



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

Heartbeat

July 2018



Maggie Needs a Miracle

Twelve-year-old **Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** was born with a complex heart condition and has been a part of our **Shepherd's Field** family since she was 16 months old. She's been one of our Little Lambs for more than a decade! Earlier this year, she was diagnosed with acute renal failure, and for the last 30-plus weeks she's bravely endured dialysis treatments at a hospital in Tianjin. We almost lost her recently, but Maggie's a fighter, and she wants to live. However, her organs are failing, and she's in critical need of both a heart and kidney transplant.

Please pray with us for Maggie as this precious young girl needs a miracle. Maggie is our daughter, our sister and our friend, and we'll do whatever it takes to see her get well again – but in order to do that, we desperately need your help. The cost of her hospitalization and dialysis is extremely expensive – **US\$1,500 (¥10,000 RMB)** per week. Please keep in mind that in order



to help keep hope alive for Maggie, we also need *your* generous financial support.

You can give today by going to our website, chinaorphans.org/donate, or via text message using your smartphone or tablet. Simply text the letters "**SFCV**" to **77977** to donate right now. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated and a tremendous help to keep hope alive for our dear little Maggie. *We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity!*



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Welcome to the Children's Day Extravaganza!

June 1 was **International Children's Day** and quite possibly the most exciting day of the year for the **Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV)** children and staff! This special celebration lets our kids show everyone – guests, staff and volunteers – just what superstars they really are. Our little troopers practiced for more than a month preparing for the big day, and when it arrived the **Outreach Center** auditorium was packed with more than 200 guests, volunteers and SFCV family members.

The crowd cheered with excitement as our young superstars performed. For the second year in a row, **Sid (Zhang Qiang)** completed amazing feats with **Zai**, our therapy dog. Sid is nonverbal, but with the help of some special technology, he was able to communicate with the audience this year using an iPad. **Hector (Dang Guobu)**, **Ed (You Kang)** and our Life Skills teacher, **Lael**, swung to the beat in a choreographed hip-hop dance performance. They really rocked the house – especially when Hector did his solo wheelchair-spin dance moves! Then there was the crowd favorite, the **SFCV Fashion Show**, complete with our own runway. What a thrill to see our kids dressed to the nines! The costumes, the catwalk moves, the music and the pure showmanship made it a natural crowd-pleaser.

This year, many kids who hadn't previously performed for Children's Day participated – and loved it! **Leonard (Ling Dai Wei)** and **Tyler (Rao Han Dong)** played bells and bongos to Woody's "Round Up" from *Toy Story*. **Aubrey (Rao Xia Chen)** took part in both the ribbon-twirling performance and the sign language rendition of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." **Lydia (Yangxi Zi Nan)** beamed as she twirled away in the ribbon dance.



Our preschool teacher, **Carm**, did a performance with her students showing their morning classroom ritual. To watch these little two-somethings brush their teeth to the beat of the music was a sight to see! Some of our interns, volunteers and guests also performed – including **Billy Chin**, a magician from Beijing.

After the performances ended it was time for lunch, which was a special treat for everyone – catered by McDonald's and sponsored by one of our partners, **Evercare Plastic Surgery Hospital** in Beijing. After our yummy meal, our superstar performers needed rest – but our volunteers immediately had to set up for the **Annual Shepherd's Field Children's Day**





Water-Fight Party. And how about this for dedication? Every summer for the past 10 years, the **Greater Atlanta Christian School (GAC)** has sent a team to help with Children's Day. The GAC team filled all the plastic kiddie pools, prepared thousands of water balloons, and loaded a huge arsenal of super-soakers. The kids eagerly waited for 2:30, when the water battle began! This is when we *all* became children, young and old alike. If you dared enter the Water Zone, you were guaranteed to get drenched – as some of our guests and newcomers quickly found out! The weather was warm and sunny, under a beautiful blue sky – perfect for splashing around the courtyard between the front gate and our main office building.

Our *special thanks* go out to our guests and partner organizations, for joining us in support of our precious kids. A huge shout-out to Team GAC for all their work setting up – and cleaning up afterwards – for the 10th year running. Also, we appreciate **Shan Shihui**,

owner of **Beijing Diet Convergence Service Co. Ltd.** – the catering company that makes the daily nutritious meals for our kids – for donating a *huge* Children's Day cake, which was specially prepared for us by their top baker. Last, but not least, mere thanks cannot begin to express our gratitude to our **SFCV Team**, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, prepared our kids and made sure every detail was taken care of. *Everyone's combined effort made this one of the best Children's Day celebrations in Shepherd's Field history!*



Is China Calling You?

Some of the friendliest kids in China live at Shepherd's Field, and they're looking for a good teacher! If you've taught, whether it's Special Ed or mainstream – or maybe you're retired – we'd like to talk with you. We're looking for a *bilingual* (Chinese and English) individual with teaching/education experience to join our **Educational Team** here on the Shepherd's Field campus, as **Educational Director** for both the **Little Lambs School** and the **Vocational Training School**. Educating, training and equipping our kids and young adults is one of our core values and a vital part of the work we do. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact our team at: volunteer@chinaorphans.org.





We Say Farewell to Three Great Kids



Cody

Recently, we waved goodbye to three of our superstar kids: **Cody (Li Tian Long)**, **Francis (Dang Guan Xin)** and **Maya (Dang Guan Ai)**. At the end of May, the trio returned to Dachang, Hebei Province – located about an hour away from Shepherd’s Field – due to recent government policy changes that affected China’s emerging foster care system. Sadly, these revisions directly impacted Cody, Francis and Maya, and they had to return to their home orphanages.

Before saying “zai jian” though, we celebrated our young superstars with a stellar send-off, complete with all the trimmings! We were proud of the maturity and composure that

both Cody and Francis displayed during the painful process, and Mr. Happy Feet (aka Cody) treated us to one of his signature, stage-worthy dance routines. We all enjoyed their going-away cakes, and there was plenty of whipped-cream frosting to be found on most little faces that day!

Parting with these precious kids broke our hearts, because they’d all been here for such a long time. We miss them in class, in therapy and all over our campus – their absence is deeply felt. We’re very thankful, however, that we’ve been able to sow into their little lives, and give them the loving foundation they need to help them in their new school and life adventure.

Follow Up by Therapy Team

In early June, the orphanage in Dachang invited our staff to teach them how to properly care for **Maya**. When our team visited, they were tremendously encouraged by the amount of one-on-one attention the children received. The aiyis were *eager* to learn how to position and feed Maya correctly. Also, our Occupational Therapist taught the aiyis, then supervised them in spoon-feeding,



Francis

thickening liquids, eating puffs and appropriate transfers. We’re confident that Maya and the two boys will flourish in their new home – and despite their absence, all three are still part of our big Shepherd’s Field Family. *Cody, Francis and Maya, we love you and miss you. You are forever in our hearts!*



Maya



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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