



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

# Heartbeat

April 2018



## HOPE Comes Saddled with Fun

What a day for a field trip! A brilliant sun rose high in the crystal blue sky as **Teacher Wang** expertly guided her 12 Primary students on a recent visit to **H.O.P.E. Ranch** in Beijing. H.O.P.E. (Horses Offering People Enrichment) is a non-profit organization that provides therapeutic riding lessons for children with special needs. After arriving at the ranch, the children were introduced to some friendly horses, got to brush their coats, sit on top of them and take a short ride.



The kids giggled with fear and excitement as they finally settled in on the horses' backs, but few wanted to actually get out of their saddles. They loved it – and now it looks like we have 12 new horse lovers on our hands! Incredibly, our kids met someone there who'll sponsor four of them to receive monthly therapy at H.O.P.E. Ranch. We're very grateful for the team at H.O.P.E. and the partnership we share with them. *Our kids will be back – so get ready.*



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# Maggie Needs a Kidney



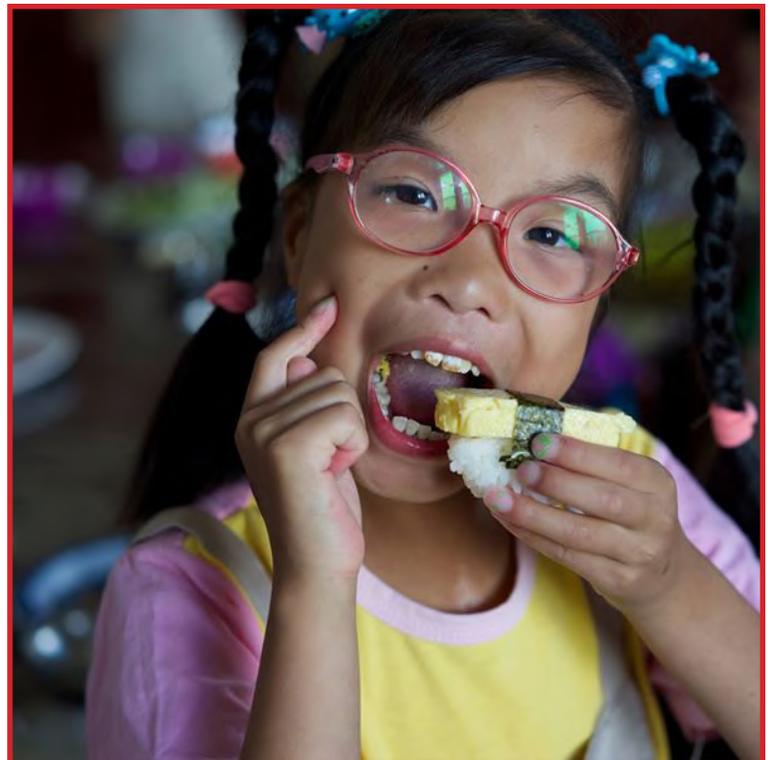
**Maggie (Tian Xinxin)** will celebrate her 12th birthday this month at the only home she's ever known – **Shepherd's Field Children's Village**. She came to us from a church-run orphanage in rural Hebei Province on August 15, 2007, when she was just 18 months old, suffering from multiple heart defects. Maggie's situation was quite serious, so the following June our Medical Team arranged for her to have a Glenn Shunt surgical procedure, which was successful. The surgery and follow-up medicine has significantly improved the quality of her life.

A few months ago, Maggie's nanny discovered that the color of Maggie's urine looked abnormal, so we sent her to the Langfang Pipeline Hospital for tests, which revealed a urinary tract infection with blood and protein in her urine. This indicated renal failure. Doctors at Pipeline Hospital were unable to treat her for this, so our team transferred Maggie to Baiyi Hospital in Beijing, where she was admitted.

This problem was urgent, and Maggie was treated in the hospital for a month, then returned to Shepherd's Field after the infection cleared up. Her doctors were unsure of the cause of this problem, but they said it's probably congenital. Without knowing Maggie's birth family and their health history, we may never know. Regardless, Maggie will need lots of support and care going forward. She began kidney dialysis a few weeks ago at Tianjin First Center Hospital.

Maggie's medical expenses come to approximately US\$797 (¥5,000RMB) *per week*, which will be ongoing until the end of April, when we receive the results of the DNA test to determine if she's a good candidate for a kidney transplant. Because of her heart defect, it's imperative that she remains in the hospital for doctors to monitor her condition.

