



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

March 2019



A Fresh Re-Introduction

We told you last month about our **Therapy Team** going to Guangchang and now we want to shine the spotlight once again on an amazing young man who is uniquely Xander! Although **Xander (Guang Fujun)** is nonverbal, he definitely understands what is being said to him, and he demonstrates this by following through on the instructions he receives. Those who knew him best when he lived at Shepherd's Field boast about how obedient he was. Xander didn't have to be asked twice if he was called on to do something. And when it came to helping around the house, you could count on him to be a first responder. In fact, if there was a spill or something that needed cleaned up, he would take the initiative to get the job done *without even being asked*. Before his house mothers had scarcely had a chance to notice the mess, here came Xander with mop or broom or rag in hand! It was noted that he seemed to be his happiest when he was helping in this way.



It touches our hearts to continue to see the warm smiles of this precious young man, but what would make Xander even happier would be to have a forever family to call his own. Xander is now a teenager, and when he reaches his 14th birthday in June, he will no longer be eligible for adoption under China's adoption laws. **Time is not on Xander's side!** Won't you take him on your heart, pray and share his story and photos? You can help us find his Forever Family!

Xander's Little Sister

While at the orphanage in Guangchang, we met a sweet little 4-year-old girl with Down Syndrome that we nicknamed **Tang Bao Bao**. Within minutes, she had melted our teams' hearts! Guangchang is a tiny orphanage with very little opportunity for publicity, and even though Bao Bao has not resided at Shepherd's Field, we feel strongly about advocating for her. This tiny mite is a quick learner, very playful and loves to dance. Even at her young age, she helps her caregiver around the house, folds laundry and checks on the other children. Bao Bao has speech articulation difficulties but understands what is said to her and communicates back verbally even though she isn't always understood. Let's help the world know about Bao Bao so we can find her Forever Family!

For more information about these two kiddos, contact us at info@chinaorphans.org or call 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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A Heartbeat Shout-Out

We released our first edition of *Heartbeat* way back in 1996. During the next twenty-three years many stories would be written and published about the children helped. This happened in large part due to many volunteers from around the world, volunteers like **Dennis Upshur**, **Matt McCann**, **Elizabeth Hayden**, and **Jenny Au** (just to name a few), who have all contributed much of their time and talent to *Heartbeat*. Dennis has been the official editor of all the *Heartbeat* articles for the past ten years, working from his home in suburban Detroit, Michigan. Matt has been formatting *Heartbeat*, first as a full-time staff member at SFCV and then later as a volunteer after moving back to his home in Liverpool, England. Prior to Matt another Michigander, Elizabeth Hayden, did all the formatting and graphic design work on *Heartbeat*. Before Elizabeth took on her duties, a San Franciscan, Jenny Au, was the graphic designer and formatter of *Heartbeat*. Now the editorial baton has been passed on to one of our in-house staff members at SFCV, **Susan Lam**. Sue joined our team last year and has now taken on the roles of editor, designer and formatter. Having her working right at SFCV helps to speed up the editorial process as everything is now being done in-house. Our sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to all the wonderful angels who have volunteered their time over the years to make *Heartbeat* what it is today.

HAPPY PIX FROM OUR STAFF CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!



Oh My Goodness!

Chinese New Year is by far the biggest holiday in China. Like Christmas in the West, it's the time of year when many families travel long distances so they can all be together. During this time we had the great pleasure of bringing **Maggie (Tian Xinxin)** to our staff housing quarters to stay with us for more than a week. Maggie was absolutely delighted about this special "vacation"! As you know, our girl was in and out of the hospital—more in than out!—for most of last year, so this was an awesome treat for her. She got to participate in things she had never done before, like her first-ever Super Bowl party and a circus in a nearby locale. There was lots of girl-time with our female team members, including Barbie play, baking yummies, and doing nails and makeup. At the start of the holiday we straightened Maggie's naturally wavy hair, and after that she sported a new style just about every day!

Throughout her time with us there were many new experiences and times of wonderment. Maggie adopted a new saying in English and "**Oh my goodness!**" became her catch-phrase. From breakfast tacos to zucchini bread, iridescent nail polish to multi-colored bath foam, just about everything evoked an "**Oh my goodness!**" from our star-struck little lady.

Like any kid, Maggie was sad to see the holiday come to an end, but she chatted excitedly about going home and telling her house mothers all about the things she got to do. We used our time with Maggie to help reinforce life and social skills, and we're very proud of all that she learned and the way she handled herself while she was with us. *Keep up the good work, Xinxin!*



From the time they began the adoption process to bring home their daughter Grace, **John and Heidi Bison** have had a love for China, its culture, its people and its orphans. In 2017, after completing their second adoption from China, the whole Bison crew packed up their belongings in North Carolina, USA and moved to Hebei province to serve orphans with genetic bone diseases. During their time of serving these young people, they experienced the grace, joys and hardships that come with helping orphans and kids from hard places.

