



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

December 2018



A Year of Amazing Change

There's no doubt that 2018 will go down as one of the most challenging for our kids and our entire team, but as we look back on everything that's happened, it's easy to see that despite the changes and challenges, it really was quite an amazing year.



Adoptions

Ten of our beautiful kids found their **Forever Families** through the miracle of adoption in 2018. Nine of them went to families in the U.S., and one to Italy.

1) Three-year-old **Ethan (Zhang Shuai)** was adopted by his family from the U.S. on January 5. This sweet little dude lived with us for nearly half of his

life prior to his adoption. **2)** One of our older kids, the ever-so-happy and smiley **Gloria (Si Jinhua)** met her new family on January 7. Gloria was about to age out when she received the great news of her adoption.

3) One of our more miraculous adoptions came when

our 10-year-old **Teddy (Ling Dairong)** was adopted by his big American family. Teddy was an infant when he came to us 10 years ago. He received the proverbial "match made in heaven," showing us that all these precious kids deserve to have a family of their very own. **4)** Another one of our precious older kids, 10-year-old **Florence (Guo Sifeng)** was adopted by her American family

on May 5. We still remember her wheelchair-dancing with our kids and team in the Outreach Center. **5)** **Isaac (Dang Mengyang)** was only two months old when

he arrived here. Nearly four years later, he was matched with a loving family from the U.S. **6)** Two-year-old **Axel (Zhu Jingshan)** was the only child from Shepherd's Field to be adopted to Italy this year – he found his Forever Family on May 21. **7)** One-and-a-half-year-old **Oscar (Shi Yitie)** was with us for a year when he met his new family, and went back to the U.S. with them shortly after.

8) One of the cool kids on the block – three-year-old **Rocco (Zhu Jingfen)** – left us to join his new family on July 2. Last but not least, we had two fall adoptions:



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9) Two-and-a-half-year-old **Thomas (Hou Jikun)** found his American family in September; and, **10)** in October, our precious **Jade (Yang Jianmei)**, joined her family after spending three-and-a-half-years with us. Congratulations to these beautiful families and all the kids!

Surgeries

Besides **Maggie's** kidney transplant surgery, we had seven other children receive eight life-changing surgeries as well, thanks to the generous support of our donors. They were **Hector (Dang Guobu)**, who had an appendectomy in January; **Oscar (Shi Yitie)** had his cleft palate repaired in March; **Russell-James (Song Xiping)** had intestinal surgery in April; **Holly (He Kangmeng)** first received surgery on her hands in April, then had esophageal surgery in June; **Mico (He Qianpei)** had heart surgery in August; **Flynn (Zhao Anpeng)** had heart surgery in September; and **Annie (Dang Aimin)** had brain surgery in November.



Welcome to Shepherd's Field!

We had nine newcomers arrive in 2018. Three arrived in January: **Jean-Marie (Kong Huangbei)**, **Sarah-Grace (Ji Xinyi)**, and **Zack (Shi Wenli)**. March brought us two more beautiful new additions in **Aaron (Hu Anran)** and **Dustin (Gao Wenjin)**. In May, we received three more newbies: **Connor (Jiang Jinghong)**, **Ireland (Kong Jingcai)**, and **Jackson (Zhu Wenze)**. The last new arrival of 2018 was **Carson (Qian Anshun)** who arrived in early July. Though some were only with us a short time, we're committed to helping them in their new places of residence.

Welcome Back to Shepherd's Field!

Every year, some of our former residents return to visit their old home in China. This year **Kelly (Dang Shihua)**, **Daisy (Wang Yina)** and **Ethan (Niu Kai'en)** all returned, along with their Forever Families. It's always great to reconnect and see and hear about all the wonderful things going on in their lives.

Volunteering is Caring

This year we had a record number of interns – 59! – from all over the world come to Shepherd's Field to serve the orphans here. They did everything from helping in therapy, medical, teaching, gardening, warehousing, sports and recreation, and just about anything else where help was needed. These wonderful young folks worked tirelessly to show their love and support for our kids. One of the best moments of the summer was the SFCV Olympics, where most of the kids participated. Our thanks to everyone for giving up your summer vacation to come and pitch in this year. If *you'd* like to become an intern, please contact intern@ChinaOrphans.org.

