



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

April 2019



Bright Stars Therapy Visits Yangxi

In recent months, we've shared about some of our therapy travels and visits with our kids, as well as therapy assessments we've been able to do here at home for some of our neighbors. This past month was no different. In late February, one of our Chinese therapists, Gao Li, traveled down to southern China to visit our kids currently living in Yangxi. It was a wonderful reunion with **Corey (Song Yike)**, **Lydia (Yangxi Zinan)**



and **Russell James (Song Xiping)**, all of whom have grown so much! Not only did we send toys for the kids, but our **Therapy Team** also provided sensory equipment for Lydia, including a 4-pound weighted blanket. During the visit, Gao Li provided some basic training for the orphanage staff on feeding and positioning, gate analysis, and autism and sensory stimulation. We're pleased to share that all our kids in Yangxi are thriving, growing taller and are loved by those around them. We truly appreciate all of our sponsors for your continued support of our children and our therapy program. With your help, we're able to change the lives of these kids and make an impact in the lives of so many others who benefit from our trainings.

The Girl by the Same Name

Lydia (Yangxi Zinan) has the unique distinction of sharing the same last name as her town and orphanage! She was especially loved by one of her teachers here at SFCV who describes her as "adorable." She likes to play and interact with others, and she really blossoms when she is being lavished with praise for a notable accomplishment. Though her verbal skills are not yet fully developed, she can say simple words. She's very expressive and has an infectious giggle when something truly tickles her funny bone! She's shown a special love for horses and has thoroughly enjoyed being around them during therapy outings.



Lydia is a hugger and she likes to participate in all kinds of hands-on activities. Her greatest joy would be to share in the day-to-day happenings and the love of a forever family of her own. Lydia will turn 13 next month, which means in just a little over a year she'll no longer be eligible for adoption. Time goes so fast, but you can help us in our mission to find Lydia's Forever Family. **Please take her on your heart and share her story and photos!**

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

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

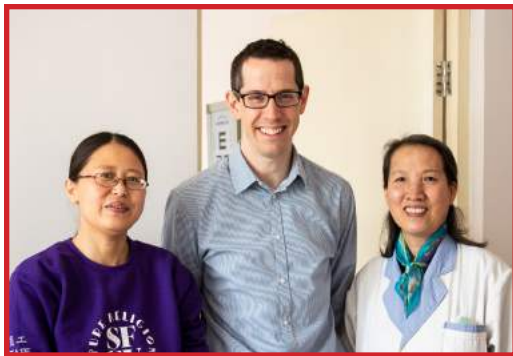
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A New Doctor Makes a House Call



On March 8, **John-Michael Muller**—soon to be Dr. Muller—paid a visit to our campus. He spent half a day with us and sat down to talk with **Dr. Li** for a couple of hours. Dr. Li explained in detail the work that our **Medical Team** is doing and how we go about helping to arrange medical treatment and surgeries for our children. John-Michael was interested in knowing about our challenges, as well as our plans for the future, and he expressed his willingness to assist in whatever way he can. He was particularly impressed at how we are able to provide such great medical care for the kids with a relatively small team. He got a chance to visit with **Maggie (Tian Xinxin)**, and also stopped by to see our Therapy Team and the new therapy equipment. John-Michael will earn his medical degree this month and we sincerely congratulate him on becoming Dr. Muller!

Anthony Waits for Shunt Replacement

Over the past months since **Anthony (Han Qianjian)** left us, his lumbosacral area has gotten significantly bigger and he is constantly exuding fluid. Upon examination, the doctor determined that his ventricular shunt is too short and needs to be replaced with a longer one. He is currently being treated at a hospital in Beijing. Please pray for the doctors collaborating on his case and for our little one as he awaits this necessary surgery.



Name: Zhang Shuxia
Started at Shepherd's Field: 1995

Zhang Shuxia—we call her **Zhang Ayi**—is like a walking history book of Shepherd's Field and our work since its beginning. She's been with us from the start and can boast to being one of the only people who can name every single child who has ever come through our doors! She is the head and overseer of all our children's houses and all of our care-giving house mothers.

Twenty-four years ago, many of the local Chinese were familiar with Tim and Pam Baker and their work for orphaned children, and Zhang Ayi was no exception. She admired the work and was drawn by the great need she saw. The children and the ongoing need have kept her here all these many years.

Because so many of our children have had dire medical conditions, Zhang Ayi knew that she must

not become too attached to them. But try as she could, they would always find their way into her heart. Many of our little ones—some of whom departed this life long ago—still live and breathe in Zhang Ayi's memory and she can retell their stories like they happened yesterday.

