



Shepherd's Field
CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
牧羊地儿童村

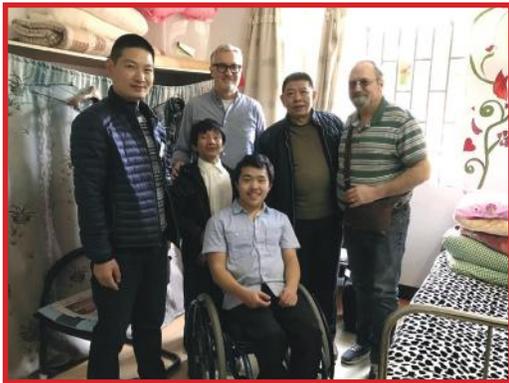
Heartbeat

April 2017



Grady Leaves the Nest!

Anyone who knows Shepherd's Field knows **Grady**. He's always been a success story here, but now he's achieving new levels of freedom outside of our walls. One of our core principles is to look for ways to help our young adults find direction and purpose in this world, so they can become as self-sufficient as possible. Grady has experienced a lot of struggle in his 21 years, but now it's finally his turn to explore the world. He's going back to his roots and accepting an incredible opportunity in his hometown of Fuzhou!



Grady recently committed himself to programs there, designed to prepare him for living in the real world. **The Fuzhou Orphanage** is well-staffed and equipped for life- and job-skills training. They offer programs in horticulture (gardening) and aviculture (bird care), preparing young adults for those industries. Their craft business teaches various skills, and creates products that are sold in their store and provided to community businesses. The teaching kitchen is intense, but provides cooking and management skills, crucial for independent living.

The day we arrived was warm, and some of the residents were in the courtyard having a karaoke party – singing and dancing. Others were busy in the gym, going through their daily workout routines. Still others were in the craft rooms, creating beautiful, handmade wares. Grady was well-received into an exciting beehive of activities, and his new roommate happily guided him through the facility tour. Grady was very excited to see a lot of familiar faces. Even though he'd been gone nine years, it didn't take long for him to get reacquainted with his old friends.

As we tearfully left him, we were encouraged by Grady's departing words – familiar ones to most parents whose children have left their own nests: *"Shepherd's Field will always be my home, and I will come back to visit my big family."*



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Medical Updates



Wes (Ling Wudao) had successful right eye surgery to remove a congenital cataract on March 2, and he appears to be a changed

boy. We're all very pleased to see an alertness and awareness that's new for him. **Huade Eye Hospital** gave us a generous discount, and the staff provided excellent care. Wes will go back in a month to have his left eye cataract removed.



Florence (Guo Sifeng) will need more extensive testing and imaging studies soon, to properly diagnose her condition. She has a combination of lower extremity hypertonia and possible neurogenic bladder (incontinence). After the

underlying cause of her disability is understood, we'll put together a solid treatment plan for her.



Jubilee (Li Ruxuan) has congenital glaucoma and needs an eye operation, and we're currently looking at hospital/physician options to get this done. We hope to arrange surgery during the next

month or two. You can find details on how you can support this campaign on our website:

www.chinaorphans.org/immediate-needs/



Matthew (Zhu Wenliang) recently underwent surgery to repair his undescended testes. He returned to Shepherd's Field the same day and has

done very well in his post-op period. The recheck showed good wound healing, so no further follow-up is needed.

A Lifetime of Education Begins

Every weekday at 9:00 a.m., you can find nine of our youngest students singing and dancing, as their class begins on the second floor of our school. "The Wheels on the Bus" and "I'm a Little Acorn" are arguably the two favorite songs to start the day in Pre-school, with everyone excitedly motioning along with their teacher. Though not yet in school a year, children have learned simple instructions in English such as 'clean up' and 'sit down,' and can say their numbers and colors in both Chinese and English. The kids highly anticipate sticker time, blocks and dress-up, and love to join a sing-along of "Skinamarinkydink" to end the school day. All our little learners have come a long way – they share and play together, express their creativity and personal style, and communicate in new ways every day. These children are loving learning – and we love teaching them!





My name is **Chrissy Kelly**, and I'm a former staff member at Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCV). I fell in love with all the kids in the Village while I was there, but one child stole my heart completely and changed my life forever. In 2012, **Jamie** arrived as a baby, and it was about a year later that I started spending a lot more time with him.



I didn't know why at the time, but the first time I picked him up I felt a connection. Later, I'd go to his house every day after work – we'd stay upstairs and I would play music for him and the other kids. Initially, he would only let me hold him standing, but as his trust grew and my arms got tired, I could sit for a few minutes at a time.

Eventually, we moved downstairs, and as his nannies got to know me, I could take Jamie outside or to the Inn. I spent as much time with him as I could, and we slowly developed a very strong bond.

After a lot of prayer, I decided to move home in 2014 with the intention of working, saving money, and preparing to adopt Jamie. I didn't start right away, but wanted to wait and see what God said once I was home. Over the next year and a half, I continued to pray and just couldn't shake the idea of bringing Jamie home to be my son. Instead of it getting *easier* to be away from China and away from my boy, it got harder and harder – and I missed him even more. It was painful knowing that he was waiting for me to return for him, but I wanted to make sure he was coming home to the best situation possible. I wanted to build a community and family for the two of us, which took time after being in China for two years.

After a couple of trips back to China with the intention of praying and seeking God's will, I started the process to adopt Jamie in 2015. *It wasn't easy*. There were a lot of obstacles, family circumstances, and people trying to convince me not to adopt him. It took longer than I had hoped. Even toward the end of the process there were friends and family telling me not to do it. Every time that happened, I would picture Jamie's face and pray that I was doing the right thing. And in the many moments that I wanted to give up – because that would have been easier – God brought encouragement through my friends or church family, or He would move yet another mountain, opening the way for Jamie to come home.



In February, I finally returned to China to make Jamie my son, and I was needlessly full of fear and worry that the adoption would fall through. When I finally got to hold my boy again after almost three years, all the pain, worry, waiting and expense fell away. I may have been the one who filled out the paperwork and took the steps to adopt, but it was only God who made it possible.





Cody Helps Special Parents



In late February, **Cody** was selected to participate in a seminar hosted by our partners at **LIH Olivia's Place** in Beijing. The seminar was designed to teach local parents of children with special needs about proper positioning and range-of-motion exercises. Cody served as the model, and demonstrated several different stretches, mobility techniques and transfers. It was a great experience for him to get involved with others in our community, and he was even treated to a special dinner in Beijing afterwards!



Therapy Kids Blessed With Gifts

Last month three of our therapy kids received new assistive devices from our friends at **Kaitlin's Mobility Foundation** in Everett, Washington. Several representatives of Kaitlin's recently came out to visit Shepherd's Field, meet the staff, and see just how the kids are doing. **Jason** and **Charlie** were fitted with brand-new Nimbo walkers, to provide them with the stability to learn proper balance and gait, which will allow them to be as independent as possible. **Simeon** was given a custom-fitted wheelchair, and almost immediately began propelling himself all around the house and showing off his new wheels! The

custom fit and design of his new chair has helped Simeon increase his mobility skills, and boost his self-awareness and confidence.

We're very blessed and grateful to our friends at Kaitlin's Mobility Foundation for their generous gifts and donations for our kids. We appreciate you!



We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

To donate by check:

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