



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

January 2019



A Teenager's Appeal

Thirteen-year-old **Charissa (Ling Deting)** was born with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, has paraplegia and is wheelchair bound. She had a surgical removal of meningocele PTA, VP shunt placement PTA. She's an amazing young girl who is kind, clever, determined and very funny. She has a mischievous streak, too, and likes to joke around with others. She loves having her nails painted

and makeup applied to her already beautiful face. Charissa blossomed into quite the young lady over the past summer. She worked hard in her vocational classes and occupational therapy sessions, and learned much about the importance of personal care and hygiene. In OT, she learned how to dress herself using adaptive techniques.



Our **Therapy Team** recently visited Charissa at her home orphanage in Shangrao, and she pleaded with us to help her find a family of her own. She is hard-working and if provided with the right tools, she could possibly live independently one day, attend college, and thrive in an occupation. She has said that she aspires to be an artist when she grows up, and it would be her dream come true to have a Forever Family to love her and support her in her endeavors.



the right tools, she could possibly live independently one day, attend college, and thrive in an occupation. She has said that she aspires to be an artist when she grows up, and it would be her dream come true

to have a Forever Family to love her and support her in her endeavors. The not-so-good news right now is that Charissa turned 13 on August 23, and when she reaches 14, she'll no longer be eligible for adoption under China's adoption laws. The *great* news, however, is that Charissa is eligible for a generous US\$10,000 adoption grant through **Reece's Rainbow**, as well as a US\$3,000 agency grant through **Hawaii International Child Adoption Agency**, and another private grant of US\$1,000. Please help us as we race against time for our precious girl – join us in prayer and share Charissa's story. For more information, contact us at: info@chinaorphans.org or call **1-866-526-3712**.



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



facebook.com/isCHINAcallingYOU



@ShepherdsField



@ShepherdsField



Luke Can Now Be Adopted!

Handsome. Kind. Gentle. Happy. These words – and many more – describe 11-year-old **Luke (Tian Yi)**. He arrived at Shepherd's Field on April 9, 2007 when he was just a month old, and in September 2008, he had a successful Glenn Shunt heart operation to correct a complicated heart defect. Luke spent the next 11 years watching, as many of his housemates and SFCV friends found their Forever Families. He was always sad when one of them left because it wasn't his turn to have a family, too.

Luke was difficult to place, because he came to us from a private church-run orphanage in Hebei Province, which meant he wasn't eligible for international adoption. However, due to a miraculous change in their local policy, Luke is now available! We're working hard to help find him a home before he ages out when he turns 14.



Luke is an exceptional young man who enjoys helping others, and will always take the initiative to do so. He's self-sufficient – does most things for himself, and manages his personal belongings very well. He's probably one of the neatest and most orderly kids we've ever had, but he's *all* boy and is very energetic and active. He has a sharp mind and does very well in school. This mid-term, he placed first in his class, scoring a perfect 100 in Mathematics and 99 in Chinese. His language skills are quite good, and he's able to communicate with visitors in simple English. Not surprisingly, he has very neat handwriting, too.



Luke has a grateful heart, and is always careful to express his gratitude to those who show him kindness. Even though he's somewhat introverted, he didn't shy away from the stage during our last **Children's Day** performances. He sang in two different groups and strutted his stuff – dressed to the nines during our **Shepherd's Field Fashion Show**. He looked like a natural on the catwalk!

Luke did very well in our vocational training classes, and especially enjoyed cooking. He has said that he would like to become an actor someday. Before that happens, he'd be delighted and content just to become a son. Please share his story and help us find a Forever Family he can call his own. For more information, contact us at info@chinaorphans.org or call **1-866-526-3712**.

Therapy Program is Full of Bright Stars

The **Shepherd's Field Therapy Program** experienced a very successful year in 2018. Not only did our team treat 48 children and provide more than 1,000 hours of therapy, we also launched our brand-new **Bright Star's Therapy Training Program**. In addition to providing daily treatments for our kids, this program offers training seminars and field visits to our orphanage partners as we strive to provide orphans across China with the best quality of care possible. Our Bright Star's Therapy Team has spent the last several months making field visits to some of our orphanage partners, providing on-site training in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Behavior Management, Feeding and Dressing. Our team has already been able to visit several of our kids, including: **Sid, Aaron, Dustin, Jenna, Naomi, Cathy, Simeon, Samuel, Charissa, Wes, Leonard, Beth, Aubrey, Tyler, Charlie and Jason, Richard, Ed, Brody, Graham, Connor, Holly, Hanna, Mico, Levi, Anthony, Seth and Grady!** Throughout all of our travels and trainings, we're happy to report that the kids have been able to make good transitions to their new homes, are doing well, and most attend school and therapy. Our team will continue to visit other orphanages and children in the future weeks and months. Thank you to all of our major contributors and sponsors for making this the best year of therapy yet!

