



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

Heartbeat

June 2018



Samaritan House Gets a Makeover

For 11 years, **Samaritan House** has served as home to our most medically fragile children, as well as housed our **Medical Department**. Last fall, however, the Medical staff moved into their new offices in our just-opened **Vocational and Therapy Center**. The Sam's House kids also moved into new homes on campus, but they've

all kept their same house mothers, who have already bonded with and cared for them. In the midst of disruption, though, these children have all gained older siblings, which helps to create a happy and healthy living environment.

As Shepherd's Field continues to grow, our need for staff, intern and volunteer housing grows as well. We first thought we could use the new Vocational and Therapy Building to meet those needs, but strict fire safety regulations prevent us from housing people there. It was then we decided to convert Samaritan House into our new short-term volunteer guesthouse. The current guesthouse will continue to be used for staff and long-term volunteers. We finished renovations on May 19 and our first group of volunteers – 24 therapy students and professors from **Texas Christian University** – moved in on May 20. How's that for perfect timing – or should I say for cutting it close? The New Sam's House can accommodate up to 50 volunteers and interns at a time. *We're very thankful for everyone who helped make all these moves happen – thanks for being part of our family.*



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



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Maggie's Praying for a Miracle

As reported in recent *Heartbeat* newsletters, **Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** is suffering from renal failure and is now undergoing dialysis at a hospital in Tianjin City, located 90 minutes away from Shepherd's Field. Because of that long commute, she's staying at the hospital to avoid having to travel three hours a day. While dialysis is helping to prolong her life, a kidney transplant is really what Maggie needs.

Maggie's situation is complicated by several factors, including her serious heart condition. Her cardiologist in Beijing doesn't want her to undergo the kidney transplant because she feels her heart wouldn't be able to handle the surgery. The other issue is her "hukou," her Chinese ID card. Because Maggie came to Shepherd's Field from a privately run church orphanage, she isn't registered with a government social welfare institute. Therefore, she doesn't have a hukou, and is not part of the government social welfare system. According to the government regulations for organ transplant recipients, she needs to have a hukou.

So even if Maggie's heart could withstand the stress of having surgery, her lack of an official ID won't permit it. These two roadblocks currently prevent her from the lifesaving organ transplant she needs, so now her only option for survival is kidney dialysis. However, this is *not* a long-term solution, as it's very expensive – a whopping **US\$3,200 (¥20,000 RMB)** per month – and difficult, as it takes a lot out of her. To stay at the hospital – without her big SFCV family, her friends, her teachers and her house mothers – is not how a 12-year-old girl should live. Please pray with us that a way will be made for Maggie to get her kidney transplant, and return to Shepherd's Field filled with new hope and a promising future.



Leonard Discovers His Straw



In therapy over the last few weeks, **Leonard (Ling Dai)** has made remarkable improvement. At 11 years old, Leonard cannot – and has never been able to – feed himself, but after patient, determined work in both Occupational and Speech Therapy, Leonard has learned how to use a straw! *This may seem insignificant to you, but it's a huge step toward Leonard being able to eat on his own.* After only a few days of practice Leonard was successfully using the straw, with no help from his therapists – and he's beginning to feed himself more often at home with his aya. His new favorite activity to do in therapy is drink peanut butter/banana protein smoothies! We're looking forward to witnessing the progress Leonard will make in the future!



Florence

This month was a busy one, with three adoptions and three new arrivals. On May 5, nine-year-old **Florence (Guo Sifeng)** met her Forever Family from the U.S., and immediately gained three sisters! She left Shepherd's Field with her family on May 6 to finish the adoption.



Axel

Two-and-a-half-year-old **Axel (Zhu Jingshan)** said farewell on May 21 to join his new family, from Italy – he's their only child.



Isaac

Four-year-old **Isaac (Dang Mengyang)** joined his Forever Family on May 20. He's their second child, and will be living in the U.S.



Connor

Our first new arrival is **Connor (Jiang Jinghong)**. He has had congenital heart disease surgery, laryngeal obstruction surgery, gastrostomy, and now he has a tracheostomy tube and needs nursing care.



Jackson

Two-and-a-half-year-old **Jackson (Zhu Wenze)** arrived at SFCV on May 25. He needs rehabilitation after finger plastic surgery.



Ireland

Our final new arrival is nine-month-old **Ireland (Kong Jingcai)**. Ireland was born with a low birth weight and we think she has cerebral palsy. Her lower limbs have high muscle tension, and her vision and hearing need further examination.

Bright Star Hosts TCU, Blesses SFCV



In late May, the **Bright Star's Therapy Program** hosted 20 Speech and Language Pathology students from **Texas Christian University (TCU)**. While the visit was short, the students and professors from TCU were able to observe and provide speech therapy recommendations for more than 25 of our kids, and it was a great training opportunity for us as well. In addition to providing helpful information to our foreign staff and volunteers, the students went out of their way to make sure our Chinese-speaking therapy staff were included and understood the treatment recommendations for each child. It was noted by one of the

therapy aiyis, *"I felt like I was made a part of the training ... I can now better help the children."*

We're very grateful to our friends at TCU for their hearts of service, expert advice and effective strategies to help our kids become great communicators – *Thank You!*

Download Shepherd's Field

Summertime is here, and your *Activity Level* just skyrocketed – but you can bring **Shepherd's Field** with you wherever you go! Stay connected through our mobile app, available in the Google Play store as well as the Apple App store. Search **SFCV**, then be sure to allow Push Notifications – you'll be notified when new photos are added, as well as other exciting events, announcements and prayer requests. There's even a link to read *Heartbeat* on the go. *Download it today!*



Sid & Xander Find their Voices

In therapy, **Sid (Zhang Qiang)** and **Xander (Guang Fujun)** have both taken tremendous steps toward independence. Using the *LetMeTalk* app on the iPad, they've been able to independently communicate their wants and needs to their therapists and ays. Sid loves to use the device to ask for snacks, or to choose what activity he'd like to do in therapy. Xander has made huge improvements in his communication, and is now beginning to understand that the iPad is his voice, and not just a game that's played in therapy. Both boys are well on their way to independent communication with their friends and their peers – something they couldn't do before. *We're very excited to see where this takes them!*



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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