



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Heartbeat

June 2019

Looking Toward the Horizon

This has been a great year of improvement for all of us here at **Shepherd's Field Children's Village**, as well as for our campus. As we all know, improvements worth making take time but we are getting closer to our goal of continuing to help the special needs and orphan communities. This month we have some exciting updates to share with you!

We are currently in the process of officially registering SFCV as a foreign-run foster home under the Tianjin Welfare system. This is a huge process. While we already have two registered non-profit organizations that set SFCV as their main project [**Philip Hayden Foundation** and **Beijing Hidden Treasures Charity Foundation** (Puyu)], we are not officially registered as an official partner of the Tianjin Children and Adult Welfare Institutes. This is a unique opportunity for us to be directly partnered with the orphanage to assist them as they care for the 815 individuals in their system.

So what does this mean with regard to having residents living on our campus again? This registration process is extremely tedious and takes time. We've recently had meetings with orphanage and government officials who have both given helpful information on how we can proceed through this process. Please continue to keep this registration in your thoughts and prayers.

In the meantime, while we wait for our registration to be approved, we are excited to begin working with adults (aged 18 and over) who have physical or cognitive disabilities to help them learn life and vocational training skills. Our goal as always is to teach these young men and women independent living skills, as well as giving them practical training

they can take into real-world working environments.

While we hope to begin this project in the next several weeks, we have other projects around campus that we've been working on as a means of preparing the homes and the campus overall. In mid-April, we hosted students from the San Francisco, California area who helped by planting tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, mint, and peppers in our greenhouse, as well as sunflowers, corn and strawberries in our outdoor gardens. We also had the honor of having one of their parent-chaperones, **Cameron Moberg**, who is a world-renowned graffiti artist, paint a beautiful mural on our campus.

We were also able to host 150 staff and family members from the **Pittsburg Paint Group (PPG)** Tianjin office on our campus for a fun-filled day of fellowship and painting. Not only did PPG donate the paint and labor for our children's homes to be painted, they also came and painted colorful murals in the common areas of the homes for all to cherish and enjoy!

Now that all the painting is done in the homes, we only have a few final projects before the first two houses can be opened for new residents. We're so grateful and thankful for everyone's ongoing prayers, support and love. Together we are improving and making a change in this community!





Paint has been flying in all directions here at SFCV!



An Answer to the "Why?" Question

Most of our supporters, our sponsors and all those who are a part of our large SFCV family have seen and read our announcements over the last few months as **we look to expand our China team**. Some of you may be asking yourselves, "Why? Why are they looking for workers when they don't yet have new kids on campus?" As mentioned in this month's feature story on the previous page, our children's houses have been completely renovated and are nearly ready for new residents; in addition, our staff members have been trained in new skills, and our campus is just about fully prepared. The SFCV train is moving right along on the tracks toward our goal but to keep it rolling full-steam ahead, **we need people!**

We desperately need teachers and individuals who are eager to use their skills, education and knowledge to equip the next generation of Chinese citizens with the life and vocational skills they need to be successful adults. Ideally, we are looking for individuals who are willing to make an 18- to 24-month commitment to teach life skills (feeding, dressing, hygiene, self-care, etc) and independent living skills (cooking and meal preparation, financial responsibility, relationship building and more). Could this be you or someone you know? **Our kids need you, China needs you and we need you.** For inquiries and additional information, please contact us at: naomi.preedin@chinaorphans.org.



As we've been busy preparing our campus in a physical sense during the last several weeks and months, we've also been preparing our minds and bodies for the future. This past month, our staff, nannies, teachers, and therapy team have participated in three major training events to help us become better equipped to guide and assist the children who will be in our care.

First, all of our staff have gone through an intensive training on **Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)** which teaches participants how to help and work with kids from hard places—including orphans, individuals with special needs, kids in foster care, those who have been through trauma and so forth. While working with individuals from hard places can be a challenge, this training program of **Trauma**



Informed Care has given our staff the concepts and tools we will need to best help and guide our future residents in a loving and understanding way.