During the recent Chinese New Year holiday, the Bison crew joined our team here at SFCV! We are so thrilled to have them as the newest members in our big and growing Shepherd's Field family. John has a military background and will be our new Facilities Manager heading up our campus maintenance team. Heidi will be assisting our Guest Relations team and working with all our interns, guests and teams. All four of the Bison kids—**Ariauna, Jaeden, Grace and Leo**—attend school here on the campus of SFCV. Ariauna and Jaeden are home-schooled, while Grace and Leo attend classes at the **Little Lambs School**. We welcome the Bison family and their little dog Frankie to our big SFCV family!



Helping Our Neighbors



Last month our friends, sponsors, and neighbors from **Vermeer** paid a visit to our campus. During their visit, our therapy team heard about a little girl named **Mingyue**, who is the daughter of a Vermeer employee. In late December, seven-year-old Mingyue suffered a hemorrhagic stroke that left her with severe weakness and impaired function on the left side of her body.

After hearing her story, the **SFCV Therapy Team** paid her and her family a visit at the rehabilitation hospital in Beijing where she is currently receiving therapy treatments. During their visit, our team observed that she wasn't able to actively move her left leg or foot and that she had minimal use of her left arm and hand. In collaboration with the hospital therapist, they were able to provide a few additional therapeutic recommendations for how she can begin to incorporate her left side in her activities of daily living, as well as how she can increase her strength.

Since their initial visit, the team has been able to visit with Mingyue several more times and bring her therapy supplies and equipment. We are so happy to share that she has made amazing progress in her physical abilities, the use of her left side, daily living skills and dressing. She is even able to stand and walk using a walker—just six weeks after her stroke! We're so delighted that Mingyue is recovering so well and that we're able to be a part of her journey!

One Home and Three on Their Way

In late January, three-year-old **Carson (Qian Anshun)** was adopted into his Forever Family from the USA! While Carson only lived on our campus for a short time, he has become a big part of our family and our hearts. We are so excited for Carson and his new family and wish them all the best as they begin this new journey.

Also in the last short while, three of our kids have been matched with wonderful families from the United States. **Luke (Tian Yi)**, **Charissa (Ling Deting)** and **Shawn (Zhao Anzhi)** are all one step closer to being orphans no more. We can't wait to report that all three of our precious kids are home!





You Can Help Us Install the Tile

We reported last month about the awesome donation we received from **RomaCeramic**—4140 square meters of ceramic tile! This is enough tile to finish all five of our children’s houses, and we’ll even have enough for our new therapy pool room and our Outreach Center. We’re extremely grateful for such an overwhelming gift, and now we need the generosity of supporters like you to help us get the tile laid down before our new residents arrive.

The flooring in our Outreach Center has taken a beating over the years so we’ll be starting with that building, and also the therapy pool room and two of the kids’ houses. The labor and installation for the Outreach Center is an estimated ¥30,000 RMB (\$4,432 USD) and the pool room ¥11,000 RMB (\$1,625 USD). Each children’s home is ¥83,000 RMB (\$12,263 USD), **which is just ¥8,300 RMB (\$1,226 USD) per room!** If you’d like to sponsor a room—or even a whole building—please email us at info@chinaorphans.org.



Our Outreach Center during Chinese New Year

A Warm Reunion During a Very Cold February

On February 8, the third day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, most Chinese nationals were busy visiting relatives and friends, but one of our team members was over 1,300 kilometers away from his family spending what he calls “the happiest and most memorable time of my life.” After a long train ride, **Damon Wang** arrived at Heze Welfare Institute in Shandong province. He was there to visit three of the children who used to be under our care: **Hector (Dang Guobu)**, **Shawn (Zhao Anzhi)** and **Flynn (Zhao Anpeng)**. This was his first time seeing them since they returned to their orphanage in early August of last year.

Flynn recently had a successful heart surgery, and when he saw Damon, he ran to him with open arms! As Damon was holding him, he noticed that Flynn had gained weight. He is rosy now and his face is no longer pale and blue like it was. He noted that Flynn has grown and is healthier than ever before. He also saw that Shawn is still so cute and full of life, and he commented that it’s very obvious that he’s being well cared for at the orphanage. Damon was thrilled to learn that Shawn has been matched with a family from America and his sincere hope is that Shawn will have a bright and happy future. Damon also visited with Hector, who is now 11 years old. Hector was Flynn and Shawn’s big brother and used to take good care of them when the trio lived here on our campus. Damon brought some special gifts for Hector and our kind and thoughtful boy shared them with the other children in the orphanage! Damon was really touched by this and said, “Hector is smart and thoughtful, and I do hope he will find his Forever Family soon.”



As Damon looked outside the window in Shandong, there were tiny snowflakes floating in the air and the cold, icy wind was blowing, but he says that being with the children made him feel extremely warm on the inside. Damon—along with the rest of us here at **Shepherd’s Field**—is looking forward to providing even greater care for our kids in the new year!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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