currently raising money to send our kids twice a month! We hope to continue the relationship between our children and the animals that make their lives better.





Jubilee

**Jubilee (Li Ruxuan)** received glaucoma surgery on her right eye, which is doing very well, and needs no further medicine. However, the pressure in her left eye is a bit elevated, so the doctor gave her some eye drops. After three months, she'll return for a checkup.

**Wes (Ling Wudao)** also had successful surgery on his eyes, and needs no followup care for now.



Wes



Xander

Dr. Zou reviewed the charts of **Amanda (Si Xinfang)**, **Gloria (Si Jinhua)** and **Corey (Song Yike)**, and declared them stable. They just need to take their prescribed medicines and return to see the doctor every six months.

**Xander (Guang Fujun)** is normally a healthy, strong boy, but in October he started to lose his appetite and a lot of weight. We sent him to **Bayi Children's Hospital**, where he was examined and received treatment. The doctor found some inflammation in his stomach, and gave him intravenous fluids and some medicine. Xander is much better after staying in hospital for about three weeks.



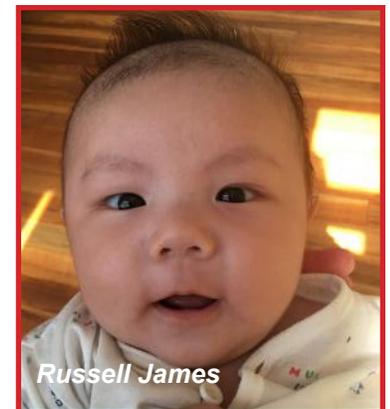
Oscar



Desmond

**Desmond (Xu Kangzhong)** had successful cleft palate surgery in November, and is healing well.

**Oscar (Shi Yitie)** had a physical examination in November, and looks great.



Russell James



Levi

**Russell James (Song Xiping)** has an upcoming doctor's appointment, where we'll discuss a pending surgery.

**Levi (Han Qiannan)** will have his eyes rechecked as soon as we can get him in to see the doctor.

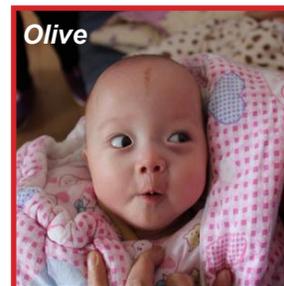


# Welcome to Shepherd's Field!



Holly

**Holly (He Kangmeng)** is 18 months old, and is from Taiyuan, in Shanxi Province. She's been treated for esophageal atresia, and is recovering nicely.



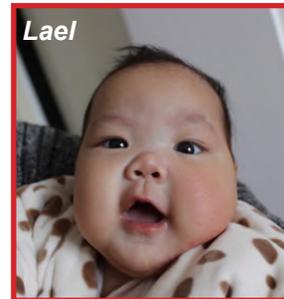
Olive

**Cora (Kong Wenxin)** is also from Taiyuan, and had surgery for hydrocephalus – now needs only medicine.



Cora

**Lael (Zhang Youqing)** was born prematurely in June 2016, and is from Shiyan, in Hubei Province.



Lael

**Olive (Zhang Rongxuan)** is also from Shiyan in Hubei. She suffers with hydrocephalus, and is post-surgery.



## Say Hello to Your Family

**Quentin (Han Qianxiang)** is from Taiyuan, in Shanxi Province, and arrived at Shepherd's Field in May, 2015. He was adopted by an Italian family in October.



Quentin

**Amanda (Si Xinfang)** is from Heze of Shandong Province. She came to SFCV in February, 2014 and is now living in Dalian with her new Canadian family.



Amanda

**Georgie (Wei Jiayi)** had heart surgery and spent weeks in the ICU. She's from Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, and came to Shepherd's Field in May, 2015. An American family adopted her in November, and gave her a new name – Faith.

**Cari (Gao Xiang)** arrived at Shepherd's Field from Baotou, Inner Mongolia in October, 2013 and joined her Forever Family in November. Her family is from the U.S., but they're living in Japan.



Cari



Georgie



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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