Secondly, all of our nannies, therapy team, medical team, and teachers have participated in a training on **Autism and Communication**. This training provided deeper insights into how we can better understand autism and how we can be effective communicators with individuals who may struggle in that particular arena. Lastly, all of our caregivers and therapy team participated in a **Choking, CPR and AED** in-service training to refresh their basic life-saving skills.

All three of these training events have challenged us and our staff as we expand and improve our knowledge and prepare to provide the best quality care we possibly can.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Name: Song Xiuping
Started at Shepherd's Field: 2000



Nurse Song is one of our veterans here at SFCV. Her full name is **Song Xiuping** and she came to us in the year 2000—long before we were actually called Shepherd's Field, in fact. Our children's home had been operating for some time and it was well known how many kids we were caring for and how we desperately needed compassionate and capable workers. Nurse Song more than met these two fundamental requirements. She came to us with 25 years of experience working in pediatrics in what is now neighboring Langfang.

So many of our children recovered and thrived under Nurse Song's loving care. The strength and courage of the children touched her deeply and have kept her here for nearly two decades. In addition to this, she says she has great admiration and appreciation for the unconditional love and caring of the volunteer staff she has worked with down through the years. Working long and difficult hours was the norm back in the early days but everyone did so cheerfully and without complaint.

One of Nurse Song's most vivid memories is of caring for a little one-year-old who had a congenital inability to perspire. One day he had massive hemorrhaging in his stomach, along with a dangerously high fever. He was taken to different hospitals but none could help him and all refused to even admit him. Nurse Song says she is still haunted by his condition to this day. Left with no other options, she and the doctor at Shepherd's Field took turns tending to the tiny boy day and night. Through their perseverance and determination, they pulled the little one out of the jaws of death. He survived and now has a loving family in the United States!

Nurse Song has been with us for 19 years, and at the age of 62, she's still on front-line duty. As she finished telling the above story, she said with a heavy sigh, *"Every child in this world has meaning. We can't give up on them no matter what."* Shepherd's Field is truly blessed to have a kind, caring and capable professional like Nurse Song as a vital part of our team.

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

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Medical Updates

Anthony (Han Qianjian): It was originally thought that **Anthony** would be having surgery soon to replace his ventricular shunt. However, upon further assessment, the doctors collaborating on his case have decided that it would be best to postpone the surgery for another couple of years.

Maggie (Tian Xinxin): Since her kidney transplant, **Maggie** has had to go to the hospital weekly to monitor her liver, kidney and blood concentrations and to adjust the dosage of her medicines accordingly. Recently, tests have shown that her bilirubin level is much higher than normal, her total protein and globulin are low, and her immune system is weak and susceptible to colds and infections, such as boil-like sores. The doctor gave her medication to reduce the bilirubin level, but it is still high to date. She takes anti-rejection drugs daily and her blood pressure, temperature, weight, fluid intake and urine volume are watched closely every day. Please continue to pray for Maggie—now a teenager!—as she travels this long road to recovery.

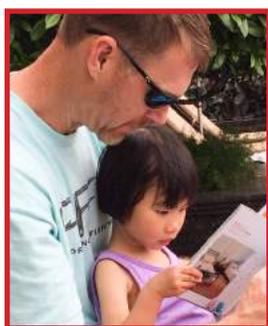


Tim and Maggie on her 13th birthday

Forever Families Found!

One by one, our Shepherd's Field children are finding **Forever Families** of their own. Just in the time since the kids left our campus, six have already been adopted! Two on that list were united with their families very recently. **Morris (Zhu Zhenwei)** is now living in the Netherlands with his new parents and is doing very well. His new name is **Novèl** and he is their first child. **Ella (Song Yuxuan)** now lives in Georgia with her parents, her older sister and two older brothers. Her new name is **Caroline Marie Johnson**. It's so fitting that our adorable Ella—make that **Caroline**—would become a Georgia peach! We wish both of these families a lifetime of blessings and every happiness along the way.

If there were an award for biggest bear hugs, it would surely have gone to our **Jackson (Zhu Wenzè)**! What a joy it was to see Jackson come running down the hallway with arms open wide to greet you. We're delighted to report that this tiny mite with a whopping hug has been matched with a wonderful family from the United States. Stay tuned for news of his home-going!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

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