Leonard's Two Phenomenal Achievements



Before our kids were suddenly required to return to their home orphanages, our **Occupational Therapist** was working with **Leonard (Ling Dai Wei)** to help build his oral motor skills. In the four months that she worked with him, he made great progress strengthening and coordinating his oral motor muscles. His first major accomplishment was learning to drink from a straw. That was huge! Then, just five days before Leonard would have to leave Shepherd's Field, he began to chew and swallow solid food with minimal assistance. This was truly monumental, and brought a tremendous amount of joy to all of us!

We've always known that Leonard is exceptionally bright, but the therapist also observed this summer that when offered two visual choices, Leonard would communicate by looking at the one he wanted. She was confident that he'd be successful at using an eye-gaze communication device if one were available. With this tool, a user looks at a certain button on the screen, and the device tracks their eye movements and speaks for them – this is how the famous Stephen Hawking was able to communicate. These devices can cost thousands of dollars, but our OT discovered a way to pair a Windows tablet with a gaming eye tracker – and created a DIY eye-gaze device!

One of Leonard's sponsors graciously provided the funds needed, and the therapist delivered the device in November. Our team spent five days in Shangrao and worked extensively with both him and his therapy ayi. Leonard immediately fell in love with his device, and made great strides right away. After just a couple of days, he was consistently using the device to ask for snacks, to specify activities and to tell people his name. He seems to enjoy his "social" board the most, as it allows him to interact with people. A whole new world has been opened to our sweet boy and we continue to have very high hopes for him. *Way to go, Leonard!*



A Wonderful Gift for Christmas



Our adorable little **Hanna (Song Yicai)** received the best Christmas gift of her young life – a Forever Family of her own! Last month she went home with her new dad and mom, **Bryce and Elena Behnke**, and became a Tennessee belle with a beautiful new name – **Adelei Ru**. Our staff had the privilege of meeting the Behnkes, and they left behind a sweet note of gratitude to us: *"Thank you, SFCV, for taking such good care of our little girl, our Christmas miracle: Hanna Song Yi Cai Adelei Ru Behnke."* Adelei is the Behnke's first child, and we wish this new family of three many, many blessings in this New Year and in all the years to come!

Is China Calling You?

To continue our work in caring for orphans in China, we're expanding our team in 2019! **Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV)** is recruiting qualified people to fill positions throughout our campus. Here are some of the opportunities available for those who share our vision and have the experience to help carry it out.

Director of Operations

We're looking for a bilingual (Chinese and English) Chinese individual who can join our team as the **Director of Operations** for Shepherd's Field. This job entails overseeing and managing all the daily operations of our village, departments and staff. It takes many people to raise and educate these children, so we need a confident, organized and caring person to lead our team. *Is that you?*

Educational Director

Shepherd's Field needs a bilingual teacher, former teacher or principal who is driven, flexible, organized – and has great leadership skills. This individual will oversee our entire education program, which includes the **Little Lambs School**, where students learn the basics – reading, writing and arithmetic; and our **Seven Acres Vocational School**, where students are equipped with the essential skills for life – such as interpersonal relationships, personal hygiene, vocational training and much more. The Educational Director works closely with SFCV management and current teachers, as we strive to provide high-quality education and training to all our children.

Vocational Teachers

There are several openings for bilingual, experienced, kind-hearted individuals to join our **Seven Acres Vocational School** team, to help train and equip young adults with essential life skills. The Vocational School educators work closely with our Little Lambs School teachers and the Therapy Team – directly under the Educational Director, as we collaborate to provide a well-rounded education. Do you have a special skill or talent you'd like to share?

Therapist(s)

Our **Bright Star's Therapy Program** needs trained therapists (PT, OT, ST, ABA, PTA, COTA and AT) who are detail-oriented, caring and confident – to join our Team in Spring 2019! Are you, or someone you know looking to make a difference in the lives of children with special needs, using your education and career skillset? We're looking for qualified therapists to join our team, to treat and enable not only those in our care at Shepherd's Field, but also provide training and resources to orphanage partners throughout China.

We need you! If you or someone you know senses a call to serve China's orphans in one of these roles – and wants to make a huge impact in the lives of some of the most marginalized kids in the world, please get in touch with us. We want to hear from you. For further information, contact our team at: volunteer@chinaorphans.org.



We are grateful for
your prayers and
financial support!

To donate by check:

Philip Hayden Foundation
40335 Winchester Rd. #E-115
Temecula, CA 92591 US
1-866-JAMES127 (526-3712)

To donate by credit card:

Visit ChinaOrphans.org

To donate by automatic withdrawal:

Ask about direct deposit through
Check Free at
childsponsor@chinaorphans.org

In China:

Shepherd's Field Children's Village
26 Jin Yuan Rd.
Da Wang Gu Development Zone
Wuqing, Tianjin 301712 CN
022.2219.0708