



Heartbeat

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

November 2018



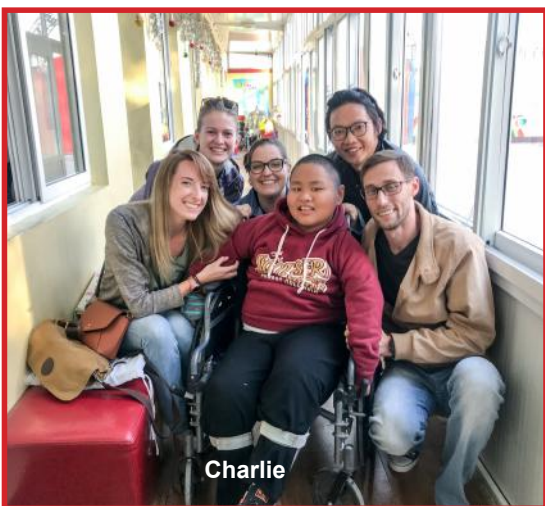
What's Next for Shepherd's Field?

As mentioned in our last edition of *Heartbeat*, we're making lots of new and exciting changes on our campus, to prepare for the next phase of caring for disabled orphans. Two of the children's homes, **House of Peace** and **House of Blessings**, have been completely repainted on the inside, thanks to the generosity of **Pittsburgh Paint Group (PPG)**. The remaining three homes are scheduled to be repainted in early 2019. All five houses have been outfitted with new bedroom cabinets and beautiful new wheelchair-friendly front doors, thanks to **Dong Yi's Smart Furniture Station** in Langfang. The awesome new, wider sidewalks and wheelchair ramps for all five houses and the **Therapy/Vocational Center** come courtesy of the **Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corporation (HSBC)**. Just catty-corner from Shepherd's Field, our neighbor just to the southwest of us – **Volkswagen (VW)** – is donating new kitchen cabinets, dining room tables and chairs and couches for all five kids' homes. Some of our talented nannies who have the gift of tailoring are making new window coverings for the homes from fabric that was donated earlier this year. There's still a lot of work to do, to get these homes ready for their next occupants.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned two possibilities for our work going forward: 1) Assisting families with disabled children; and, 2) Helping orphans from Tianjin. We've submitted a proposal to help older, special-needs orphans – aged 13 and up – who are close to aging out, or have already aged out and

are no longer eligible to be adopted. Our plan is to provide them with a loving home; vocational and life-skills training; speech, OT and PT therapy services; general education services including reading, writing, Chinese, English, math and physical education; as well as medical support services. We've submitted a formal plan and proposal to the government, and would appreciate your prayers for a speedy, favorable approval – as the process could take one or two months to finish.

In the meantime, we'll continue to work on improving our campus, training our staff and seeking out resources for helping older kids. We also continue to reach out to our kids who have moved back to their home provinces. Our **Therapy Team** just



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made a visit to see **Charlie (Shao Tian Cheng)** at his new home. Charlie is doing well, receiving educational and therapy services, and has made some new friends. Our team provided training for his caregivers in assisting Charlie with dressing and bathing, as well as his therapy. Our next outreaches will be to Heze, Baotou, Bayannur and Shangrao in the coming weeks, to provide therapy supplies, training for orphanage staff, and to follow up on the progress of our kids. This month, **Jade (Yang Jianmei)** returned to Shepherd's Field for a short visit, and to undergo a medical checkup in Beijing. Jade's blood and hormone levels were tested, and she was given a clean bill of health. She's grown a lot, and has tons of new friends, but the best news is that she's been matched with her Forever Family!

Let us say that we've been very blessed by the outpouring of love and support our team has received in the past few months. Thank you for believing in us, and in our calling to help serve special-needs orphans. The next phase – working with older kids who have grown up in an institution their entire lives – will not be easy. But we're honored to be chosen to help make a positive impact in their lives. *As always, we couldn't do any of this without you!*

Happy Goodbyes to Oscar, Rocco and Thomas

With all that's been going on here the last few months – between **Maggie's** medical crises and the children returning to their home orphanages – we haven't had space to tell you about some of the great things that happened in the midst of it all. First, **Oscar (Shi Yitie)** met his Forever Family last June! It was a delight to meet **Kara, Norm** and big brother **Qiang Qiang** – who was also adopted from China. In just a moment's time, the family of three grew into a family of four.