One of her special memories was a time when she chose to stay and care for a desperately ill child during a holiday that is very important for family gatherings. Her family was taken aback by this and wanted to know more about this work their loved one was involved in. Before long, they became involved in helping the children, too!

Our work would not be what it is today without the contributions of Zhang Ayi. We are grateful for all she's done and continues to do for SFCV!



For the last few months we've expressed our need to add new faces to our awesome team of volunteers and staff. We are still looking to bring on teachers, therapists and an educational director, and this month we'd like to share the personal testimony of **Chrissy Kelly** who worked at SFCV from 2011-2013.

"In 2011, I went to SFCV having no idea what to expect. From the moment I met Tim, Pam and the whole Baker family, I knew I was in good hands. I immediately felt a part of a big family and [knew] that even though I had only agreed to stay one year that I would be there much longer. China quickly became my second home as I got to know the Bakers, the other staff, and the kids living and receiving care at SFCV. I knew that I had been called to join this team. While at SFCV, I worked as an elementary school teacher in the Little Lambs School. Despite not fluently speaking the language, I was able to use my heart for education to teach and impact the kids' lives. In addition to teaching, I also helped manage and organize the in-kind donations, like diapers and formula. Part of my job was to communicate with the nannies each week to ensure they had everything they needed to care for the kids, like clothing, diapers, wipes, etc.



If it wasn't for SFCV and the amazing people I met there, I may not have met my son. After my mom passed away, I came back to China and held Jamie for the first time. I knew him before, but never spent time with him. Something happened that first time I picked him up. I felt changed. I felt like his mom and thought it was just for the time I was there and prayed he would get a family, not truly believing I could ever be his mom. But the desire to be his mom only got stronger when I left. The moment I held Jamie I knew God had bigger plans. Trying to adopt Jamie got me through losing my parents. I hope to someday adopt more kids from China, and it is truly because of the time I spent working and living at SFCV. I miss working there every day, and if I hadn't moved home with the intention of adopting Jamie, I would absolutely still be there." – Chrissy Kelly

Seeing Life Through Two New Lenses

Our **Maggie (Tian Xinxin)** used to have a pair of eyeglasses but somehow they became misplaced—perhaps lost in the shuffle of all her hospital visits and long stay last year. We recently took her to the eye doctor and now she has snazzy new glasses—and once again they're pink, of course! Her prescription is quite strong and at first she felt a bit dizzy with them on. She has adjusted and is doing much better now, and we think our sweet girl looks so cute in her new specs!

We also took Maggie to the dentist last month as she was having a toothache. She was found to have retained three baby teeth, as well as having periodontitis and malocclusion. On March 4, the dentist gave Maggie's teeth a good cleaning and extracted a couple of the baby teeth. She will begin orthodontic treatment once she gets completely well and is stronger.



Sponsor a Room or a Whole House Today!

We still need more help to get the new ceramic tile laid down in the children's houses, the Outreach Center, the Therapy Pool Room. It will take around \$12,263 USD for each of the houses, which means you can sponsor a room for just **\$1,226 USD!** The houses are ready for the work to begin so please sponsor a room today if you can. Anything you can give will be greatly appreciated. Email us at info@chinaorphans.org if you'd like to have a part in this great opportunity to help bless China's orphans. Thank you!



It's Not Too Late!

We've extended our internship window for summer 2019! The application window will now be open until April 15, 2019. Don't miss out on an amazing summer and a life-changing service opportunity! We'd love to have you join us as we continue the next chapter of SFCV. Internship and application information can be obtained on our website (chinaorphans.org/intern) or by emailing intern@chinaorphans.org. **Act fast!**

Starbucks Arrives at SFCV

For many years, we've had a great working partnership with the **Starbucks** in Langfang. They have generously donated their time and services in the past and have also made donations to benefit our gardens and greenhouse. Last month, the team from Starbucks visited our campus once again with three distinct purposes in mind. First, they provided our staff with an educational background on the impact that coffee has had on the world around us and then demonstrated two different coffee brewing techniques that are done completely without the need for a coffee brewer. The coffee from both processes was absolutely delicious! It was a lot of fun and a great break from the norm for our staff. Secondly, they gifted us with several bags of their signature blends, as well as a couple different varieties of their scrumptious muffins. Thirdly, they volunteered their time and energy for the rest of the morning helping us transfer furniture from our vocational and therapy building up to the guest house at the front of our campus. We're very grateful for all that Starbucks has given and done for SFCV and we look forward to a long-lasting—and very tasty—partnership!



Happy Easter!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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