



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

February 2019



A Boy With an Infectious Smile

Charlie (Shao Tiancheng) is one of our *extra* special boys and our **Therapy Team** has had the pleasure of going to work with him on several occasions since he left SFCV in August. The team noted that he was in need of a new walker, and through the generosity of one of his sponsors, we were recently able to provide him with a brand-new one. This new walker will help him both in standing and walking. In addition to the walker, the sponsor made it possible for us to get Charlie a device that helps him dress himself easier. Due to his condition, he is not able to raise his arms above his head but with this device he won't have to! Charlie was thrilled to see our team and to receive both of these special gifts.

Charlie is truly an amazing young man with a twinkle in his eye that complements his infectious smile. Upon first meeting, it is obvious just how smart, caring and playful he is. While here at SFCV, he loved going to school, cooking, playing games and hanging out with his friends. Charlie is 12 years old and has arthrogryposis, meaning that the joints of his arms do not bend. It is a non-progressive diagnosis and Charlie can do (or learn to do) the same things other people can—just in different ways. For example, his handwriting is better than most people's, but he has to hold his pencil in a way that is not typical. Charlie was born with clubbed feet and had surgery to correct the condition. He mainly uses a wheelchair and propels himself with his feet. In therapy, he made strides learning to dress himself—which will be even easier now—and was tolerating standing for up to 6-minute periods of time.

Our sweet Charlie has an incredible amount of potential and would undoubtedly thrive in a loving family environment. We're working hard so we can help get Charlie home long before any worries about his 14th birthday arise. Please share his story and **help us find his Forever Family!**

For more information, contact us at info@chinaorphans.org or call us in the USA at 1-866-526-3712.



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

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Xander's Voice and Charissa's Mobility Restored!

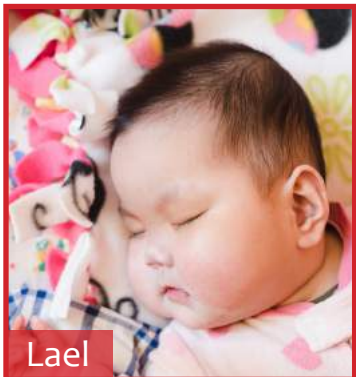
Our **Therapy Team** recently ventured on a trip to Jiangxi province to both Guangchang and Shangrao. **Xander (Guang Fujun)** lives at Guangchang and we were pleased to see that he has gained weight since leaving us and seems very happy. Xander jumped right back in where we left off with his communication device and was immediately able to request items he wanted. His caregiver was eager to learn how to use the device and we are hopeful they will continue to do so. Xander was overjoyed to see his friends again and to receive new sensory toys. He also practiced using a camera and took some very nice photos of the garden outside his home. Who knows, maybe we have another budding photographer!

After Guangchang, we made a trip over to Shangrao, and this visit held one very big surprise. We were able to give **Charissa (Ling Deting)** her new power wheelchair.

In late December, we reached out to sponsors through our website and social media for funding for a new chair for Charissa. Within 24 hours we had received the amount needed! Our therapists scoured China to find a chair that would fit her, that would move with hand controls AND fully recline, and they finally found the perfect one. Charissa was very pleased with her new chair and began zipping around her home just like old times. The reclining feature will allow her caregivers to change her without having to lift and transfer her onto a bed, which will help to prevent pressure sores. Our team was also able to train the Shangrao staff on doing play therapy and also provided the children at Shangrao with developmentally appropriate toys. Children learn so much through play! The caregivers and therapists at Shangrao were eager to learn about play therapy. **Wes (Ling Wudao)**, **Beth (Ling Wanzi)** and **Leonard (Ling Daiwei)** are doing well and being attended to by very loving caregivers. Beth continues to struggle with regurgitation issues so please help us pray for our sweet girl.



Some of Our Favorite Photos from 2018!