Oscar's family was so touched by the compassionate care they experienced at Shepherd's Field that they left us the following note: *"SFCV, thank you! We are grateful for the love and care you provided Yi Tie (Oscar) throughout*



his stay. We so very appreciate your hospitality during our family's brief visit in your guest room. Your staff was wonderful – exceptional caregivers and splendid hosts. You helped our transition to a 'Family-of-Four' for the very first time. We are forever in your debt. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

Next, in early July our handsome **Rocco (Zhu Jiangfen)** said goodbye to Shepherd's Field, and joined his new family – the **Holzmeister** clan from Georgia! He now has a mom and dad, an older sister and two older brothers – the youngest of whom was also adopted from China. Rocco couldn't be happier to make six!



Finally, last month, two-and-a-half-year-old **Thomas (Huo Jikun)** was adopted by the **Preedin** family – brother- and sister-in-law to Shepherd's Field staff, **Naomi Preedin**. They've renamed him **Yi-Kai Preedin**. He has adjusted quite well to his new family – Yi-Kai loves to snuggle, play with trucks with his new siblings, and he's speaking quite a lot of English. Congratulations to Yi-Kai and the Preedin family!

We wish each of these wonderful, adoptive families all the best, and a lifetime of health and happiness. Because of them, three more orphans have found Forever homes.



The Cold Weather is Upon Us!



The temps are starting to dip, so it's time again for our annual **Winter Heat Fund Appeal**. Like every year, we need to prepay our winter heat bill for the entire winter before the Chinese government will turn on the heat.

Sound strange to you? Well it's not to us. In fact, every home, factory and business in northern China that wants heat pays first, because it gets very cold around here. This season the total cost of heating our campus is **U\$50,100 (¥347,775RMB)**. It's an understatement to say that it would be a blessing to have help with the cost of heat this winter. Your support will help our budget, but, more importantly, keep the children of Shepherd's Field warm, contributing to their overall good health and happiness.

If you'd like to give, you can send a check to the mailing address below, or make an online donation at: chinaorphans.org/donate. You can also give through our mobile app – **SFCV** – found either on **Google Play** or **iTunes**. If you have any questions about the Winter Heat Fund, please contact: info@chinaorphans.org.



The Girl with the Beautiful Smile

If you've visited **Shepherd's Field** in the past 13 years, you've most likely met a very special girl with a huge smile, who probably made a big impression on you – instantly. She was left at our front gate when she was 13 years old – lonely, scared and confused. We immediately welcomed her into our family, and she's been a happy member ever since. Through the years, she's made a lot of friends, and even honed her English skills from the many foreign volunteers who have come to work here. In fact, once you become her friend, she'll never forget you! And if you're very special to her, she'll talk about you constantly for days and weeks after you leave.

Can you guess who this special girl is? I bet most of you already know who I'm talking about. It's none other than **Ling Ling!** Because she came to us at 13, **Ling Ling (Shelby Liu)** does have some memory of the



family who cared for her as a child, but when you think about how much of her life she's spent with us, we're the only family she has ever really known.

Now, at 26, Ling Ling is beginning a new adventure, where she can learn to become more self-sufficient. She recently moved to a home for older, special-needs orphans, and will be learning all kinds of new life skills and ways to live independently. She's making new friends and talking to them – a lot, I might add – about her life and family from Shepherd's Field. Like all our kids, this is just an address change for Ling Ling – she'll always be part of the **SFCV Family**.



Mending a Broken Heart

Our **Medical Team** recently arranged for **Flynn (Zhao Anpeng)** to undergo much-needed heart surgery at **Fuwai Hospital** in Beijing, where surgeons successfully completed a reconstruction of the right ventricle, as well as a VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect) repair. After a week in the ICU, Flynn was transferred to the general pediatric ward, where he contracted a respiratory infection, along with a fever. He was returned to the ICU, where he was intubated and treated with antibiotics and intravenous fluids. After another week in intensive care, we're now very happy to report that Flynn is stable, his color and smile have returned, and he's recovering from both the surgery and the infection. He should be able to go home at the end of this month. *Thank you* to all of our partners and supporters who have prayed for Flynn, but also helped cover the costs of Flynn's medical care and surgeries. Please continue to keep him in your thoughts and prayers as he continues to recover.



In the Home Stretch

Twelve-year-old **Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** is doing much better – she's continuing her weekly dialysis in Tianjin, and is in good spirits. Our **Medical Team** reports that she's now stable enough to receive a kidney transplant, and we're just **US\$25,000** away from having all the funds needed to pay for it! Please help her reach the finish line by making a donation today to our **Medical Fund** – and earmark your gift for Maggie. Any gift, no matter how big or small, is greatly appreciated. Let's give Maggie a fighting chance for a bright and healthy future. *Thank you!*



We are grateful for
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financial support!

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