If the genetic test reveals that she's a viable candidate for the transplant, she'll then be considered officially eligible for the surgery. The cost of the new kidney is estimated at US\$111,593 (¥700,000RMB), but we've received some support from another charity – so the estimated price would be reduced to **US\$63,767 (¥400,000RMB)**. Please pray for Maggie, first of all. Then, consider giving to our **Medical Fund**, which is seriously depleted. *Thank you!*



**Five children's homes + thousands of kids + 12 years = A need for renovation.**

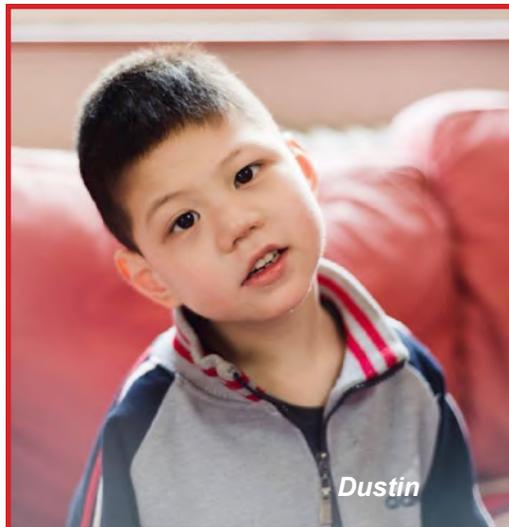
Spring cleaning is under way all over campus, but one of our most important tasks this year is to remodel our five children's homes. Think about the thousands of kids who have come through our doors the last 12 years, and all the wear and tear that's taken place. We'll replace bathroom tiles, sinks and toilets; walls need to be touched up and repainted; broken bedroom furniture has outlived its usefulness; and the living room couches are worn out. If that's not enough, the water-damaged wood cabinets in the kitchen need to be replaced, and we also want to install new wheelchair-friendly exterior doors on all the houses, so anyone in a wheelchair will be able to easily go in and out.

**In order to restore the homes, we need your help!** Here in China, a five-gallon can of paint costs \$150, recovering a couch is \$70 and new kitchen cabinets are \$1,200. We're getting a lot of things we need donated, such as new flooring, as well as some furniture and appliances. We're reusing what we can. New toilets are \$130 each, and every house needs three – for a total of 15 toilets. New pedestal sinks are \$50 each, and we'll need 30 – six for each house. Any gift



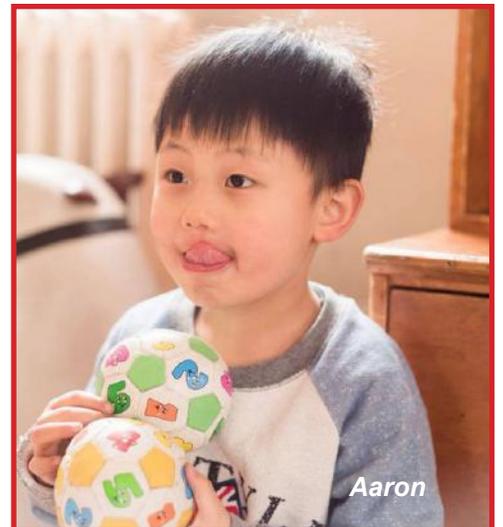
to the **House Refresh Project** is greatly appreciated. We hope this makeover will give all the children clean, warm, safe and happy homes to live in as they continue their journeys to their Forever Families.

## Welcome to Shepherd's Field!



*Dustin*

This month, Shepherd's Field welcomed two new boys to our campus – seven-year-old **Dustin (Gao Wenjin)** and six-year-old **Aaron (Hu Anran)**. Both boys joined us from another local foster home in Langfang, and are very friendly, inquisitive and full of energy. They're fitting in very well in their new home, **House of Blessings**. *Welcome Dustin and Aaron!*



*Aaron*



# First Steps Lead to New Milestones

**O**ur **Therapy Team** happily reports that **Wes (Ling Wudao)** has made steady – but significant – progress in Physical Therapy. He's 10 years old, and for the last two years our team has worked with him primarily on weight bearing and standing exercises. Wes has shown persistence, and for the first time in 10 years he's taken his first steps – something we didn't expect just a short time ago. He's now able to use a walker and get around with a little assistance – and nothing has thrilled Wes like this milestone in his life. In therapy, we'll continue to work on walking, tolerating weight-bearing positioning, and endurance. We're eager to see what else Wes accomplishes in the future, because it looks like nothing's going to hold this boy back!



## Put a Smile on their Faces

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