What Does the Future Look Like?

As we said in last month's *Heartbeat* newsletter, we're preparing for the next chapter of our work with orphans in China by going through the planning and preparation process to make our campus ready for the next residents to arrive. We look forward to the challenge of doing our part to make life better for those who need our help. We hope that you'll continue to stick with us as we move into the next phase of our work.



Maggie's Miracles are Nearly Complete



Just 16 months old when she arrived at Shepherd's Field in August 2007, the odds for survival were stacked against this fragile little infant. You see, 12-year-old **Maggie (Tian Xin Xin)** was born with not just one heart defect, but a total of five, making her condition one of the most complex ones we've ever had to deal with. But after our Medical Team arranged for a successful Glenn shunt surgery in June 2008 to increase her oxygen level, she's lived a stable life for the past 10 years.



Unfortunately, this precious little girl who has already had to endure so much trauma in her young life would have to face yet another difficult medical challenge – earlier this year she was diagnosed with renal failure. This meant she needed regular dialysis treatments, so she spent months living in the hospital, to avoid the more than 90-minute commute from SFCV to the hospital. As her condition worsened, Maggie needed a miracle to save her life. The first part of that miracle came when her name was added to the wait list to receive a kidney transplant. The second part of that miracle happened in late October, as a kidney became available. The transplant operation took more than four hours to complete, and despite the dangers of surgery on her fragile heart, the transplant was successful! She spent the next couple of weeks in the hospital recovering, and then on November 12, the third part of the miracle happened when she came home to Shepherd's Field.

Maggie knows that a lot of people have helped her. You should have seen her when she was overcome with emotion as she told some of our team members how thankful she was for everyone's help. We'd like to take this opportunity to tell her doctors, nurses, technicians, caregivers and you who have prayed and supported her: **Thank You** from the bottom of our hearts for your love and support.

Maggie's medical fund has reached 85% of the amount needed to pay for her pre-surgery care, the surgery itself, her after-care and the anti-rejection medication she must have. We'd love to take that 85% to 100%, so if you want to help support Maggie, you can do that by making a donation on our website – www.chinaorphans.org – or by texting SFCV to 77977 on your mobile devices.

A Lovely Jade in a New Setting



We told you last month about our pretty little **Jade (Yang Jianmei)** coming back to Shepherd's Field last month for a medical checkup. It was a delight to see her smile, and to hear her giggles as she tried out some of our new therapy equipment. (We'll be telling you about that in a future issue!). We also told you that she'd been matched with her Forever Family, and this month we're happy to let you know that Jade has now joined them in the U.S. We wish this new family every blessing and a lifetime of joy and happiness!





Help Replenish Our Winter Heat Fund

New residents will be arriving, and we need to prepare for them! One critical item on our list is our **Winter Heat Fund**, which needs to be refilled every year. As we mentioned in the last issue of *Heartbeat*: in China, we're required to prepay our bill for the entire winter before the government will turn on our heat. To date we've raised US\$3,237 (¥22,516RMB) toward the Heat Fund, but we still need **US\$49,568 (¥344,780RMB)**. Anything you can give will help. If you'd like to assist us, you can send a check to the mailing address on the right, or make an online donation at: www.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.



Two New Lams at Shepherd's Field

We're thrilled to welcome **Philip** and **Susan Lam** into the Shepherd's Field family! They were introduced to SFCV around three years ago when they met a former team member of ours who was completing her China adoption through the same agency they both worked for at the time. During their time at this agency, they also helped facilitate the adoptions of more than one of our kids – including our beloved **Patrick**

and adorable little **Ray**. They were already becoming a part of our mission!

Finally, in January of this year, Philip and Susan visited Shepherd's Field for the first time with a group of OT students, and instantly fell in love with the children and our work. We look forward to utilizing this seasoned



couple's many talents. Philip's skill in translating – he's fluent in three languages – and his very special way with people will go far in blessing our work here. Susan's experience is varied and diverse. She could be described as "all things office," but her two particular passions are writing and graphic design. We're very grateful that Philip and Susan have joined our team and we warmly welcome our newest Lams into the Shepherd's Field fold!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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