Lael



Shawn



Sarah-Grace



Russell-James



Desmond



Cora



Simeon



Ireland



Not having children on our campus for a time has provided us with an opportunity to focus on areas we want to improve upon as an organization before the next ones arrive. Our **Therapy Team** has started a series of training programs for our workers and the first was focused on proper procedures and technique for safe feeding. Our nannies learned in-depth the importance of feeding children in the correct position at a slow and regulated rate with developmentally appropriate foods in order to prevent choking and aspiration. The sessions were a lot of fun as they participated in hands-on exercises and took turns feeding each other heaping spoonfuls of rice to help demonstrate the difference in appropriate portions and feeding rates. We're happy to report that they were really engaged in the program! One of the nannies summed up the training perfectly when she said, "I think I get it! I should feed the children the way I would want to be fed."

A Life Valued

Seventeen years ago, a tiny infant was abandoned in a field in a nearby village with burns over 70% of his body. No one gave him much of a chance for survival back then, but our team did everything they could to get him to those medical professionals who could help. That, along with the prayers of people from all over the world, gave this little baby a fighting chance. Not only did he survive, but he thrived. There is even a book written about him by his mom, **Lisa Misraje Bentley**, called *Saving Levi* (available at www.savinglevi.com). We highly recommend it!

This little baby is now a strong, handsome, and very cool young man who came to SFCV this summer, along with his brother, **Donald Reid**, to volunteer, to give back, and to show love to the kids. **Levi** not only made a deep impression on the children, but also on our team. For those of us who were there when he first came into our lives seventeen years, it was great to see him now, how much he has overcome and how he has grown into such an awesome person. It was a life-changing experience for us! Seventeen years ago he wasn't given much of a chance, but today Levi's life is a shining example that every life has value and a purpose. We are all looking forward to seeing what's in store for Levi's life and we look forward to the next time he and his brother return to volunteer again!



A Birthday to Remember!

Internships and volunteer experiences here at Shepherd's Field have changed many lives—including those of our staff—and have had long-lasting impacts on our community in China and abroad. **Ashley Fu** first came to SFCV in June of 2017 for a one-week internship. Her hard work and service not only made a big impact on us and our kids, but also on her own heart. We were so delighted to have her serve with us again last summer for two weeks teaching English, Science, Physical Education and Art in our Little Lambs School. After her second experience with us, she contacted our team and shared how she really wanted to do *even more* for the kids at SFCV—the kids who had changed her life.



This past December, Ashley hosted a private concert celebrating her 18th birthday with all proceeds being donated to SFCV and our ongoing orphan care work. With the help of family and friends, Ashley was able to make a donation of over ¥70,000RMB! We're so grateful for Ashley's generous heart, hard work, dedication and love for our children and our organization. We're blessed to have her as part of our big SFCV family! *Thank you, Ashley!*

For more information about internship opportunities at SFCV, please email us at intern@chinaorphans.org.



Campus Makeover Continues

As our campus continues to undergo an exciting makeover to prepare for our future campus residents, we're happy to announce that **RomaCeramic** donated 4140 square meters of ceramic tile to us! Their generous donation is enough to tile the living rooms, bathrooms, kitchens and dining rooms of our five kids' houses! They also donated tile for our new therapy pool room in our therapy center, and they even gave us tile to redo the floors in the outreach center! We are so grateful for this generous gift. We're now looking for sponsors to help cover the labor and installation of the tile. If you are interested in sponsoring a house or a room that needs tiling, please email us at info@chinaorphans.org.



Come Join Our Village!

"It takes a village to raise a child." (African proverb)

If you have children or have ever cared for children, you understand the input, love and care that each one needs, desires and craves, not only to meet their physical needs, but also their emotional, mental and social needs as well. Our heart for the children of Shepherd's Field has always been to provide them with their physical, medical, therapeutic and educational needs, but also to support them in all their emotional and social needs, too. This remains our goal for our future children, and as we enter this new season here at SFCV, we are looking for caring individuals to join our team as we continue to shower our kids with love and strive to provide them with the best care possible.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving China's orphans, working with children and teens with special needs, and gaining an international experience, please consider contacting our team regarding our volunteer staff positions. Currently we are looking for: **Elementary School Teachers, Vocational and Life Skills Teachers, Director of Education, Therapists, and more...**

We NEED you! Come join our village! We want to hear from you so please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. For additional information regarding available positions, contact our team at volunteer@chinaorphans.org.

Happy New Year!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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In China:

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